

Introduction to Economic Issues
Econ 100 - 001
Winter 2024

Professor: Brett Dolter, PhD

Class time: TR 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm

Class location: CL 112

Office hours: Thursdays 2:30 – 3:30 pm or by appointment

Office location: Zoom office hours meeting room via UR Courses (waiting room enabled)

Email: Brett.Dolter@uregina.ca

Catalogue Description: Basic economic concepts are used to explore current economic issues such as unemployment, inflation, trade disputes, the crisis in agriculture, pollution reduction, and health care. *Note: Students who have received credit for either ECON 201 or 202, or any ECON course numbered 300 or higher may not take ECON 100 for credit.*

Graded Course Requirements

1. Achieve Learning Curve Assignments – worth 5% of your final grade

There are “learning curve” assignments in Achieve for each of the 11 chapters we will cover. You can access these assignments through the Achieve platform. I grade the learning curve assignments on a pass/fail basis. To pass each one you need to earn 450 points. You can earn the 450 points by answering questions related to the chapter readings. The purpose of these assignments is to encourage you to engage with the textbook and course material. To get the most out of the class I recommend that you read the textbook chapters and then complete the learning curve assignments before the related lectures. Each of your top nine scores are weighted equally. The scores are combined to represent **a total of 5% of your final grade**.

2. Achieve Homework Assignments – worth 15% of your final grade

There are homework assignments for each of the 11 chapters we will be covering. You can access these homework assignments through the Achieve platform. These assignments are graded on a percentage basis, based on how many questions you get correct. I will take the top nine scores from your homework assignments. **Each of the top nine scores is weighted equally**, and the scores are combined to represent **a total of 15% of your final grade**.

3. Midterm Exam – worth 35% of your final grade

The midterm exam will be on **Tuesday March 5th, 2024**, in CL 112. It is worth **35%**.

4. Final Exam – worth 45% of your final grade.

To be held on April 18th, 2024, from 2 pm – 5 pm. Location: TBD. **You must earn a minimum of 40% on the final exam to pass the class**; otherwise, you will receive an NP. **You must plan to attend and write the exam in person on April 18th, 2024.**

5. Bonus Mark: Near the end of the semester, you will be asked to conduct an online course evaluation. Students who complete the evaluation will receive a bonus mark.

Textbook and Achieve Platform

The textbook for this course is: Kevin Milligan, Philip Oreopoulos, Betsey Stevenson, Justin Wolfers (2023) Principles of Economics (Custom Canadian Edition). MacMillan Learning. This is a custom textbook that combines chapters from two separate textbooks; one focused on Microeconomics and one focused on Macroeconomics. It also comes with access to a learning platform called “Achieve”. Assignments and readings will be found on the Achieve platform.

You can access an electronic version of the textbook and the “Achieve” platform by purchasing access from the University Bookstore (Option 2 Principles of Economics - Achieve only). If you would also like a printed hard-copy of the textbook you can purchase a looseleaf version of the textbook along with access to the Achieve platform (Option 1 Principles of Economics - looseleaf + Achieve). Our course ID in Achieve is: **6nhwwg**. Our Achieve course website is: <https://achieve.macmillanlearning.com/courses/6nhwwg>. You can also purchase access online.

Topics & Readings

We will cover the following chapters and topics:

Topic	Reading	Source Textbook
The Four Core Principles of Economics	Part I, Chapter 1	Microeconomics
Demand and Consumer Choice	Part I, Chapter 2	Microeconomics
Supply and Producer Choice	Part I, Chapter 3	Microeconomics
Equilibrium: Where Supply Meets Demand	Part I, Chapter 4	Microeconomics
Elasticity: Measuring Responsiveness	Part II, Chapter 5	Microeconomics
Externalities and Public Goods	Part III, Chapter 10	Microeconomics
Market Structure and Degrees of Market Power	Part IV, Chapter 14	Microeconomics
Sizing up the Economy Using GDP	Part III, Chapter M9	Macroeconomics
Economic Growth	Part III, Chapter M10	Macroeconomics
Unemployment	Part III, Chapter M11	Macroeconomics
Inflation and Money	Part III, Chapter M12	Macroeconomics

Holidays during the Term

There is no class during Winter Reading Week: Monday February 19th to Saturday February 24th.

Economics Tutorial Centre

For additional help with the concepts we are learning in class you can visit the Economics Tutorial Centre. This is a drop-in help centre staffed by senior economics undergraduate students. The schedule for the Tutorial Centre will be posted on UR Courses.

Health Considerations

If you test positive for Covid-19 please attend class remotely. If you are exhibiting any symptoms of Covid-19, Influenza, or other contagious illness please attend class remotely. Symptoms can include fever, runny nose, cough, sore throat, pink eye, and more. If you send me an **email at least two hours before the start of class** I will login to a live Zoom meeting for that lecture and share my lecture screen to facilitate remote learning. **When in doubt, please exercise caution and stay home to help keep your classmates healthy.**

Mental Health Supports

If you are struggling with stress and mental health please know there is on-line counselling available through the University of Regina: <https://www.uregina.ca/student/counselling/>. Counselling services has also posted a useful guide for “Living with Worry and Anxiety Amidst Global Uncertainty”: <https://www.psychologytools.com/articles/free-guide-to-living-with-worry-and-anxiety-amidst-global-uncertainty/>.

General expectations

A classroom is a learning space. To ensure a positive experience for all students please ensure you come to class prepared to focus on the lecture material. I encourage you to ask questions when you do not understand something. I also ask that you **avoid off-topic side conversations with fellow students**. These conversations disturb the class and create negative externalities for your classmates. **Cellular phone use is not acceptable in class**. Please put your phones away and on silent or airplane mode at the beginning of class. **Laptops are acceptable for note-taking**, but students using laptops for distracting activities such as playing video games or checking their social media accounts **will be asked to stop bringing their laptops to class**. For a review of expectations of student behaviour at the University of Regina, please visit this link: <https://www.uregina.ca/president/executive-team/ed-governance-univ-secretary/student-appeals/student-behaviour.html>.

Plagiarism Policy

Students are expected to **complete assignments and exams on their own**. Copying from another student is **plagiarism** and will lead to disciplinary action. For a clear explanation of plagiarism please review the material at this link:

<https://www.uregina.ca/arts/student-resources/avoiding-academic-misconduct/plagiarism.html>

Each instance of plagiarism will be recorded on your student record. First offences lead to receiving zero on an assignment or examination. Multiple instances of plagiarism can result in expulsion from the University of Regina. To understand the penalties associated with plagiarism please review the guidelines for punishing plagiarism available at this link:

<https://www.uregina.ca/arts/student-resources/avoiding-academic-misconduct/penalty-guidelines.html>.

Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) Policy

Students are prohibited from using generative artificial intelligence text generation software, such as ChatGPT, DALL.E.2, Google Bard, Grammarly, and Quillbot on any assignments for this course. Students are expected to complete all course work without substantial assistance from others, including automated tools. If you are in doubt as to whether or not a particular tool may be permitted, please consult Professor Dolter.

Unauthorized use of generative AI is considered a breach of academic integrity.

Remember that working through assignments on your own helps you to learn and master the course material. It is good preparation for exams and allows you to leave the course ready to apply the knowledge you have learned in the course.

Notable Dates for Winter 2024 Semester

Class Dates:

Start of classes: Monday January 8th (Tuesday January 9th for our class)

End of classes: Friday April 12th (Thursday April 11th for our class)

Examination Dates:

Start of examination period: Tuesday April 16th

End of examination period: Monday April 29th

Tuition and Fee Payment Dates:

Due date for tuition and fee payment: Monday January 8th

End of penalty-free payment period: Friday February 2nd

Class Add/Drop Dates:

End course-add period: Friday January 19th

End of no-record drop period: Friday January 19th

End of grade-of-W drop period: Friday March 15th

Tuition and Fee Refund Dates:

End of 100% refund period: Friday January 19th

End of 50% refund period: Friday February 2nd