CARLETON UNIVERSITY  
Department of Economics  

FYSM 1003 A  
First-Year Seminar: Introduction to Economics

Instructor: Professor K. G. Armstrong  
2017–18 Fall-Winter

E-mail: cuLearn  
Seminars: Tuesdays, 11:35–14:25, in 204 Tory or 217 Tory

Telephone: 613-520-2600 x 8696  
Tutorials: Thursdays, 13:35–14:25, in 3112 Richcraft or 280 UniCentre

Office: D-899 Loeb  
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 15:15–16:45

Objectives

The first objective of this course is to provide students with a broad survey of economics so that they can acquire the "economic literacy" that every educated person should have in order to understand the society in which they live. The second objective is to provide an introduction to economic principles that can serve as a foundation for further study in economics.

FYSM 1003 is an intensive version of ECON 1000 geared to students seeking a more in-depth and interactive introduction to economics. The core content of the two courses is the same, however, and they are equivalent as prerequisites for all relevant higher-level courses. In particular, a grade of C- or higher in either one is required to qualify for ECON/MATH 1402, ECON 2009, ECON 2020, ECON 2102, ECON 3001, and ECON 3706.

Tutorials

The weekly tutorials will begin on September 7 with a presentation of the course preliminaries by the instructor. All subsequent tutorials will be led by a teaching assistant assigned by the Department. The main purpose of these tutorials is to give students guidance and practice in working through particular problems and applications of the principles of economics covered in the seminars and in the textbook. The teaching assistant may also spend some time answering students' questions about course material.

Required Texts


Evaluation

Each student's grade in the course will be calculated as the simple average of their Fall and Winter term marks, each of which will be calculated as a weighted average of scores on twelve, in-class, formative assessments (one per seminar at 4% each), three summative tests (9% each), and three research and/or writing assignments (9%, 9%, and 7%).

No course grades are final until approved by the Faculty Dean. Note also that course grades may be scaled upwards or downwards in a rank-preserving manner to better fit the relevant departmental distributional norm.
Students will be expected to come to each seminar having read *thoroughly* the relevant chapters in the required texts as communicated in advance via cuLearn. Chapters 1–11 and 13–18 of *Principles of Microeconomics* will be covered in sequence (except for Chs. 10 and 11, which will be deferred to the end) over the twelve seminars of the Fall term; Chs. 5–17 of *Principles of Macroeconomics* will be covered in sequence (except for Chs. 12 and 13, which will be deferred to the end) over the first ten and last two seminars of the (thirteen-seminar) Winter term (note that Chs. 1–4 are duplicated between the two *Principles* texts).

Formative assessments of student learning during a given seminar will be based on discussions of pertinent multiple-choice questions and/or worked problems. Students who can document a compelling reason for missing one of the four or three or two of these assessments in a given module will be excused and a third or half or all the associated weight will be added to that of each of the other assessments in the same module (so that it becomes \(4\% + 4\% / 3 = 5\frac{1}{3}\%\) or \(4\% + 4\% / 2 = 6\%\) or \(4\% + 4\% = 8\%\)). Students *must* inform the instructor of such an absence in advance, if possible.

The six summative tests will take place for 45 minutes apiece during the classes on the following dates: October 5, November 2, November 23, January 25, March 1, and March 27. Note that the first five of these dates are Thursdays (and therefore replace regular tutorial activities), whereas as the last is a Tuesday. Students who can document a compelling reason for missing one of the first or last three of these tests will be excused and half of the associated weight will be added to that of each of the other two tests in the same term (so that it becomes \(9\% + 9\% / 2 = 13\frac{1}{2}\%\)). Students *must* inform the instructor of such an absence in advance, if possible.

The specifics of the six research and/or writing assignments will be communicated via cuLearn well in advance of their due dates throughout the Fall and Winter terms.

Please be aware that plagiarism is serious offence at Carleton and should be recognized and avoided.

**Course Schedule and Reading List**

**Fall Term:**

- Sep. 7: Preliminaries
- Sep. 12: Introduction (*Micro* Chs. 1–3)
- Sep. 19: Supply and Demand (*Micro* Ch. 4)
- Sep. 26: Elasticity and Its Application (*Micro* Ch. 5)
- Oct. 3: Supply, Demand, and Government Policies (*Micro* Ch. 6)
- Oct. 5: Summative Test 1
- Oct. 10: Markets and Welfare (*Micro* Chs. 7–9)
- Oct. 12: Graded ST1 returned and taken up by T.A.
- Oct. 17: The Costs of Production (*Micro* Ch. 13)
- Oct. 31: Firms in Competitive Markets (*Micro* Ch. 14)
- Nov. 2: Summative Test 2
- Nov. 7: Monopoly (*Micro* Ch. 15)
- Nov. 14: Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly (*Micro* Chs. 16–17)
- Nov. 21: The Markets for Factors of Production (*Micro* Ch. 18)
- Nov. 23: Summative Test 3
- Nov. 28: Externalities (*Micro* Ch. 10)
- Dec. 5: Public Goods and Common Resources (*Micro* Ch. 11)

**Winter term:**

- Jan. 9: Measuring a Nation's Income (*Macro* Ch. 5)
- Jan. 16: Measuring the Cost of Living (*Macro* Ch. 6)
- Jan. 23: Production and Growth (*Macro* Ch. 7)
- Jan. 25: Summative Test 4
Jan. 30: Saving, Investment, and the Financial System (Macro Ch. 8)
Feb. 6: Unemployment and Its Natural Rate (Macro Ch. 9)
Feb. 13: The Monetary System (Macro Ch. 10)
Feb. 27: Money Growth and Inflation (Macro Ch. 11)
Mar. 1: Summative Test 5

Mar. 6: Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply (Macro Ch. 14)
Mar. 13: The Influence of Monetary and Fiscal Policy on Aggregate Demand (Macro Ch. 15)
Mar. 20: The Short-Run Tradeoff between Inflation and Unemployment (Macro Ch. 16)
Mar. 27: Summative Test 6

Apr. 3: Five Debates over Macroeconomic Policy (Macro Ch. 17)
Apr. 10: The Macroeconomics of Open Economies (Macro Chs. 12–13)