

Microeconomic Principles - ECON 1013  
Department of Economics  
Acadia University  
FALL 2024

## Professor Information

**Name:** Dr. Barry Watson

**Email:** barry.watson@acadiau.ca

**Office Location:** BAC 343

**Office Hours:** Mondays & Wednesdays, 1pm - 5pm (or by appointment). I am in my office most days, and so long as my door is open (which it normally is), I am available for drop-in consultations.

## Course Information

**Course Title:** Microeconomic Principles

**Course Number:** ECON 1013

**Location:** BAC241

**Meeting Times:** Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11:00am - 12:20pm

## Course Description & Objectives

ECON 1013 introduces students to the fundamental principles of microeconomics - i.e., the study of how households, firms, and government make decisions in light of uncertainty and scarcity. Further, we will explore how these decisions are impacted by (dis)incentive mechanisms (e.g., laws, taxes) and market structure (e.g., competition, monopoly). It is also important to question the rationality of these decisions, after all, to err is human.

By the end of this course you should be able to provide detailed responses to questions such as: How does federal-level prohibition impact the war on drugs? Should provincial governments pursue a living wage? Should municipalities implement policies designed to make housing more affordable? Can the private sector operate in an environmentally sustainable manner, without government intervention?

## Textbook

Parkin, M. & Bade, R. (2021) *Microeconomics: Canada in the Global Environment, 11th Edition*. Pearson Education Canada.

The textbook is available at the campus bookstore. Please note that previous editions of the textbook are very similar and can be used for the course.

## Grading

Assignments (Best 4 of 5)	20%	(5% each)
Midterms (2)	40%	(20% each)
Final Exam	40%	

Two midterms will be held during class hours. The first midterm will be held on October 8th; the second will be on November 14th. The final exam will be cumulative, with the exact date set by the Registrar's Office. Prior to each midterm, two assignments will be administered. There will also be an assignment prior to the exam. These assignments are intended to help you in preparing for the midterms and final.

## Grading Scale

Grades for individual course components may fall between 0 and 4.33. Final grades will be reported as a letter grade. The letter grading system is provided below.

Grade	GPA	%	Performance
A+	4.33	90-100	
A	4.00	85-90	Excellent
A-	3.67	80-84	
B+	3.33	77-79	
B	3.00	73-76	Good
B-	2.67	70-72	
C+	2.33	67-69	
C	2.00	63-66	Satisfactory
C-	1.67	60-62	
D+	1.33	57-59	
D	1.00	53-56	
D-	0.67	50-52	Pass
F	0.00	0-49	Failure

## Course Topics

<b>Topics</b>	<b>Chapter</b>
Introduction: What is Economics?	1
The Economic Problem	2
Supply and Demand	3
Elasticity	4
Efficiency & Equity	5
Government Intervention	6
Utility & Demand	8
Possibilities, Preferences, Choices	9
Output & Costs	10
Perfect Competition	11
Monopoly	12
Externalities	13

## Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

In this course, we are committed to fostering an inclusive and equitable learning environment where the principles of human rights and social justice are paramount. We recognize and respect the diverse backgrounds, identities, and experiences of all students. Our collective goal is to create a space where every individual feels valued, heard, and supported.

All students are encouraged to contribute to and uphold an atmosphere of mutual respect and empathy. Discrimination, harassment, or any form of intolerance will not be tolerated. If you have any concerns or require accommodations to ensure your full participation in this course, please do not hesitate to reach out. Together, let's work towards understanding and advancing human rights and equity, both within and beyond the classroom.

Acadia's Human Rights and Equity Office is responsible for the management and implementation of Acadia's Policy Against Harassment and Discrimination. This Policy is underpinned by a commitment to deconstructing the problematic structures of systemic racism and discrimination within the University Community. Acadia upholds a commitment to fostering a culture within the University Community that is welcoming and reflective of the diverse individuals that comprise this community and to fostering cultural safety, anti-oppression and anti-racism within the University Community, making it our goal to achieve a culture where our diversity is our strength.

For more information, as well as resources for those who have experienced (or witnessed) the above, please contact Polly Leonard at [equity@acadiau.ca](mailto:equity@acadiau.ca).

## Accessibility

The Accessibility Learning Office is committed to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for all students, including those with disabilities. Their office strives to ensure that all students have equal access to educational opportunities and resources. Students who require accommodations to complete coursework, or fully participate in class, are encouraged to contact them directly. Please visit the [Accessible Learning Services website](#) or email them at [Accessible.learning@acadiau.ca](mailto:Accessible.learning@acadiau.ca) for more information.

## Health & Well-being

Acadia provides a host of services for student health, well-being, and safety. The university's physicians provide services for: medical diagnosis and treatment of health concerns, reproductive health (pap tests, birth control, pregnancy tests), sexual health (confidential testing for all sexually transmitted infections and HIV), and emergency contraception. For more information, please contact [studenthealth@acadiau.ca](mailto:studenthealth@acadiau.ca), or visit their [website](#).

The Counselling Centre offers a confidential, safe, and caring place for students to access mental health support. To book an appointment, please [click here](#), or contact [counselling@acadiau.ca](mailto:counselling@acadiau.ca).

## Academic Ethics

Students should familiarize themselves with the Acadia's policy on academic ethics. Plagiarism and other academic offences are not tolerated. Penalties are severe and may result in suspension or expulsion. A complete list of regulations can be found in the [student handbook](#).

## Important Dates

- Sept 13 Last day to add/change fall courses  
Last day to withdraw from fall courses without receiving a "W"
- Sept 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation observed – No classes
- Oct 14 Thanksgiving - No classes
- October 15 - October 18: Reading Week - No classes**
- Nov 11 Remembrance Day observed- No classes
- Nov 22 Last day to withdraw and receive a "W"; withdrawals thereafter receive an "F"
- Dec 4 Last day of classes
- Dec 7 First day of exams
- Dec 18 Last day of exams