

Welcome to ECO 1304A – Contemporary Microeconomic Issues
COURSE OUTLINE

Professor: Lawrence Harris

Autumn 2019

LHARRIS@uottawa.ca Email me for **emergencies only**. Otherwise, speak to me in person, before, during the break, or after class. Always re-read this course outline—it may contain the answer to your question!

Always use the EXACT SAME NAME that you gave for your OFFICIAL UO REGISTRATION for exams and MINDTAP on-line assignments!

QUICK OVERVIEW:

“MINDTAP” COURSE KEY: MTPN-4S8N-8JTW

You need the course key to sign in, along with your user ID and access code (which you must purchase).

You should set up your MINDTAP account now in order to be sure that everything is working smoothly, but the assignments will not be starting until the latter part of September. When you set up your MINDTAP account, use the EXACT SAME NAME that you gave for your OFFICIAL UO REGISTRATION!

Click this link to get to the MINDTAP login screen for our course:

<http://login.nelsonbrain.com/course/MTPN-4S8N-8JTW>

MINDTAP tech support: <http://www.nelson.com/support> OR Call: 1-800-268-2222.

- **LECTURES:** Mondays, 7:00pm-9:50pm in **STE G0103**
- **READING WEEK:** No classes Oct. 14 through 18
- **TWO MIDTERM EXAMS** – in our lecture hall – Each worth 30%:
1 on Monday, Oct. 21 at 7:00pm AND # 2 on Monday, Nov. 11 at 7:00pm
- **FINAL EXAM:** Dec. 5-18 (exact date to be announced in November) – 40%
- **“MINDTAP” ON-LINE GRADE-RAISING ASSIGNMENTS** – Add as much as an *additional* ten points to your final grade by doing on-line assignments throughout the course. Mindtap is **REQUIRED** to pass the course. (The exams are not easy — you will **NEED** the points you can earn from the Mindtap assignments!)

Course Description

This is the first-year introductory macroeconomics course for students who are NOT majoring in economics.

Official Course Description: The objective of this course is to provide students with the basic tools necessary to better understand contemporary microeconomic issues. By the end of this course, students will be able to understand and think critically about microeconomic issues. Topics that may be covered include: supply and demand, the determination of prices, taxation, the public sector, health, education, the environment, the labour market, income inequality, and poverty. Courses ECO 1304, ECO 1104 cannot be combined for units.

Course Objectives

The main objectives of this course are:

- to familiarize students with the basic concepts of microeconomics (which are approached with the use of descriptive language, graphs, and a bit of basic (only) mathematics)
- to understand key microeconomic policy issues

Teaching Method

This is a very large class. The course is presented in a lecture format, and students will be asked to participate in posing and answering questions.

Students should engage in active note-making, as well as reading the textbook and attending all the lectures.

There is a required on-line assignment component of the course (called “Mindtap”), as well as a course website on BrightSpace/Virtual Campus, which students should consult for schedule and test announcements, grades, etc.

Thank you for your cooperation

Having students who are engaged in the course can make the experience of coming to class much more interesting and enjoyable.

Please be serious and attentive when you come to class. The Professor needs to concentrate, and other students want to hear clearly what the prof is saying.

During lectures, electronic devices should be used for this course's work only, and must not distract other students, yourself, or the prof.

During lectures, you should not be doing computer assignments for this or other courses, checking Facebook, watching videos, playing video games, wearing headphones, texting, or talking to seatmates. Cellphones should be off.

Your full attendance is expected — for the full duration of the semester and for the full duration of the lectures. Should it be necessary for you to arrive late or leave early (due to an emergency, no doubt!), sit in a seat where you will not disturb anyone else with your comings and goings.

In this course, a notebook and pencil is much more effective for note-taking than a laptop computer. (There are *many* diagrams and graphs.)

Copyright and Privacy

The following are not permitted in the lecture hall or during the class:

- taking photos or videos
- audio recording

...unless explicit permission has been given by the professor.

Also, you are not allowed to copy material from the course's Virtual Campus / BrightSpace website and re-post it on other websites. It is for your personal use only while you are enrolled in the course.

Bibliography: Textbook and Related Materials

IMPORTANT NOTE: You must purchase an access code (password) for the on-line assignments, which are produced by a company called “MINDTAP” that has developed testing software integrated with various textbooks. Your MINDTAP access code is bundled with your textbook – whether you purchase the print edition or the electronic edition. Or, you can also buy MINDTAP separately on line if you purchase a second-hand book from somebody.

I highly recommend using the printed version of the textbook, which you can highlight and annotate as you study (rather than the electronic version).

- **Textbook (mandatory): Principles of Microeconomics: SEVENTH Canadian Edition**, by Mankiw, Kneebone, and McKenzie.
- **Study Guide (optional but helpful):** Study Guide for Principles of Microeconomics, Seventh Canadian Edition – may be available at extra cost in some bookstores.
- Compare prices! Check out our campus bookstore in the Unicentre. There is also Benjamin Books on Laurier Ave (other side of King Edward Ave, very close).

VIRTUAL CAMPUS / BRIGHTSPACE

- The software that supports UO course websites is called “BrightSpace”.
- **Check our ECO 1304A Virtual Campus / BrightSpace website frequently** for course announcements.

Go to your student uoZone page and click “login to Virtual Campus”.

On your Internet browser, go to: <https://www.uottawa.ca/en/students>

*Then click on: **Login to Virtual Campus***

*Then click this course: **ECO1304A***

- The Prof will be posting textbook lecture slides and course material on Virtual Campus (but these are not a replacement for attending class and making your own set of notes).
- The internet address of the BrightSpace sign-in page is: **<https://uottawa.brightspace.com>**

ON-LINE RESOURCES FROM TEXTBOOK PUBLISHER (optional)

- Quizzes, tutorials, graphing exercises, etc. which you might find helpful.
- Go to the publisher’s website, and select our textbook.
- Then, on the menu, select the chapter you wish to study.

Textbook Chapters covered in this course

Read Chapters 1 and 2 during the first week of class.

You should read at the rate of one chapter per week so you don't fall behind. It is too much to leave the reading to just before the exam!

Some chapters require more lecture time than others. On average, we will cover one chapter per week.

PowerPoint slides prepared by the textbook publisher will be posted on our BrightSpace website after the course begins.

We will progress through the following textbook chapters, in the following order. Not all sections of all chapters is covered in this course. The prof will announce what pages to omit as the course unfolds.

- Chapter 1 - Ten principles of economics (a few of these apply to Macro rather than Micro)
- Chapter 2 - Thinking Like an Economist
 - *(Chapter 2 - appendix – Study this on your own and be sure you understand this material)*
- Chapter 3 - Interdependence and the Gains from Trade
- Chapter 4 - The Market forces of Supply and Demand
- Chapter 5 - Elasticity and Its Applications
- Chapter 6 - Supply, Demand, and Government Policies
- Chapter 7 - Consumers, Producers, and the Efficiencies of Markets
- Chapter 8 – Application: The Costs of Taxation
- Chapter 13 - The Costs of Production
- Chapter 14 - Firms in Competitive Markets
- Chapter 15 – Monopoly
- Chapter 10 – Externalities (includes environmental issues)
- Chapter 11 - Public Goods and Common Resources

Assessment Method

Two Mid-term Exams, Final Exam, and “Mindtap” On-Line Grade-Raising Assignments

60% – TWO MID-TERM EXAMS

1 on Monday, Oct. 21 at 7:00pm (worth 30% of final grade), AND

2 on Monday, Nov. 11 at 7:00pm (worth 30% of final grade)

- in our lecture hall.
- Likely will cover everything that has been done in the lectures up to the mid-term exam dates.
- Probably half multiple-choice, half short answer (calculations, graphs, concepts, definitions, analysis)

40% – FINAL EXAM

• during official exam period – date will be announced by the University in November.

• covers the entire course. There will probably be 100 multiple-choice questions (no short answers).

• The questions on the exams will be based on the assigned chapters of the textbook and website material, as well as everything that was discussed in class.

• Computers, and other electronic devices are not permitted during exams, unless explicitly stated. Non-programmable calculators are the only electronics admitted to the exams.

ALSO MANDATORY: ‘MINDTAP’ on-line grade-raising assignments

• Earn up to 10 points to add to your final grade!

• If you have not earned any Mindtap points by the last day of class, you will not be allowed receive credit for this course.

• **10% of your overall average on Mindtap will be added to your final grade.** For example, if you earned a Mindtap average of 80%, 8 points would be added to your final grade that you earned from the exams. (Note: Your overall Mindtap average is the number of points you earned divided by the total amount of Mindtap points on ALL the on-line assignments.)

• *For MINDTAP tech support: <http://www.nelson.com/support> OR Call: 1-800-268-2222.*

• ***Please do not email the Prof about Mindtap technical glitches!***

• **To use Mindtap, go to the internet link listed at the beginning of this course outline. You also need a MINDTAP ACCESS CODE (PASSWORD), which you have to purchase either as part of a bundle that includes the textbook; or as a stand-alone card sold in bookstores; or as a stand-alone online purchase. Register with the EXACT SAME NAME you used when registering at the University of Ottawa, and USE YOUR OFFICIAL “@uottawa.ca” EMAIL ADDRESS for Mindtap.**

• Generally there will be one assignment due each week; most chapters will have an assignment, and there is at least one assignment per chapter. You should try to do all of the Mindtap assignments.

• There will be an announcement on our BrightSpace website telling you when Mindtap is up and running. This will happen *after* the course begins.

• You should immediately obtain your Mindtap password and log in to be sure everything is working properly.

• It is your responsibility to log in to your Mindtap account frequently to know when assignments are

due. Always click “view all assignments” on your main Mindtap page to be sure you don’t miss any deadlines!

- [Subject to confirmation when Mindtap begins:] We allow you up to three attempts on each Mindtap assignment, and we use your average mark on each assignment. (Be careful you don’t hit the submit button before you are ready!)
- It is a good idea to work on Mindtap throughout the week and not leave it to the last minute, and do it on a university computer in one of the computer labs in order to avoid equipment problems.
- Because of the large size of the class we will not be granting any extensions or re-sets on any Mindtap assignments. Do not ask for extensions or re-sets if your internet connection went off (sometimes this happens in the residence rooms), or if you have computer problems, or if you pressed the submit button by accident before you meant to, etc.
- It is possible to start using Mindtap right away even if you have not yet purchased your Mindtap access since Mindtap gives you a temporary “grace period”. However if you do not purchase an Mindtap password and set up your account by the grace period deadline, you will lose all the work that you submitted during the grace period and you will not be able to retrieve your marks. (I would not recommend this grace-period deal because sometimes there can be problems with the transition of your points from the grace-period version to the paid version.)
- **The exams are not easy — you will NEED the points you can earn from the Mindtap assignments!**

Absence from an Exam

• University rules state: *“Absences from exams will be penalized. Exceptions are made only for illness or other serious situations. The Faculty reserves the right to accept or refuse the reason. Conflicts due to travel, jobs, or any misreading of the examination timetable are not acceptable reasons. Absences from exams which are not excused will result in a mark of zero for the exam.” ... “Only medical certificates from doctors certified by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario or the College of Psychologists of Ontario, or their Québec equivalents, or a University of Ottawa Health Service certificate are accepted by the Economics Department.”*

• IF YOU MISS A MIDTERM EXAM:

If you miss one midterm exam, the weight of that exam will automatically be added to the weight of the final exam. Make sure you write at least one of the midterm exams! If you miss both, you will have to justify both absences by filling out the form mentioned in the next paragraph, and it is not guaranteed that you will be granted an accommodation. If I am asked for an opinion by the Faculty, I always refuse to grant a mark for the course if both midterm exams have been missed, regardless of the reason — because if you have missed two exams, in my opinion you have not participated in the course in a sufficiently meaningful way, and your credit could not be considered equivalent to that of the rest of the students in the class.

• IF YOU MISS THE FINAL EXAM:

University rules state: *“Students wishing to be excused for an absence must complete a deferral form (DFR), which can be obtained at <https://socialsciences.uottawa.ca/students/undergraduate-forms> ... Absence due to illness must be supported by a medical certificate. Requests for deferral must be submitted, with*

supporting documentation (ex. medical certificate), within five working days of the exam. The request must respect all the conditions of Academic Regulation 19.5 (<https://www.uottawa.ca/administration-and-governance/academic-regulation-9-evaluation-of-student-learning>). The date, time and place of the deferred final exam is January 10, 2020, at 4:00 p.m., in MNT 203.”

If You Need Help...

- Always feel welcome to ask questions during the lectures. Short, snappy questions are best!
- The internet address of the BrightSpace sign-in page is:
<https://uottawa.brightspace.com>
To get to the course Web Page, log on to Virtual Campus / Brightspace and click this course:
ECO1304A Current Microeconomic Issues – Autumn 2019
Check the website often for announcements and lecture slides.
- **If you have a question about the course material, I am happy to help. Ask me IN PERSON before, or at the end of the lecture.** If you wish to keep the conversation confidential from other students overhearing, just mention that when you come up to speak to me.
- If you have an individual question to ask the Prof, ask me in person at the end of a lecture. I try to stay until the last question gets answered. This has proven popular over the years because I am right here where you are. If you wish to keep the conversation confidential, just mention that when you come up to speak to me. Before requesting an office appointment, speak to me at class first.
- **Only email me if it is an emergency.** Otherwise, speak to me in person, before, during, or after class. Always re-read this course outline—it may contain the answer to your question!
- Please **do not** send me emails asking things that you should be able to find on our Virtual Campus website announcements, or in the course outline!
- Please **do not** send me emails about Mindtap technical glitches! They are a separate, for-profit company that has a customer service department to resolve technical problems!
- You can also consult the computing services help centre in the Morisset Library for Virtual Campus problems.
- **You must fully identify yourself in emails to the professor in order to receive a reply. Always include your FULL NAME, STUDENT NUMBER, and COURSE CODE.** There may be a delay of several days in replying. I have almost 400 students this semester!
- Use your official @uottawa.ca email address for any messages you send to the professor.
- Get to know other students in the class — they can help you too

Resources for you

FACULTY MENTORING CENTRE - <http://socialsciences.uottawa.ca/mentoring>

The goal of the Mentoring Centre is to help students with their academic and social well-being during their time at the University of Ottawa. Regardless of where a student stands academically, or how far along they are in completing their degree, the Mentoring Centre is there to help students continue on their path to success.

A student may choose to visit the Mentoring Centre for very different reasons. Younger students may wish to talk to their older peers to gain insight into programs and services offered by the University, while older student may simply want to brush up on study and time management skills or learn about programs and services for students nearing the end of their degree.

In all, the Mentoring Centre offers a place for students to talk about concerns and problems that they might have in any facet of their lives. While students are able to voice their concerns and problems without fear of judgment, mentors can garner further insight in issues unique to students and find a more practical solution to better improve the services that the Faculty of Social Sciences offers, as well as the services offered by the University of Ottawa.

ACADEMIC WRITING HELP CENTRE - <http://www.sass.uottawa.ca/writing/>

At the AWHC you will learn how to identify, correct and ultimately avoid errors in your writing and become an autonomous writer. In working with our Writing Advisors, you will be able to acquire the abilities, strategies and writing tools that will enable you to:

- **Master the written language of your choice**
- **Expand your critical thinking abilities**
- **Develop your argumentation skills**
- **Learn what the expectations are for academic writing**

COUNSELLING AND COACHING - <http://sass.uottawa.ca/en/personal>

There are many reasons to take advantage of the Counselling Service. We offer:

- Personal counselling
- Career counselling
- Study skills counselling

HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE - <https://www.uottawa.ca/respect/en>

Mandate:

To provide leadership in the creation, implementation and evaluation of policies, procedures and practices on diversity, inclusion, equity, accessibility and the prevention of harassment and discrimination.

Contact information:

1 Stewart St. (Main Floor – Room 121) - Tel.: 613-562-5222 / Email: respect@uOttawa.ca

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS - <http://sass.uottawa.ca/en/access>

The University has always strived to meet the needs of individuals with learning disabilities or with other temporary or permanent functional disabilities (hearing/visual impairments,

sustained health issues, mental health problems), and the campus community works collaboratively so that you can develop and maintain your autonomy, as well as reach your full potential throughout your studies. You can call on a wide range of services and resources, all provided with expertise, professionalism and confidentiality.

If barriers are preventing you from integrating into university life and you need adaptive measures to progress (physical setting, arrangements for exams, learning strategies, etc.), contact the Access Service right away:

- in person in [our office](#)
- online
- by phone at 613-562-5976

Deadlines for submitting requests for adaptive measures during exams

- midterms, tests, deferred exams: seven business days before the exam, test or other written evaluation (excluding the day of the exam itself)
- final exams:
 - November 15 for the fall session
 - March 15 for the winter session
 - Seven business days before the date of the exam for the spring/summer session (excluding the day of the exam itself).

CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTRE - <http://www.sass.uottawa.ca/careers/>

Career Development Centre offers various services and resources in career development to enable you to recognize and enhance the employability skills you need in today's world of work.

STUDENT RESOURCES CENTRES - <http://www.communitylife.uottawa.ca/en/resources.php>

The Student Resources Centres aim to fulfill all sorts of student needs.

The University requires the following statements to be included in this course's syllabus

Attendance statement:

Class attendance is necessary to successfully complete this course.

Missed exams and submission deadlines:

Absences from exams and late submissions of course work will be penalized. Exceptions are made only for illness or other serious situations deemed as such by the professor. Requests for exceptions must be submitted in writing, within five business days following the date of the exam or submission date. The Faculty reserves the right to accept or refuse the reason. Exceptions due to illness must be supported by a medical certificate. Reasons such as travel, jobs, or any misreading of the examination timetable are not acceptable. Absences from exams which are not excused will result in a mark of zero for the exam.

Deferred exams:

Students who are excused for missing an exam will be required to write a deferred exam, except where the professor offers a re-weighting scheme which applies to the student's case. (If available, such a scheme is described in this syllabus.) Online DFR forms must be completed for both midterms and final exams. The online form can be obtained at <https://socialsciences.uottawa.ca/students/undergraduate-forms>. A copy of the supporting documentation must be joined to your request in order for you to submit the online form. All requests must be submitted within five working days of the exam. The request must respect all the conditions of Academic Regulation I9.5 (<https://www.uottawa.ca/administration-and-governance/academic-regulation-9-evaluation-of-student-learning>). The date of the deferred final exam is **January 4th, 2019**.

Plagiarism and academic fraud.

Academic fraud is an act committed by a student to distort the marking of assignments, tests, examinations, and other forms of academic evaluation. Academic fraud is neither accepted nor tolerated by the University. Anyone found guilty of academic fraud is liable to severe academic sanctions.

Here are a few examples of academic fraud:

- engaging in any form of plagiarism or cheating;
- presenting falsified research data;
- handing in an assignment that was not authored, in whole or in part, by the student;
- submitting the same assignment in more than one course, without the written consent of the professors concerned.

In recent years, the development of the Internet has made it much easier to identify academic plagiarism. The tools available to your professors allow them to trace the exact origin of a text on the Web, using just a few words.

In cases where students are unsure whether they are at fault, it is their responsibility to consult the "*Writing and Style Guide for University Papers and Assignments*." It can be found at:

<http://socialsciences.uottawa.ca/undergraduate/writing-style-guide>

Persons who have committed or attempted to commit (or have been accomplices to) academic fraud will be penalized. Here are some examples of the academic sanctions, which can be imposed:

- a grade of "F" for the assignment or course in question;
- an additional program requirement of between 3 and 30 credits;
- suspension or expulsion from the Faculty.

For more information, refer to the *Student's Guide to Academic Integrity*:

<http://www.uottawa.ca/vice-president-academic/sites/www.uottawa.ca.vice-president-academic/files/academic-integrity-students-guide.pdf>

and Academic Integrity Website (Office of the Vice-President Academic and Provost)

<http://web5.uottawa.ca/mcs-smc/academicintegrity/home.php>

Sexual violence notice:

The University of Ottawa does not tolerate any form of sexual violence. Sexual violence refers to any act of a sexual nature committed without consent, such as rape, sexual harassment or online harassment. The University,

as well as student and employee associations, offers a full range of resources and services allowing members of our community to receive information and confidential assistance and providing for a procedure to report an incident or make a complaint. For more information, visit www.uOttawa.ca/sexual-violence-support-and-prevention