

INTERMEDIATE MACROECONOMICS I
ECONOMICS EC2220A-001/002
Department of Economics
Western University

September 2020

General Information:

Instructor: Baxter Robinson
Office: 4063 SSC
Phone: 519-661-2111 ext. 89118
E-mail: brobin63@uwo.ca
Office hours: Office hours will be held online via Zoom:

- Mondays from 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM (ET)
- Wednesdays from 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM (ET)

Delivery mode: Asynchronous: This course can be taken asynchronously (at whatever time of the day), except for the midterm and final exams.
Meeting time(s): Optional synchronous class meetings will be held online via Zoom:

- Section 001: Mondays from 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM (ET)
- Section 002: Wednesdays from 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM (ET)

Course website: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>
Undergraduate inquiries: 519-661-3507 or SSC Room 4075 or econugrd@uwo.ca

Registration:

You are responsible for ensuring you are registered in the correct courses. If you are not registered in this course, the Department will not release any of your marks until your registration is corrected. You may check your timetable by using the Login on the Student Services website at <https://student.uwo.ca>. If you notice a problem, please contact your home Faculty Academic Counsellor immediately.

Prerequisite Note:

The prerequisites for this course are **Economics 1021A/B** and **1022A/B**, or **2001A/B**; and **Calculus 1000A/B** (with a mark no less than 60%) or **Calculus 1500A/B** (with a mark no less than 60%). The antirequisite for this course is **Economics 2152A/B**.

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken any anti-requisite courses. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for appeal. If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed.

If you find that you do not have the course prerequisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record, but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.

Course Objectives:

The objective of this course is to introduce you to macroeconomics, the study of economics at the level of a whole country. We will study the key facts about how the Canadian economy has grown and fluctuated in the past. We will then link these facts to models that will help understand why our economy behaves the way it does. To solve these models, we will make extensive use of differential calculus. We will then use these models to study important questions like “Why do economies grow?”, “Why do economics sometimes contract?” and “How can we increase prosperity?”.

Course Learning Outcomes:

I hope you will learn five main things from this course:

- The most common ways to measure a countries' income and well-being
- How to solve basic macroeconomic models
- How to usefully interpret and critique these macroeconomic models
- How to use macroeconomic models to evaluate different policy proposals
- What the most important questions are in macroeconomics about economic growth and business cycles

Textbook(s) and Course Materials:

The required text for this course is: **Williamson, Stephen D. Macroeconomics, 6th Canadian edition, Pearson Addison Wesley**. There is no need to buy the study guide or MyLab access for this course.

You can order either the e-textbook or the physical copy based on your preferences:

- e-Text: <https://bookstore.uwo.ca/product/cebcodeid30820>
- Physical Copy: <https://bookstore.uwo.ca/product/9780134472119>

Course Organization:

This course will be run virtually through video lectures and virtual class meetings. Each week there will be several short pre-recorded video lectures that you **must** watch. In addition, there will be a virtual class meeting. You are encouraged, but not required, to join in the virtual class meetings, where we will do some of the following things:

- Work through example exercises
- Answer questions you have about the course material
- Answer questions you have about how the course material relates to other topics you are interested in beyond the course material

NOTICE: Participants in this course are not permitted to record any of the class meetings, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor.

The virtual class meetings will be flexible. There will be no set agenda for each class meeting, and if you attend, you will not be required to attend for the entire duration of the class meetings. You are encouraged to watch the video lectures or solve problem sets during the class meeting times, so that you can ask questions in real time.

Communication:

- Please feel free to call me Professor Robinson or Baxter. I use he/him/his pronouns.
- I will make announcements through email. I expect that you will check your e-mail at least once every 24 hours between Monday and Friday.
- I expect most course-related questions to be asked during the virtual class meetings or office hours.
- For personal concerns that you wish to discuss in private, I am happy to set up a private virtual meeting. Please email me to request one.

Technical Requirements

Requirements:

- Computer (Laptop or desktop)
- Stable internet connection
- Microphone
- Microsoft Office or Apache OpenOffice

Encouraged:

- Webcam

For technical support, see the OWL Help page or contact Western Technology Services Helpdesk (<https://wts.uwo.ca/about-wts/contact.html>). Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox are the preferred browsers for OWL; update your browser frequently.

Assessments and Grading:

Your course grade will be made up of weekly quizzes, one assignment, one mid-term exam, and one final exam. In addition, there will be weekly problem sets that will **not** be graded.

- **Assignment [20%]**
 - Due: Friday October 2nd at 6:00 PM (ET)
 - The topic for the assignment will be economic growth. It will require you to do some simple calculations with data and write up a few paragraphs about what the data tells you.
 - You will be required to submit your assignment to Turnitin.
 - Late assignments without illness self-reports will be subject to a late penalty of

- 20% per day (Including weekends and holidays).
- Late assessments with illness self-reports must be submitted within 24 hours of submission of the last illness self-report.
- **Weekly Quizzes [20%]**
 - Due: Every Friday at 6:00 PM (ET), starting September 11th, finishing December 4th
 - Each week, there will be a short quiz to test how much of the video lecture's content you absorbed. The quizzes are to ensure you are keeping up with the lecture schedule and are paying attention while you are watching the videos.
 - If you complete each week's quizzes by Friday at 6pm, you will get full marks regardless of whether you answer the questions correctly or not.
 - Late quizzes without illness self-reports will receive 50% of that week's marks if they are completed by 6pm the following Friday. No part marks will be given for quizzes beyond this date.
 - Late quizzes with illness self-report are due at 6pm by the Friday following the last day of illness self-report.
 - Note that the quiz questions will be much easier than the level of the Midterm and Final exam.
- **Midterm Exam [25%]**
 - Date and time to be scheduled by the Registrar
 - The midterm exams will include all the material covered up to that point in the course.
 - The midterm exam will be written as if it was a 2-hour exam, but you will have 3 hours to write the exam and upload the answers.
 - The midterm exam will be open book.
 - Missing the midterm exam without an illness self-report or approved documented official accommodation will be given a mark of zero.
 - If there has been an illness self-report or approved documented official accommodation, the weight of a missed midterm exam will be transferred to the final exam.
- **Final Exam [35%]**
 - Date and time to be scheduled by the Registrar
 - The final exams will include all the material in the entire course.
 - The final exam will be open book.
- **Problem Sets [0%]**
 - There will be a weekly problem set that will **not** be graded.
 - These problem sets will be similar in difficulty to the Midterm and Final Exam questions.

Topics Covered and Readings:

Period	Dates	Topic	Williamson Textbook
Week 1	Sept. 9 th – Sept 11 th	Intro to Macroeconomics	Chapter 1
Week 2	Sept 14 th – Sept 18 th	Measurement and Key Facts	Chapters 2 and 3
Week 3	Sept 21 st – Sept 25 th	Economic Growth	Chapter 7
Week 4	Sept 28 th – Oct 2 nd	Economic Growth Assignment	Chapter 7
Week 5	Oct 5 th – Oct 9 th	Static Model: Consumers and Firms	Chapter 4
Week 6	Oct 12 th – Oct 16 th	Static Model: Government and Equilibrium	Chapter 5
Week 7	Oct 19 th – Oct 23 rd	Dynamic Model: Consumption-Savings	Chapter 9
Week 8	Oct 26 th – Oct 30 th	Midterm Exam	-
	Nov 2 nd – Nov 6 th	Reading Week	-
Week 9	Nov 9 th – Nov 13 th	Dynamic Model: Government Spending	Chapter 9
Week 10	Nov 16 th – Nov 20 th	Dynamic Model: Credit Markets	Chapter 10
Week 11	Nov 23 rd – Nov 27 th	Dynamic Model: Investment	Chapter 11
Week 12	Nov 30 th – Dec 4 th	Dynamic Model: Investment (Continued)	Chapter 11
Week 13	Dec 7 th – Dec 9 th	Exam Review	-

Professionalism, Privacy and Copyright:

- Students are expected to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#).
- All lectures and course materials, including slides, presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by **copyright**. Students may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational purposes only.
- Students may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, assessments, or any other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without written consent.
- Recordings (audio or video) are not permitted without explicit, written permission. Permitted recordings may not be distributed or shared.

Tips on How to Be Successful in this Class:

The most important thing is to stick to the schedule of class topics.

- It will be tempting to say, “I will watch that lecture next week when I have more time”.
- You will likely not have “more time” next week, but you will have more lectures!
- It is not possible to learn all 13 weeks of course material in the last two weeks of the semester.
- If you are finding it difficult to stick to the schedule of class topics because of illness, family emergencies, technological challenges, mental health challenge, or any other reason, please let me know by emailing me as soon as possible.

Other important tips:

- Turn off your phone (not just to vibrate mode) when you are working

- Close all other tabs and programs when you are working on a computer
- When watching the video-lectures:
 - Take notes with pencil and paper
- Read the textbook chapters each week
 - Take notes with pencil and paper
- Try to solve the problem sets each week
- Make a master set of notes
 - Take the notes you made while watching the virtual lectures and while reading the textbook and then write a new set of notes that combines all the important information from both.
- Show up to the virtual class meetings and office hours
 - Ask all your questions, even the ones you think are embarrassing (they are not!)

Inclusion

Every student, regardless of your personal history, your identity and your circumstances, is a valued member of this class. Your experiences are valuable and your success in this class is important to me.

- During virtual class meetings, I expect all students to work with me to create a welcoming environment that is respectful of the full range of diversity in our class.
- You have the right to be called by whatever name you wish. I humbly ask you to help me learn how to pronounce your name correctly.
- You have the right to be referred to by whatever pronouns you wish.
- If you have a religious observance scheduled on the same day as a midterm or final exam, please let me know at least 3 weeks beforehand.
- If there are any barriers to your inclusion in the course, please contact me privately so that we can problem solve together.

Mental Health

Your undergraduate education should be an overall enjoyable experience. It is normal to feel stress at times both because of your academic work or because of non-academic parts of your life. However, if you are experiencing persistent stress or severe emotional distress, mental health resources can assist you in processing your thoughts and emotions.

I encourage you to visit http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ to find out about the resources available to you as a Western student, or try <https://good2talk.ca/>.

Please Note
Department & University Policies for 2020-2021

The University expects all students to take responsibility for their own Academic Programs. Students should check their registration to ensure they are enrolled in the correct courses.

Academic Rights and Responsibilities: Students should be familiar with their “Academic Rights and Responsibilities” as outlined [here](#) in the Western Academic Calendar. Claiming that “you didn’t know what to do” is not an acceptable excuse for not following the stated procedures.

Guidelines and Policies for Students are posted online in the current Western Academic Calendar at <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca>. Undergraduate information for the Faculty of Social Science can be found at: <https://www.ssc.uwo.ca/undergraduate/index.html> and for the Department of Economics at: <https://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/index.html>.

Rules of Conduct for Examinations: Students are expected to know the university’s Rules of Conduct for Examinations, available [here](#).

Cheating and Academic Offences: Students are responsible for understanding what it means to “cheat.” The Department of Economics treats cheating and other academic offences very seriously and will investigate any suspect behavior. Students found guilty will incur penalties that could include a failing grade or being barred from future registration in Economics courses or programs. The University may impose further penalties such as suspension or expulsion.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is an academic offence. Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Ideas/passages taken from another author must be referenced with footnotes or citations and acknowledged with quotation marks where appropriate. Western University uses software to check for plagiarism and students may be required to electronically submit their work. Those found guilty will be penalized as noted in point 3. See Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students [here](#) in the Western Academic Calendar.

Academic Appeals: Students should refer to the Student Academic Appeals section [here](#) in the Western Academic Calendar. Please note the relevant deadlines.

Department Appeals Procedures: The Department will not consider an appeal unless an attempt has been made to settle the matter with the instructor first. Students who remain dissatisfied with the outcome may submit a written appeal to the Undergraduate Director in Economics, stating the reasons for their appeal. Information on the Department of Economics’ appeals procedure and the appeals form are available [here](#).

Systematic Adjustments: Systematic adjustments of class grade distributions (either up or down) can occur in Economics courses. The systematic adjustment of a class grade distribution is **not** grounds for an appeal.

Add/drop deadlines:

Deadline to add a first term half course:

Thursday September 17, 2020

Deadline to drop a first term half course:

Thursday November 12, 2020

Oversleeping or Misreading the Exam Schedule: Faculty of Social Science policy states that oversleeping or misreading the exam schedule is NOT grounds for a makeup. This rule applies to all exams in the Department of Economics.

End of Term Travel: Students must book travel arrangements AFTER final exam dates have been posted; travel is not an acceptable excuse for absence from a final exam.

Rewriting Exams and Retroactive Reweighting are NOT Permitted: Students who proceed to write a test or examination must be prepared to accept the mark. Rewriting tests or examinations, or retroactive reweighting of marks, is **not** permitted.

Accommodation Policies: Students with disabilities should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD), which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence: Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office for more information about the relevant documentation.

Individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds or for other reasons. **All required documentation for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see:

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#).

For the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Religious Accommodation: Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Policy Regarding Class Attendance and Engagement: If the instructor deems a student's attendance or engagement in the class to be unsatisfactory, that student may be prohibited from writing the final examination. Examples of unsatisfactory class engagement include frequent absences from an in-person or synchronous online class, lack of assignment submissions, and inadequate use of online course materials. Instructors who intend to make use of this policy will notify the student in advance.

Statement on Mental Health and Support Services: Students under emotional/mental distress should visit http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for more information and a complete list of resources on how to obtain help.