

**ECON 1B03E:  
INTRODUCTORY MICROECONOMICS**

**McMaster University  
Spring 2018**

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**Office hours:** Tuesdays 12:00 – 1:00pm

**Lectures:** C02: Tu 6:00pm – 9:00pm, CNH B107

**Course Materials:** **How to Do Microeconomics**, Hannah Holmes – *highly recommended*  
**MyEconLab:** online resource, included with purchase of textbook above – *highly recommended*  
**Iclicker:** *recommended*, but will not be used for grades. Bring it to class if you already have one for another class.

**Course Website:** Avenue to Learn, “Avenue”  
<http://avenue.mcmaster.ca/>

**Course Objectives:**

- Explain the basic concepts of demand and supply, consumers and producers, market structure and policy implications.
- Demonstrate how firms make production and pricing decisions.
- Explain the effect of policy changes on market outcomes.
- Demonstrate how consumers and firms interact to reach equilibrium in different markets for goods and services.

|                    |                   |            |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------|
| <b>Evaluation:</b> | <b>Test 1</b>     | <b>30%</b> |
|                    | <b>Test 2</b>     | <b>30%</b> |
|                    | <b>Final Exam</b> | <b>40%</b> |

**You must pass the exam in  
order to pass the course.**

**Course Structure**

The course is delivered in a blended format. This means the lecture content will be available to you in video format through our online course website, Avenue. We only meet in person once a week for 2-3 hrs. We meet every Tuesday from 6pm – 9pm to apply what you have learned in the videos. You will use weekly schedules to help keep you on track with readings, watching the videos, and completion of problems as the semester progresses.

**Tests:**

- There will be two (2) term tests, each 80 minutes long.
- The tests will consist of 40 multiple choice questions.
- Only the **Casio FX 991 MS** or **Casio FX 991 MS Plus** calculator can be used during tests and the exam.

|                    |        |                           |              |
|--------------------|--------|---------------------------|--------------|
| <i>Test Dates:</i> | Test 1 | TUESDAY, May 15 (CH. 1-4) | 6pm – 7:20pm |
|                    | Test 2 | TUESDAY, May 29 (CH. 5-7) | 6pm - 7:20pm |

**MSAF**

- The McMaster Student Absence Reporting Form, MSAF is available. It may be used once per term to report an absence for pieces of work worth 24% or less of your total grade.
- **You cannot use the usual online MSAF to report an absence from a test in this course because our tests are each worth more than 24%.**

**IF YOU MISS A TEST:**

- Take your documentation to your faculty's Associate Dean's office.
- They will decide if you should be excused from the test, and if so, they will either notify me or allow you to use a special MSAF.
- If you are excused, the weight of the test will be transferred to the final exam.
- **Make-up tests will not be given under any circumstances.**

**Students Who Require Academic Accommodations:**

- It is your responsibility to ensure that you have met all of the requirements to write with Student Accessibilities Services (SAS).
- Letters of accommodation are generally approved online by instructors, but if you would like to bring your letter in person, please do so (in my office only) as early in the term as possible.
- *It is preferred that you write the tests during the same time as the rest of the class, on Tuesdays at 6pm.*
- To ensure you secure a booking with SAS, please book both term tests at the start of term.

**MyEconLab “Bonus” Pre-Tests (Optional):**

- MyEconLab is an online course resource that is provided to you with the purchase of the textbook.
- MyEconLab houses the optional bonus pre-tests and additional practice questions.
- There are 3 bonus pre-tests, each one corresponding to the tests and exam.
- There are 20 - 30 marks available for each pre-test.
- *You may attempt each bonus pre-test twice.*
- **PLEASE NOTE:** You cannot save partly answered questions. For example, if a question has three parts to it: an A, B and C, you must complete and save all 3 parts. If you only save your work for parts A and B, you will lose part C and will not be able to go back to complete part C.
- You have to complete the entire question before saving it and continuing to the next question.
- If you open a question and do not complete it, you CANNOT go back to it.
- The pre-tests will be available to you for 7 days, prior to the due date.
- There is a “ Save for Later” option. You may leave and return later to complete the pre-test. When you return to the pre-test, you cannot access questions that you answered in earlier sessions or opened and left blank.
- You will be able to review the questions after the due date.
- The pre-tests are due on Mondays at 11:00pm, the week of the tests. NO LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED!
- If you forget to submit your pre-test, you will not be given credit for it, no exceptions.
- If you miss a pre-test, you cannot submit the MSAF. The pre-tests are optional and not required for the course. Not completing the pre-tests does not prevent you from fulfilling the required course components.

**How the “Bonus Pre-Test” Works:**

Your grade on the Bonus Pre-Test will be added to the corresponding test or exam only if it boosts your mark on the corresponding test or exam. If the Bonus Pre-Test does not boost your grade, it will not be counted.

**Case #1 – The Bonus Pre-Test Benefits Your Test Grade**

| <b>Score on Bonus Pre-Test</b> | <b>Score on Test</b> | <b>Pre-Test Grade Added to Test</b> | <b>Count Pre-Test Grade Toward Test</b> |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 18/20 = 90%                    | 30/40 = 70%          | 46/60 = 80%                         | YES                                     |

Your 18 correct questions from the pre-test plus the 30 correct questions from the test add up to a total of 48 out of 60 questions, which is 80%. Your pre-test marks will count toward the test grade in this case. The test grade that will count toward your overall grade calculation is 48/60 = 80%.

**Case #2 – The Bonus Pre-Test Does Not Benefit Your Test Grade**

| Score on Bonus Pre-Test | Score on Test | Pre-Test Grade Added to Test | Count Pre-Test Grade Toward Test |
|-------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 13/20 = 65%             | 32/40 = 80%   | 45/60 = 75%                  | NO                               |

Your 13 correct questions from the pre-test plus the 32 correct questions from the test add up to a total of 45 out of 60 questions, which is only 75%. Your pre-test marks will NOT count toward your test grade in this case. The test grade that will count toward your overall grade calculation is 32/40 = 80%.

Doing the bonus pre-tests is recommended as you either get extra marks to boost your test/exam mark, or they do not count and you receive extra practice questions which help you achieve a great test/exam mark.

| Bonus Pre-Test    | Chapters   | Due Date                   |
|-------------------|------------|----------------------------|
| Bonus Pre-Test #1 | 1, 2, 3, 4 | Monday, May 14 at 11:00pm  |
| Bonus Pre-Test #2 | 5, 6, 7    | Monday, May 28 at 11:00pm  |
| Bonus Pre-Test #3 | Cumulative | Monday, June 11 at 11:00pm |

**Final Exam:**

- The final exam will be 2 hours in length (6pm – 8pm) on **Tuesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>**
- The exam is cumulative and will consist of 60 multiple choice questions.

**\*\*\* Your bonus exam pre-test will be used to help you (if it benefits your grade) meet the requirement “You must pass the exam to pass the course”.**

**IF YOU MISS THE FINAL EXAM:**

- The MSAF cannot be used for a missed examination for any McMaster course.
- Take your documentation to your faculty’s Associate Dean’s office. They will decide if you should be excused from the exam. If you are, you will write a deferred exam in October 2018.
- The deferred exam is administered by the registrar’s office.
- Note that students who write a deferred exam generally do poorly and earn a much lower overall grade than students who write during the assigned examination period.
- Students who do not write the exam in June will receive an F until a deferred exam has been written.

**Avenue:**

- Avenue is our learning management system/course website.
- Everything you need to know will be posted on Avenue.
- You will find the course outline, PPT lecture notes, weekly schedules, lecture videos, grades, information on tests and the exam, news articles and regular course updates and important announcements.
- Please check the “Announcements” section of Avenue regularly.

**Where to get help:**

To get help with the course material, you have two options:

- The instructor: I have office hours Tuesdays 12-1pm in KTH 707.
- TA office hours: TBA

**E-mail communication policy:**

- Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student’s own McMaster University e-mail account.
- This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account.
- Please do not send the instructor or the TAs emails from Avenue. We cannot respond to email sent from Avenue from our McMaster email accounts. We will only address emails sent to our McMaster accounts from a McMaster account.
- Please ensure you include the following information in your emails: subject heading, your name, student number and course.

**Academic Integrity:**

- You are responsible for complying with and understanding the University’s policy regarding academic integrity. The policy covers a wide variety of topics including cheating on tests and plagiarism and is available at:  
<http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf>
- There is a zero – tolerance policy with respect to cheating. Any student found cheating will be given a grade of zero on the test or exam. In every case, you will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity.

**Code of conduct:**

- Please be courteous to each other, the instructor and the teaching assistants.
- Turn off your cell phones before class starts.
- Please use your electronic devices during class for the purpose of learning/taking notes. Using your devices for other purposes is distracting to students sitting around you.
- If you arrive late, please enter quietly from the back of the lecture hall.

**Lecture Schedule:** (outlines topics to be covered during our 2hr in-person class)

| <b>Week:</b> | <b>Date:</b> | <b>Chapters:</b>                            |
|--------------|--------------|---|
| 1            | May 1        | Course Outline. Ch. 1 and Ch.2              |
| 2            | May 8        | Ch. 3, Ch. 4 and <i>Test #1 Review</i>      |
| 3            | May 15       | Test #1 (Ch. 1-4), Ch. 5 and Ch. 6          |
| 4            | May 22       | Ch. 7, Ch. 8 and <i>Test #2 Review</i>      |
| 5            | May 29       | Test #2 (Ch. 5-7), Ch. 9, Ch. 10 and Ch. 11 |
| 6            | June 5       | Ch. 12, Ch. 13 and <i>Exam Review</i>       |
| 7            | June 12      | Exam (Ch. 1-13)                             |

**Depending on the circumstances, this lecture schedule may change. Any modifications to material coverage or presentation will be announced on Avenue.**

**Lecture Content:**

- Ch. 1: Introduction
- Ch. 2: Production Possibilities and Gains from Trade
- Ch. 3: Demand, Supply and Equilibrium
- Ch. 4: Elasticity
- Ch. 5: Welfare, Externalities, and Public Goods
- Ch. 6: Government Policies
- Ch. 7: Costs of Production
- Ch. 8: Perfect Competition
- Ch. 9: Monopoly
- Ch. 10: Monopolistic Competition
- Ch. 11: Oligopoly
- CH. 12: Market for Factors of Production
- Ch. 13: Consumer Theory

**Important Dates and Deadlines**

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Monday, May 7    | Last day for enrollment and registration changes |
| Friday, May 11   | Course Outline Bonus Quiz Due at 11pm            |
| Monday, May 14   | Bonus Pre-Test #1 Due at 11pm                    |
| Tuesday, May 15  | Test #1 (Ch. 1 - 4), 6pm – 7:20pm                |
| Monday, May 28   | Bonus Pre-Test #2 Due at 11pm                    |
| Tuesday, May 29  | Test #2 (Ch. 5 - 7), 6pm – 7:20pm                |
| Monday, June 11  | Bonus Pre-Test #3 Due at 11pm                    |
| Tuesday, June 12 | Exam (Ch. 1-13), 6pm – 8pm                       |