

Microeconomics

GSE-1003

Autumn 2010

Bruce Shearer

Office 2154 Pavillon J.A. de Sève

Heures de bureau: lundi 13h30–15h or by appointment.

Email: Bruce.Shearer@Ecn.Ulaval.Ca

Textbook:

Parkin, M. and R. Bade. *Microeconomics: Canada in the Global Environment, Seventh Edition* Pearson Education Canada, 2009.

There will be two exams in this course. These will take place on October 5 and November 23; each will account for 35% of your grade. There will also be a term paper (to be completed in teams of 3 or 4) to be handed in on December 7; it will account for 30% of your grade. Late papers will be penalized 15% per day. Each week a series of practice problems will be assigned. The answers to these problems will be posted on WEBCT at the end of the week.

To complete the term paper you must work in groups of 3-5 students and analyse an industry that is relevant to the Quebec and/or Canadian economy. You must present a clear description of the industry, including any government regulation that is present. You must use the economic arguments learned in class to justify and/or criticize the regulation that is in place.

Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the material assigned for that week. Certain students may be asked to present material from the textbook to their colleagues.

Computers (and other electronic equipment) will not be allowed in the classroom.

Students who miss an exam without a medical note (or other valid excuse) will receive a mark of zero.

Barème des notes

90 – 100	A^+
85 – 89	A
80 – 84	A^-
75 – 79	B^+
70 – 74	B
66 – 69	B^-
63 – 65	C^+
60 – 62	C
56 – 59	C^-
53 – 55	D^+
50 – 52	D
< 50	E

Règles disciplinaires: Tout étudiant qui commet une infraction au Règlement disciplinaire à l'intention des étudiants de l'Université Laval dans le cadre du présent cours, notamment en matière de plagiat, est passible des sanctions qui sont prévues dans ce règlement. Il est très important pour tout étudiant de prendre connaissance des articles 28 à 32 du Règlement disciplinaire. Celui-ci peut être consulté à l'adresse suivante: http://www.ulaval.ca/sg/reg/Reglements/Reglement_disciplinaire.pdf

Plagiat: Tout étudiant est tenu de respecter les règles relatives à la protection du droit d'auteur. Constitue notamment du plagiat le fait de:

- i) copier textuellement un ou plusieurs passages provenant d'un ouvrage sous format papier ou électronique sans mettre ces passages entre guillemets et sans en mentionner la source;
- ii) résumer l'idée originale d'un auteur en l'exprimant dans ses propres mots (paraphraser) sans en mentionner la source;
- iii) traduire partiellement ou totalement un texte sans en mentionner la provenance;
- iv) remettre un travail copié d'un autre étudiant (avec ou sans l'accord de cet autre étudiant);
- v) remettre un travail téléchargé d'un site d'achat ou d'échange de travaux scolaires.

(Source: COMMISSION DE L'ÉTHIQUE DE LA SCIENCE ET DE LA TECHNOLOGIE, La tricherie dans les évaluations et les travaux à l'université: l'éthique la rescousse (rédaction: Denis Boucher), Québec, 15 mai 2009)

Outline:

Part I: Introduction

1. What is Economics *Parkin and Bade* Ch. 1.
2. The Economic Problem – Opportunity Cost *Parkin and Bade* Ch. 2.

Part II: Supply in Competitive Markets

3. Organizing Production *Parkin and Bade* Ch. 10.
4. Output and Costs *Parkin and Bade* Ch. 11.
5. Marginal Cost and Supply Ch. 12, pp. 274–280; *Parkin and Bade* Ch. 3, pp. 64–67.

Part III: Demand and Competitive Market Equilibrium

6. Utility and Demand *Parkin and Bade* Ch. 8.
7. Indifference Curves *Parkin and Bade* Ch. 9.
8. Demand and Market Equilibrium *Parkin and Bade* Ch. 3, pp. 58–63, 68–75.
Ch. 12, pp 281–291.
9. Elasticity *Parkin and Bade* Ch. 4.
10. Efficiency and Equity *Parkin and Bade* Ch. 5

Exam (October 5): Parts I-III.

Part IV: Properties of Perfectly Competitive Markets

10. Efficiency and Equity *Parkin and Bade* Ch. 5
11. Government Actions in Markets *Parkin and Bade* Ch. 6.
12. Global Markets in Action *Parkin and Bade* Ch. 7.

Part V: Alternative Market Structures and Market Failure

13. Monopoly *Parkin and Bade* Ch. 13.
14. Monopolistic Competition *Parkin and Bade* Ch. 14.
15. Oligopoly *Parkin and Bade* Ch. 15.
16. Externalities *Parkin and Bade* Ch. 16.
17. Public Goods *Parkin and Bade* Ch. 17

Part VI: Markets for Factors of Production *Parkin and Bade* Ch. 18.

Exam (November 23): Parts IV-VI.