

Econ208 Section 002: Microeconomic Analysis & Applications

Fall 2024

McGill University Department of Economics
Professor Dickinson, Leacock 516
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Lectures: Mondays & Wednesdays, 10:35am – 11:55am

A: About the Course

This 3-credit Microeconomics course focuses on the behaviour of individual economic units (individual markets, individual consumers, individual firms). It examines the choices that consumers and firms face, how different market structures respond to these choices, and when/how/why government intervention may or may not be desirable for society. (Note that this course can give credit for a Minor in Economics, but not for a Major or Honours in Economics.) At each stage you will learn the theory and then use it for a variety of applications. The course assumes you have no prior knowledge of economics, but check in the McGill eCalendar and on the Department of Economics website to ensure you have not done any course that would make you ineligible for credit for this one (such as MGCR293 or Econ230D1/D2). Note that this course can give credit for a Minor in Economics, but **not** for a Major or Honours in Economics.

Read and learn what we cover in a timely manner as the lectures progress. Economic reasoning builds upon itself, so you need to understand each part in turn. If you must miss a lecture or conference, arrange a 'buddy system' so you can use the notes of someone who does attend. Some examinable material covered in lectures will not be in the text. Lecture notes will not be posted on the **MyCourses** web site.

You should also make full use of the **"Discussions"** tool in *MyCourses*. Your fellow-students may help with an answer, and each week your questions and answers will be monitored by the course's **Teaching Assistants (TAs), Yan Ning and ****** for accuracy and appropriate depth of explanation. *Discussions* is a **VERY** useful tool and I strongly encourage you to go there frequently, whether to ask your own questions or view the questions (and their answers) of your colleagues. Undoubtedly you will have questions (and if you do not it's probably because you haven't been studying!), **so please use Discussions!**

Yang and *** each will hold three 50-minute 'Conferences' per week, starting in the 2nd or 3rd full week of semester. [Note: There will be 4 each for the first few weeks, then the lowest attendance ones will be dropped.] Conferences will cover applications put on *MyCourses* each week, applying the material covered in lectures and text. Conference material is eligible for examination. You do not have to register for Conferences. Within a given week they all address the same material, so make your own choice of which to attend. Feel free to go to more than one per week if you so wish. A list of conference times and locations and all office hours will be put on *MyCourses*.

My office hours during semester (times to be determined) are in Leacock 516. These hours should be used only if you have personal issues requiring confidentiality, or if you still don't understand some course content **after** having asked in lectures, conferences, office hours or on *Discussions*. Do **NOT** contact me by email for anything other than a personal and confidential problems which you can't talk about through these vehicles.

SUMMARY: It is **very** important that you do the following to get good grades.

- Attend lectures and a Conference **every week**.
- **Read** the text **before** the relevant lecture period.
- **Solidify** your understanding **each week**. Since economic analysis builds upon itself you can't get even a reasonable understanding by 'cramming' immediately before exams.
- **ASK QUESTIONS**, whether during lectures or on *Discussions* or in *Conferences*.

B: Course Textbook

The text is *Microeconomics, 17th Canadian Edition* by Christopher T. *Ragan*, published by Pearson Canada. You purchase access to this e-Text online from McGill's *Le James bookstore* then follow the instructions to activate it. In addition to the e-Text the text package has chapter reviews, answers to the even-numbered end-of-chapter exercises, practice quizzes, and more

C: Examinations

There will be a Midterm exam worth 30% of the total course mark/grade, and a (cumulative) Final worth 70%. Since your Final is cumulative the Professor may, at his discretion, change an al student's exam weighting weights from 30%/70% to 20%/80% if it improves that student's overall grade. The exams are expected to be multiple-choice, although the Professor reserves the right to include some written answers at his discretion.

This Midterm examination will be at the usual time (10:35am) in the usual lecture theatre (MAASS 112) and is expected to be on Wednesday October 23rd. [This date is subject to change depending on course progress.] The Final examination will be written on campus in December, with time and location as determined by the University. The Professor reserves the right to curve the course grades at his discretion. They are closed book examinations - no texts, notes, cell phones or electronic memory devices allowed.

Students getting a D or F on the course have the option to take a Supplemental examination in the Fall break. The grade in this exam will be treated as the grade for the course. [Note, however, that both the initial D or F and the Supplemental grade will be on the student's transcript and included in calculating the GPA.]

If you miss the Midterm for *justifiable* reasons with *acceptable* supporting evidence, the weight will be added to your final examination, making that final worth 100% of your course grade. Judgement as to '*Justifiable*' is *at the Professor's discretion*, as is the '*acceptability*' of supporting evidence.

D: Conduct

Regulations require that you be reminded of the following:

1. *McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures* (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest)
2. *According to Senate regulations, instructors are not permitted to make special arrangements for final exams. Please consult the Calendar, section 4.7.2.1, General University Information and Regulations at www.mcgill.ca.*
3. *In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded. (Note: Not applicable to multiple-choice exams)*
4. *If you think you may need special treatment because of a disability please contact the [Office for Students with Disabilities](#) (or 514-398-6009).*

The knowing use of generative artificial intelligence tools, including ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, Microsoft Copilot and other AI writing and coding assistants, for the completion of, or to support the completion of, an examination, term test, assignment, or any other form of academic assessment, may be considered an academic offense in this course

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the control of McGill University, assessment tasks in a course are subject to change, provided students are sent adequate and timely communications regarding the change.