

ECON 103 A01: Principles of Microeconomics

Spring Session: January- April 2026

UVic Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and respect the *lək'ʷəŋən* peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and *WSÁNEĆ* peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Instructor Information:

Name: Dr. Muthoni Nganga

Office: BEC 340

E-Mail: economics103@uvic.ca

Office Hours: **In-person-** Thursday 1-2pm- BEC 340; **On zoom** - Thursday 5-6pm - see link on Brightspace

Lectures: Tue, Wed, Fri 8.30- 9.20am

Location: Elliot 060

Labs: see online registration

Please note this syllabus is subject to small changes during the semester.

E-mail correspondence

All email communication to the instructor **must** be sent to economics103@uvic.ca. Emails sent to any other address- including the instructor's personal email or through Brightspace will not be responded to. Students must sign every email with their full name and student number. Emails should be limited to critical matters only such as booking appointments outside office hours. It is not advisable to ask class questions that require long answers or a discussion on email. They are both time consuming and often unclear especially when the student requires further clarification. You are encouraged to ask questions during class or office hours. I will not respond to emails that require long responses or those that can be answered using the course syllabus. Please note that I will not respond to emails asking me to summarize what you missed in class or to tell you whether the missed content was important- **All classes are important.** It is your responsibility to attend class and to catch up on any material you may have missed. Please connect with your classmates for additional updates if you are absent. Students are advised to use their official Uvic email address for all course-related correspondence. Messages sent from non-Uvic email accounts may be filtered as spam and therefore may not be received. Please use your institutional email address when contacting the instructor or the teaching assistant.

Kindly use a professional tone in your emails.

I check and respond to emails on Monday- Friday (apart from holidays) between 2-4pm

TA: TBD

Teaching and Assessment Modality Statement

This course is face-to-face, and all exams are held in person. Mindtap exercises are completed online in the Cengage Online Learning Platform, Quizzes are completed online on Brightspace.

Course Content

This course covers the basic principles of microeconomic analysis. Microeconomics consists of theories of the decision making of economic agents (consumers and producers) and their interaction through markets. The objectives and constraints that direct the decision making of economic agents will be examined. The outcome of their interaction will depend on the nature of the market. Markets may be competitive or characterized by some form of imperfect competition or monopoly. Markets may also be subject to various types of market failure and are affected by government interventions and regulations. The concept of economic efficiency provides a basis for the appraisal of market performance and of government intervention.

Textbook (required): The required text for the course is: Principles of Microeconomics, 9th Edition, by Mankiw, Kneebone, and McKenzie. It is available bundled with Mindtap through the bookstore as both a hard cover and e-book. For some chapters of the textbook, we may only cover certain pages or sections. When this occurs, the specific pages or sections will be provided on Brightspace.

Course Key: MTPQGR45CZ3C

Note: Includes *14 days of free access* from the first day of class. Students can start using MindTap today and purchase access later.

See more information on B/S on access to mindtap

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Use the concept of opportunity cost to determine whether to engage in an economic transaction.
- Draw a circular-flow diagram representing the organization of an economy.
- Solve a problem applying the concept of opportunity cost to the production possibilities frontier.
- Calculate gains from trade using the concepts of comparative and absolute advantage.
- Graph supply and demand curves for goods in an economy and calculate the slope of each curve.
- Calculate equilibrium quantity and price for a good using supply and demand curves.
- Calculate price elasticities of demand and supply for goods.
- Calculate the impact of government-imposed price ceilings and price floors on the price and quantity of goods.
- Calculate consumer and producer surplus given the price of a good and quantity consumed.
- Use a graph to determine the costs of taxation.
- Use a graph to show how positive and negative externalities affect the price and quantity of goods.
- Classify different goods into public, private, common resource, or club based on the key properties
- Calculate the various measures of costs associated with the production of goods.
- Determine the profits of a firm given costs and revenues.
- Calculate revenues and profit for a firm with monopoly power.

Delivery

This course will be offered in person following UVic's guidelines. Students may be required to wear masks during lectures, labs, office hours, and exams (subject to public health guidelines).

Quizzes (if any) are taken on Brightspace. Mindtap exercises are completed online in the Cengage Online Learning Platform. See Mindtap for due dates and B/S for reminders of the assignments due.

Recommended Minimum Courses Before Taking ECON 103

Recommended: One of MATH 120, Principles of Mathematics 12, Pre-Calculus 12 recommended prior to ECON 103.

Attendance Policy

Attendance may be recorded during certain class sessions; while it will not contribute directly to the final course grade, class attendance is strongly encouraged. Research shows that students who attend class regularly tend to perform better academically, as engagement in discussions and activities enhances understanding and retention of course material.

Labs

Your lab appears in your course schedule as the B numbered section of ECON 103. There will be 11 labs held in-person throughout the term. Labs will be held each week except week 1 and the week of the midterm exams- reminders will be sent. The labs will be led by teaching assistants (TAs). If you attend labs, *only attend the lab for which you are registered* because each room has limited seating capacity. Attending the labs will help you successfully complete the exercises for the week.

Importantly, it may take several days to sort out all lab registration issues. Some of you may be unable to initially register for a lab time that works with your schedule. If this occurs, keep checking the Course timetable to see which labs have open seats. There is extensive turnover in registration at the beginning of the term, and most students will quickly find a lab that works with their schedule. However, if you are unable to register for a lab by the end of the first week of class, send me an email (economics103@uvic.ca).

Course Calendar (tentative):

The actual topics and the order of topics in the course calendar may change depending on the flow of the lectures.

Topic	Chapter	Week	Check mindtap & BRS for quizzes due dates
	1	1 – Jan 5	First class on Jan 6
Thinking like an Economist, Interdependence and the Gains from Trade	2, 3	2 – Jan 12	
Supply and Demand	3, 4	3 – Jan 19	
Elasticity	5	4 – Jan 26	
Supply, Demand, and Government Consumers, Producers, and Market Efficiency	6, 7	5 – Feb 2	Midterm 1 Feb 4
The Cost of Taxation	8	6 – Feb 9	
		7 – Feb 16	Reading Week- No class
International Trade	9	8 – Feb 23	Midterm 2 Feb 27
Externalities	10	9 – Mar 2	
Public Goods and Common Resources	11	10 – Mar 9	
Cost of Production	13	11 – Mar 16	Midterm 3 Mar 18
Competitive Markets	14	12 – Mar 23	
Monopoly	15	13 – Mar 30	Last Class – Apr 2

Important Dates:- see [university calendar](#)

January 18th - Last day for 100% reduction for first term tuition fees

January 21st - Last day for adding classes

February 8th - Last day for 50% reduction for first term tuition fees

February 16th – February 20th - Reading Break

February 28th - Last Day for withdrawing from second term courses without failing

April 7th – First term examinations begin

April 22nd – First term examinations end

Assessment

The course is assessed through mindtap exercises, quizzes on Brightspace, midterm exams and a final exam

Assessments and Grade Structure

Item	Notes	%
Mindtap Exercises	<p>Grading Policy Grades are determined by the completion of assigned MindTap exercises submitted before the deadline. “Completion” is defined as submitting the exercise and earning at least the minimum score described below.</p> <p>Scoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Score $\geq 60\%$: Full credit for that exercise.• Score $< 60\%$ (but submitted): Half credit for that exercise.• Unsubmitted or late exercises: No credit (grade = 0). <p>Number of Exercises Counted: Only 10 assigned exercises will count toward your final grade.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you complete more than 10 assigned exercises, the lowest score will be dropped automatically.• Do not email the instructor or TAs if you miss an exercise - this policy already accounts for missed work. <p>Attempts: MindTap exercises are not timed. You may attempt each exercise up to three times, and the highest score among the three attempts will be used for grading.</p> <p>Practice Exercises: MindTap contains many additional practice problems. Only exercises explicitly assigned by the instructor count toward your grade.</p>	10
Quizzes	<p>Only 10 (out of the 12) assigned quizzes will count toward your final grade.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you complete more than 10 assigned exercises, the lowest score will be dropped automatically.• Do not email the instructor or TAs if you miss a quiz - this policy already accounts for missed work.• Unsubmitted or late quizzes- submitted after the deadline: No credit (grade = 0).	15
Midterm Exam	<p>Midterm 1- February 4 (20 marks) Midterm 2- February 27 (20 marks) Midterm 3- March 18 (20 marks)</p> <p>Cumulative since the material presented in lectures and chapters builds on itself. See additional notes below</p>	40
Final Exam	<p>The exam timetables are posted in mid-February. I do not have control over when our Final Exam is scheduled.</p> <p>Cumulative since the material presented in lectures and chapters builds on itself. See additional notes below</p>	35

Notes

Items permitted during exams are: a non-programmable calculator without storage capacity (no Ti 89 etc.), pen and pencil, a water bottle, and your ID card. Any additional material will not be allowed on your desk during examinations.

Midterms: Only two out of the three midterm exams will count toward your final grade; the lower score (of the three) will be dropped automatically. If you miss one midterm, that will be the one excluded- no penalty and no need to email the instructor/ TA. However, if you miss two midterms, you will receive a zero grade for one. If you miss all midterms- you will receive “N” grade- see (**Essential / Mandatory Course Requirements**). Please note that no make-up midterm exams will be offered - this policy already accounts for missed midterm situations.

Final exam: Consideration for missed final exams will be given only on the basis of the University’s policies at the time, accident or family affliction, and for no other reasons. In the event of a missed examination, students are advised to follow the procedures outlined in the University Calendar: formally apply to [request a deferral](#) to write a deferred exam in the upcoming term- see [University Examination Policies](#). Do not email me that you are unable to take the Final Exam.

According to university policy, students are advised to make travel plans after the exam schedule becomes available, and conflicts with travel plans are not considered a valid reason for missing the Final Exam.

Note: The weight of any of the assessment items cannot be shifted to any other assessment item.

Important: To ensure comprehensive understanding of the material, you must pass at least one of the term exams (midterm or final) to pass the course. If you do not pass at least one term exam, then your final grade will at most be 49%.

Note: All Material covered in lectures, labs, exercises, and relevant textbook chapters, may appear on the exams, thus attendance in lectures and labs is highly encouraged. Attendance highly correlates with final course grades.

Exam questions will follow the style and format of those found in the mindtap exercises and quizzes, and those discussed during class sessions. If you miss a class, it is up to you to follow up with your classmates for updates on what you missed. You will not be required to use a computer for any exam questions. I will not respond to emails asking for additional information on exams coverage.

Essential / Mandatory Course Requirements: The midterm (at least one), and the final exam must be completed to not receive an “N” on this course. You must pass at least one of the term exams (midterm or final with a grade of at least 50%) to pass the course. If your overall course average is above 50% but all exams are below 50%, then your final grade will be 49%.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

AI cannot be used to answer any questions on formal assessments, which includes quizzes, Mindtap, and exams.

Grading Scale:

Passing Grades	Percentage	Description
A+	90-100	Exceptional, outstanding performance. Normally achieved by a minority of students. These grades indicate a student who is self-initiating, exceeds expectations and has an insightful grasp of the subject matter.
A	85-89	
A-	80-84	

B+	77-79	Very good, good and solid performance. Normally achieved by the largest number of students. These grades indicate a good grasp of the subject matter or excellent grasp in one or more areas balanced with satisfactory grasp in other areas.
C+	65-69	Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory. These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
C	60-64	
D	50-59	Marginal performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.
Failing Grades		
F	0-49	Unsatisfactory performance. Wrote examinations and completed course requirements.
N	0-49	Did not complete course requirements by the end of term or session.

Course Policies

This course adheres to the [Department Course Policies](#) of the Department of Economics that deal with the following issues:

- Academic concessions
- Academic integrity (plagiarism and cheating)
- Attendance
- Grading
- Inclusivity and diversity
- Late adds
- Late assignments
- Repeating courses
- Review of an assigned grade
- Students with a disability
- Term assignments and debarment from examinations
- Travel plans
- Waitlists

The following policies are explicitly included because of their importance.

Late Assignments and Missed Examinations

See “assessment and grade structure” table and reference notes. – For all course assessments.

Consideration for missed final examinations or late assignments will be given only on the basis of with the University’s policies at the time, accident or family affliction, and for no other reasons. In the event of a missed examination, students are advised to follow the procedures outlined in the University Calendar: [University Examination Policies](#)

If a student misses a final exam due to one of the above reasons, there may be a makeup exam offered during the Economics department’s makeup exam sessions. More than one makeup exam is not regularly given, and students should follow University’s guidelines on formal deferrals.

Students are advised not to make work or travel plans during lecture and lab hours to be able to attend all classes and examinations. There will be no special accommodation (and no makeup exams) if travel plans conflict with examinations held during class hours or the examination period.

Brightspace

- Brightspace is used extensively for the course. All students are expected to be fully functional with the system. The lecture material, and other course information will be on Brightspace. Please note that the lecture notes online are only outlines of the actual lectures. Hence, Some slides may only be outlines of the slides used in the actual lecture, and additional material may be covered during the lectures.
- All announcements will be posted in *Brightspace*. Students are advised to check it frequently. It is expected that you read the announcements within two days of them being posted. Time sensitive information will be shared with the class through announcements.
- Quizzes will be completed on Brightspace.

Waitlist Policies

- Instructors have no discretion to admit waitlisted students or raise the cap on the course.
- Students on the waitlist should discuss with the instructor how to ensure they are not behind with coursework in the event they are admitted.
- Registered students who do not show up in the first seven calendar days from the start of the course may be dropped from the course.
- Registered students who decide not to take the course are responsible for dropping the course, and are urged to do so promptly out of courtesy toward waitlisted students.
- Waitlist offers cease after the last date for adding courses irrespective of published waitlists.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity requires commitment to the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students are expected to observe the same standards of scholarly integrity as their academic and professional counterparts. Review “[What is Plagiarism](#)” for the definition of plagiarism. Note: Submitted work may be checked using plagiarism detection software as well as selected for plagiarism audits. This applies to all exams and submitted work, including problem sets, the research project, and forecasting competition entry.

Students must abide by UVic academic regulations and observe standards of ‘scholarly integrity,’ (no plagiarism or cheating). This applies to all assignments and exams (take-home or otherwise). Any online exams must be taken individually and not with a friend, classmate, or group. All alleged violations of academic integrity will be investigated and a student who is found to have engaged in unethical academic behaviour, including the practices described in the [Policy on Academic Integrity](#) in the University Calendar, is subject to penalty by the University.

Student Code of Conduct

The Humanities, Science, and Social Sciences Faculties have adopted this [Student code of conduct](#). Please, review.

Appeals

Depending on the nature of your concern, the order in which you should normally try to resolve the matter is:

1. Me, the course instructor
2. the Associate Chair: econassoc@uvic.ca
3. the Associate Dean of Academic Advising
4. the Senate.

If you're seeking a formal review of an assigned grade, you should also consult the regulations in the academic calendar regarding [review of an assigned grade](#).

University Policy on Human Rights, Equity and Fairness

The University is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive, supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members. See [General University Policies](#)

Accessibility & Health Resources

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, you are free to approach me; however, you must register with the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) for formal arrangements to be made. The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

[Health Services](#) - University Health Services (UHS) provides a full service primary health clinic for students, and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives.

[Counselling Services](#) - Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students.

[Elders' Voices](#) - The Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE) has the privilege of assembling a group of Elders from local communities to guide students, staff, faculty and administration in Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

Course Experience Survey (CES)

Towards the end of term you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential course experience survey (CES) regarding your learning experience. The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future.

When it is time for you to complete the survey, you will receive an email inviting you to do so. If you do not receive an email invitation, you can go directly to the [CES log-in](#). You will use your UVic NetLink ID to access the survey, which can be completed on your laptop, tablet or mobile device. I will remind you nearer the time, but please be thinking about this important activity, especially the following three questions, during the course.

- What strengths did your **instructor** demonstrate that helped you learn in this course?
- Please provide specific ideas as to how the **instructor** could have helped you learn more effectively.
- Please provide specific suggestions as to how this **course** could be improved.

Repeating Courses

According to the University of Victoria Calendar <http://web.uvic.ca/calendar>

"A student may not attempt a course a third time without the prior approval of the Dean of the Faculty and the Chair of the Department in which the course is offered unless the calendar course entry states that the course may be repeated for additional credit. A student who has not received this approval may be deregistered from the course at any point and may be asked to withdraw from his or her declared or intended program."

In order to request permission to attempt this course for the third time, you must follow the instructions provided under the link **Repeating Courses** at

<http://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/economics/undergraduate/home/course%20policies/index.php>

Failure to obtain permission will result in deregistration from the course.

Electronic devices

It is expected that if you are attending class, you are there to learn. It is expected that you behave appropriately and respectfully. If your electronic device is causing disruptions, you may be asked to leave the lecture. Electronic devices may not be used in the exam.

Educational Technology involving storage outside Canada

The following educational technologies, which stores or accesses your personal information outside Canada, is used for this course: MindTap (through Cengage). I will make you aware if this list changes. Personal information is required by the service. The privacy policy and the terms of use list the personal information stored outside of Canada and are available [here](#). I encourage you to read this. If you are not comfortable with your personal information being stored outside of Canada, please speak to me within the first week of class about using an alternative (such as using an alias or nickname). Otherwise, by continuing in this course, you agree to the use of the educational technology in the course and the storage of personal information outside of Canada.

Sexualized Violence Prevention & Response

UVic takes sexualized violence seriously and has raised the bar for what is considered acceptable behaviour. Students are encouraged to learn more about how the university defines sexualized violence and its overall approach by visiting www.uvic.ca/svp . If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexualized violence and needs information, advice, and/or support please contact the sexualized violence resource office in Equity and Human Rights (EQHR). Contact svpcoordinator@uvic.ca.