



## MyLab Economics

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### Course structure

It is a one-semester International Economics course. We had four classes a week - 90 minutes for lectures and 90 minutes for seminars in person.

### Goals for the course

The basic idea behind the course is to give general theoretical knowledge of the international aspect of economics to students. In addition, I was trying to focus on real-world examples and the application of this theoretical knowledge.

### What kind of help is available for struggling students?

There is no structured help for these students. I always offer them additional consultation during office hours and the opportunity to use MyLab, where they can practice on their own. They can review diverse questions in the Study Plan and get feedback and help from me and the system, too.

### Why did you first start using MyLab Economics?

The opportunity came from the faculty to try something new in the course. I had known about MyLab before in terms of the questions and the features, so it was an inviting opportunity to try it.

### What was your purpose?

We did not use MyLab at the beginning of the semester. So, it was a switch from our old system, Moodle, to MyLab during the semester.

Firstly, I used MyLab instead of the old system because the question bank is much larger, with many different questions. It can increase the number of questions and reduce the chances that the question bank is publicly available to the students.

I also used MyLab because of the wide variety of questions from different topics.

Moreover, it is an integrated system. So, it has questions, news and other materials, which can be used in seminars.



How did you **integrate** MyLab Economics into the course?

We had quizzes in class to test whether students had a preliminary knowledge of the topic. They had to read the chapters before coming to class.

Based on the topic we discussed, I tested whether they paid attention and understood what we did in class. We used the quizzes intensively during the semester on a weekly basis.

When the topic offered case studies, we used the news articles and group work.

Did you give **credit** for their work?

For the quizzes, they got 25% of the total points and an additional 25% for the group work. The remaining 50% was for two midterm exams.

How did you **communicate** this to your students?

I told them in the first lecture that we would use MyLab during the semester. I also made sure that once I knew the specific date of the start and had all the information, I shared everything with them. When we met in person, I explained everything and went through how to register.

Did you encounter any problems?

I would prefer more questions that are not so complex for the students.

The interface was also new to me, so it required some time to figure out how to create assignments and check student results and so on. In the beginning, it was difficult, but with time it got better.

Was there anything that especially went well or you really liked?

I really liked the news and the questions assigned to them, so they are like complete case studies. Also, I liked the questions with several steps, each step building on the one before that so that concepts are fully explained.

Do you think it had any impact on your students' engagement?

Yes, motivated students were engaged and excited about using MyLab. They saw the benefits of using the study plan and all the features.

The other subgroup was against it as we switched in the middle of the semester, and there was a change in questions.

What advice would you have for your colleagues who start using MyLab in the future to make the most of the platform?

It is much better to prepare for integrating MyLab in advance.

Opportunities should be provided for students to practice homework or quizzes during the lecture, which are not part of the evaluation at the end of the semester.

The case studies are valuable. Students could apply the theoretical knowledge, which they found enjoyable.

Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

If students had difficulties, I told them to reach out to Pearson. Customer service solved their problems in a brief period.

I will be suggesting to my faculty that they integrate MyLab into the university's learning management system next year.