

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS**

Course: ECON113

Title: Introduction to Microeconomics

Semester: Spring 2024

Instructor: Pierre Mouganie

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Office Number: WMC 2686 (Economics department)

Class time: Mondays 2:30 pm-4:20 pm

Class Location: SWH10081

Office Hours: Mondays from 10:00 am -12:00 pm (or by appointment)

Calendar Description: Focused on basic competencies in microeconomics, this course is suitable for business and other students not intending to specialize in economics. Topics include gains from trade, supply and demand, prices, competition and monopoly, market failures, and government policies. Economic literacy is an important part of the course. **Students who have taken ECON 103 first may not then take this course for further credit.** Quantitative/Breadth-Soc.

Course Details: Many of the concepts we will discuss boil down to the premise that individuals' behavior is driven by the preferences they have, and the scarcities—or constraints—that they face. As we build on this “model” of human behavior, we will develop a set of tools and a unified framework to help us understand how incentives drive individuals' behavior, how “gains from trade” arise from interactions between individuals and what factors determine how individuals share these gains, and finally how markets and firms transacting with each other function. This will ultimately help us introduce and achieve a deep understanding of the foundational concepts of “supply” and “demand”.

Grading: Participation and attendance in tutorials (10%),
Midterm exam (40%)
Final exam (cumulative) (50%)

Note: The Final course grading policy adopted by the economics department can be found here: <https://www.sfu.ca/economics/undergraduate/advising/grading-policies.html>.

This course would roughly follow the recommendation for 100/200 electives in terms of grade distribution. Please also note that this grading distribution is just a rough approximation and not set in stone. This is especially true if the class performs well.

Note: If you show substantial improvement in your final exam, then I will put more weight on the final exam when computing your final course grades. This does not apply if you do not show up for the midterm exam.

Required Text: *The Economy: Economics for a Changing World* The CORE Team, Oxford University Press, ISBN 9780198810247

This textbook is for sale at the Bookstore, or you can access the e-book for free (a bargain!) at <http://www.core-econ.org>. Note that we are using “**The Economy**” and not the other textbooks at the CORE website and note that we are sticking to the **first version**. There is a lot of material in this book that we will not cover. We will only be covering certain units, and I will make explicit to you which you need to read for the course. Additionally, the main advantage of using this book is that the online companion website contains many questions and quizzes that you can practice on (using the **learning packs** at <http://www.core-econ.org>)

Other materials, such as extra readings, lecture slides, etc., will be posted on Canvas

Detailed List of topics by Week

Topic	Date	Readings
No Class	No Lecture Week (January 8)	
Introduction to Class + inequality	Week 1 (January 15)	CORE Unit 1-Sections 1.0-1.6
Capitalism as an economic system + Economics of innovation	Week 2 (January 22)	CORE Unit 1: Sections 1.7-1.12 CORE Unit 2: Sections 2.0-2.6
Malthusian Economics + Labor and production	Week 3 (January 29)	CORE Unit 2: Sections 2.7-2.11 CORE Unit 3: Sections 3.0-3.6 (Skip Units 3.7-3.11)
1st in class Experiment (public goods) + Social Dilemmas	Week 4 (February 5)	Experiencing Economics: Experiment 1 (Public Goods) CORE Unit 4: Sections 4.0-4.5
Experimental economics + Identifying Social Dilemmas + 2nd in class Experiment (investments)	Week 5 (February 12)	CORE Unit 4: Sections 4.6-4.12 CORE Unit 4: Sections 4.13-4.14 Experiment 2 (Coordination Game)

No Class: Family Day	No Lecture Week (February 19)	
Midterm Review Week	Week 6 (February 26)	In-Class solving
Midterm Exam	Week 7 (March 4)	
Reflections on Midterm Exam+ Property and Power	Week 8 (March 11)	CORE Unit 5: Sections 5.0-5.7
Sharing the Surplus	Week 9 (March 18)	CORE Unit 5: Sections 5.8-5.11 (Skip units 5.12-5.14)
Supply and Demand	Week 10 (March 25)	CORE Unit 8: Sections 8.0 – 8.5 (Skip all units after 8.5)
No Class: Easter Monday	No Lecture week (April 1)	
Review Week	Week 11 (April 8)	Review of Cumulative Final Exam

Course Policy:

1. Attendance policy: attendance is expected for all lectures and absences should be kept to a minimum.
2. Make up policy: There will be no make up exams for the midterm. If you have an excused absence from the midterm exam (medical or other shock) and cannot make the midterm, then all the weight of the midterm exam will be applied to the final exam. In other words, your final exam will be worth 80% of your total grade.
3. Discipline policy: Students are expected to come to class on time and leave the class on time. Students are expected to behave well in class by not disturbing the instructor or other students. Students are expected not to talk, **not to use their mobile phones**, not to let their mobile phones ring during class, etc...
4. Cheating policy: Students are expected NOT to cheat on any assignments or quizzes. If a student cheats according to the cheating criteria set by SFU, the name of the student will be given to the Disciplinary Committee for action.
5. The Department of Economics seeks to promote the values of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in relation to our undergraduate and graduate students, administrative staff, sessional instructors, and faculty members. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of ethnicity/race, culture, religion, ability status, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, gender, gender diversity, citizenship, and national origin. We commit to fostering a departmental climate

that is welcoming, respectful, and inclusive as well as ensuring that departmental policies and practices are fair.