

Everybody is affected by economics, everyday.

I'll help you think like an economist, which will help you make smart choices in your life as a consumer, a business person, and a citizen.



We've built an online course that uses the best technology has to support your learning experience.

But this course is not about the technology.

It is about a rich online learning community that combines the best digital tools with engaged teaching, personalized assignments, and dialogue between you, fellow students, TAs and me.

### Capstone



Empowering voice. Write persuasive, informed op-eds about micro and macro economic policy issues.

### Scaffolding



Scalable, personalized practice and support for student success in reading, writing and analysis. Applies to all courses.

### Integration



Digital/video/print materials, adaptive learning tools, assignments, assessment, specialized experts and TA training.

### Engagement



Connecting discussion boards, peer assessment, current media stories, and "How are we doing?" surveys.

**ECO105Y**  
**Intro to Economics**  
**University of Toronto**

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See samples at [economicsforlife.ca/ecampusontario](http://economicsforlife.ca/ecampusontario)

## Sample Student Week

Prepare	Lecture (Whenever)	Follow the Study Plan	Engage	Look Ahead
Skim current textbook chapter.	Watch the video . Do the embedded Knowledge Check questions.	Do <i>MyEconLab</i> practice quizzes.	Post a question to the discussion board.	Book a Writing Centre appointment to go over my op-ed draft.
Download the lecture notes.	Read the chapter carefully.	Did I earn enough mastery points to take the bi-weekly graded quiz?	Comment on the media story the prof posted.	Then submit draft to peerScholar for feedback, and comment on other student papers. Extra marks!
	Answer the chapter Refresh Questions.		Submit a media story to win an iTunes prize.	

## Empowering Student Voices

One course goal is to help students understand and apply basic economic concepts to daily life. Part of their role as an informed citizen involves making sound arguments about economic issues that matter to them and communicating these arguments effectively to others. The capstone op-ed assignments help develop the skill of writing a convincing argument about an economic issue for a general audience.

Dr. Andrea Williams of the Writing Centre and I created a scaffolded set of writing activities, ending with each student writing two op-ed articles on microeconomics and macroeconomic topics. To help students develop critical reading and analysis skills they need in all courses, and that support the op-ed assignments, we developed two activities based on articles in *The Economist*, the recognized gold standard of economic writing for a general audience. The *How to Read Critically* video walks students through the process of reading an article. They then choose an *Economist* article and write a one page abstract. That assignment is supported by a *How to (Re-)Write an Abstract* video and a detailed *Sample Abstract Processes* document showing how we actually went through 4 drafts to produce a final product. The third video, *How to (Re-)Write an Op-Ed*, builds on these materials to support the writing process of the op-ed.

The abstract and op-ed assignments use peerScholar software, requiring students to comment on their peers' work, incorporate that feedback into revised versions, and reflect on the process.

## Learning Outcomes and Assessments

Learning Outcome	Assessment
1. Understand the concept of economic equilibrium and its role in economists' use of simple models to approximate controlled experiments in the natural sciences.	Study Plan; Summative Quizzes; Economic Experiments
2. Proficiently apply the economic way of thinking to explain economic and non-economic events using simple models that focus on important variables while setting aside unnecessary complications.	Study Plan; Summative Quizzes; Group Work Policy Assignments; Written, Proctored, Mid-Term and Final Exam
3. Distinguish positive from normative claims about economic events and policies.	Study Plan; Summative Quizzes; Group Work Policy Assignments
4. Appreciate the limitations of economic models for explaining economic and non-economic events.	Economic Experiments; Written, Proctored, Mid-Term and Final Exam
5. Use cost/benefit analysis to identify the trade-offs, including intended and unintended consequences, of all choices.	Study Plan; Summative Quizzes; Group Work Policy Assignments
6. Explain the objectives, successes, and failures of government policies such as minimum wages, rent controls, competition policy, environmental policy, trade policy, and tax and income redistribution policy.	Study Plan; Summative Quizzes; Economic Experiments; Group Work Policy Assignments
7. Find data measuring macroeconomic outcomes including GDP, economic growth, unemployment, inflation, and understand the limitations of each measure.	Group Work Macro Data Exercises
8. Describe the fundamental macroeconomic question of whether markets quickly self-adjust, and explain both the hands-off and hands-on positions on the role of government fiscal and monetary policy.	Study Plan; Summative Quizzes; Written, Proctored, Final Exam
9. Come to an informed personal opinion about the appropriate role of government in macroeconomic policy.	Written, Proctored, Final Exam; Macro Op-Ed Assignment
10. Write persuasive, informed opinion pieces about microeconomic and macroeconomic policy issues for a general audience.	Op-Ed Writing Assignments, Abstract Assignment, <i>How to Read Critically</i>