

**INTERMEDIATE MACROECONOMIC THEORY AND POLICY I ECONOMICS
2152A-650**

**Department of Economics
Western University**

September 2023

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Office Hours: Held online using ZOOM (details provided on course website)
Wednesdays 11-12pm Eastern Time (ET) on Zoom and
Fridays 11-12pm ET on Zoom.
Students must sign up for 10-min time slots during the allocated office
hours, using the sign-up tool in OWL.
Delivery mode: Online asynchronous lectures
Course website: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>
Undergraduate inquiries: 519-661-3507 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:

Prerequisite(s): Economics 1021A/B and Economics 1022A/B, or Economics 2001A/B, and one of MCV4U, Mathematics 0110A/B, Calculus 1000A/B, Calculus 1500A/B, Mathematics 1225A/B. The antirequisite is Economics 2220A/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 goal of the course is to develop formal tools to perform quantitative macroeconomic analyses. We will discuss how important macroeconomic variables such as the total output produced in an economy, prices, and employment are measured in the data. We will establish key macroeconomic facts and use basic macroeconomic theory to analyze the facts observed in the data. We will study both short-run economic questions (What are the sources of business cycle fluctuations?) and long-run issues (Why do economies grow? Why are there large income differences among countries?). This course will use math when analyzing data and models.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course:

- The students will acquire knowledge regarding national income accounting methods, they will understand the benefits and drawbacks of the current measures of gross domestic product (GDP) and be aware of some alternative measures of a nation's well-being.
- The students will understand business cycles measurements, learn to interpret different business cycles facts for the Canadian economy, as well as be able to contrast recent recessions in Canada with past recessions or with recessions in other economies.
- The students will learn what is an economic model and why models are useful in formulating and answering economic questions.
- The students will be able analyze equilibrium outcomes in simple models of the macroeconomy and understand how the predictions for aggregate macroeconomic variables are affected by micro behavior of individual agents and by other restrictions imposed on the equilibrium (such as financial frictions).
- The students will be able to assess the predictions of macroeconomic theories and compare them to Canadian data.
- The students will be able to answer simple macroeconomic policy questions with the use of the model(s) introduced and developed throughout the course.
- The students will understand the main drivers of economic growth and engage in discussions about determinants of growth across different countries.
- The students will learn to apply their math skills for answering economic questions and understand why math skills are crucial to being a good economist.

Required Course Materials:

This course **requires** the **eText** listed below and **MyLab**. The eText and MyLab bundle can be purchased from Western's Bookstore: <https://bookstore.uwo.ca/product/cebcodeid30887>

eText: Stephen D. Williamson, Macroeconomics, **Sixth Canadian Edition**, Pearson

MyLab is required for all assessments. Register using the details below, or log into OWL to download detailed registration steps. Be sure you use your **Western @uwo.ca email address**, as well as the **name that you used when you registered** for the 2152A course. MyLab accounts with personal email addressed will be deleted, along with any work done on those accounts.

<https://mlm.pearson.com/enrollment/cociuba60003>

CourseID: cociuba60003

Important Note: **You must be registered for MyLab no later than Friday, September 22.**

Communication: Updates about the course will be delivered via OWL announcements. I will plan to keep communications easy to read by having the same topics covered from week to week. Students are responsible for keeping up to date on all announcements sent.

Technical Requirements

This course requires that you have access to:

- a laptop or computer for taking all assessments in MyLab (see details below)
- a stable internet connection for taking all assessments in MyLab (see details below)
- a microphone for participating in online office hours
- a webcam (optional) for participating in online office hours.

As an economics instructor, I do not help solve technical problems regarding computers or internet connection issues. 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:

You are responsible to notify me **no later than Thursday, September 21st** of any academic conflicts you have with the assessments planned in this class (see Table 1 below). If I do not hear of any conflicts by September 21st, I will assume everyone is available to take the assessments in this course at the specified days and times.

Your course grade will be based on 1 poll, 2 midterms and 1 final exam, as outlined in Table 1 below. All assessments are administered via MyLab. **Reminder:** You must be registered for MyLab no later than Friday, September 22nd with your Western @uwo.ca email address to be ready for the first assessment.

Table 1. Assessments*	The Poll and all Midterms have a time window of 3:15-5:00 pm Eastern Time (ET)**	Tentative Material	Weight
Poll	Friday, September 22	Question about office hours	2%
Midterm 1	Friday, October 13	Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4	33%
Midterm 2	Friday, November 17	Chapters 4, 5, 9, 10	33%
Final Exam (cumulative)	Set by Registrar's Office	All Chapters: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 7	32%
Course grade = Poll (2%) + Midterms (2*33% = 66%) + Final Exam (32%)			

* The Registrar's office is in the process of approving the tentative schedule of assessments in Table 1. You will be notified of any changes. The exact coverage of material is also tentative and will be confirmed ahead of each assessment.

** Each Friday listed in Table 1 the assessment is available on MyLab from 3:15pm to 5:00pm Eastern Time (ET). The poll will take a few minutes to complete. All midterms are allocated 90 minutes to complete within the 105-minute time window. This means that there is a buffer of 15 minutes for any technical issues. I strongly encourage students to start the assessments at 3:15pm. At 5:00 pm the assessment submits automatically, if you haven't submitted it already.

The poll on Friday, September 22 covers one question related to your ability and interest in attending office hours. There is **no make-up** for this poll. Skipping the poll means you lose 2 points of your final course grade. **Important note:** you need to have a MyLab account registered to your Western email address and take the poll using that account. Taking the poll with a MyLab account registered to a personal email address will result in a grade of zero for the poll, and there will be no make-up granted. This note applies to all other assessments.

All assessments are administered via MyLab. Assessments are in a mixed format, covering multiple choice questions and short answer questions that require calculations. Midterms 1 and 2 are each worth 33% of your final course grade. **There are no make-ups for midterm exams** (more details below). The final exam is 32% of the course grade. The final exam is allocated 105 minutes (1 hour and 45 minutes) to complete withing a 120-minute time window.

The following **reweighting rule** applies to all **students who have taken all three exams** (2 midterms and 1 final). If the final exam grade is higher than the lowest midterm grade, the weight of the lowest midterm is changed to 20%, while the final exam weight is changed to 45% (Other weights stay the same). If you know you have not done well on one of the midterm exams, the reweighting rule provides incentives to improve your overall grade. This reweighting rule does not apply to students who miss any of the 3 exams.

All assessments are open book. **To be successful in this class, you should prepare for all assessments as if they are in-person, closed-book assessments.** If you plan to consult resources for every single question on any assessment, you will likely run out of time, be unable to complete the assessment and get a low score. Running out of time is not a basis for appealing your grade. The assessments are designed in a way to ensure there is enough time if you've prepared for and know the material. **Prepare as though all assessments were in-person and closed-book, so that when you take the assessment, you spend your time thinking about the questions rather than reviewing course material.**

If you miss any assessments, request academic consideration through the Academic Counselling office. All medical and non-medical absences are reviewed by the Academic Counselling office who then decides whether to approve the absences or not. Please do not email me with details regarding why you missed an assessment. For more details, please see Western University's policies on pages 8 and 9 of this course outline.

If the *academic counsellor does not approve your absence* from an assessment, or if there is *no justification for your absence*, a grade of zero is assigned to that assessment. If the *academic counsellor approves your absence* from an assessment, the rules 1 through 5 apply.

1. According to University policy, once a student opens and starts an online test, they are no longer permitted to seek accommodation for that assessment.
2. There is **no make-up and no accommodation for the poll** which is 2% of your final course grade. You must take this poll on Friday, September 22 during the allotted time window. This date was chosen since it is after the last day to add a course in the Fall term (which is September 15).
3. There is **no make-up for the 2 midterm exams**. The following accommodations and rules apply to students who miss midterms with an approved absence.
 - a) The reweighting rule doesn't apply if a midterm is missed for any reason.
 - b) If a student misses 1 midterm with an approved absence, the weight of that midterm is transferred to the final. In this case, the final exam will be longer (2 hours and 15 minutes) compared to the rest of the class to allow for thorough testing the material of the missed midterm.
 - c) Missing both midterms (with an approved or not approved absence) is likely to result in an inability to meet the course learning outcomes and you may not be permitted to pass the course. Contact me for additional steps.
4. If you miss any assessments because you have not registered for MyLab, a grade of zero is recorded for each missed assessment, and all other policies apply.
5. If you register for MyLab with a personal email address (and not your Western @uwo.ca email address) and you took assessments under that personal email address, notice that grades for those assessments cannot be used in this course. In other words, those assessments are recorded as zeros. You must be registered for MyLab with your @uwo.ca email address and the name that you gave the Western Registrar's office, and you must take assessments using this MyLab account.

You are responsible for all content covered in the assigned chapters of the textbook as well as in the PDF of lecture notes and all other resources posted on OWL. Some chapter content may not be covered in the PDF of lecture notes, and some content may not be in the textbook.

Professionalism, Privacy and Copyright:

- You 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**. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational purposes only.
- You 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.
- You will be expected to take an academic integrity pledge before all assessments.

Topics Covered and Readings:

Below is a tentative outline with references to book chapters in parentheses. The outline may be adjusted based on time constraints. Some material covered in class will not appear in the text, but may still appear on exams.

1. Introduction
 - a. Introduction to macroeconomic analysis [Ch. 1]
 - b. Measurement of macroeconomic variables [Ch. 2]
 - c. Key business cycle facts [Ch. 3]
2. A static general equilibrium model of the economy
 - a. Consumers: preferences, budget constraints and optimal consumption and leisure decisions [Ch. 4]
 - b. Firms: Technology and profit maximization [Ch. 4]
 - c. Government: Spending and Taxes [Ch. 5]
 - d. Competitive Equilibrium [Ch. 5]
3. Dynamic general equilibrium models of the economy
 - a. A two-period model: Consumption-savings decision [Ch. 9]
 - b. Government spending, taxation and Ricardian Equivalence [Ch. 9]
 - c. Credit market imperfections and social security programs [Ch. 10]
 - d. A model with investment [Ch. 11]
4. Economic Growth
 - a. Economic growth facts [Ch. 7]
 - b. The Malthusian model of growth [Ch. 7]
 - c. The Solow model of growth [Ch. 7]

Copyright:

Lectures and course materials, including slide presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. Students may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational purposes. Students may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, wiki material, and other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without written consent.

Please Note
Department & University Policies for Fall 2023

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

1. **Guidelines, policies, and your academic rights and responsibilities** are posted online in the current Western Academic Calendar at: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca>. Claiming that “you didn’t know what to do” is not an acceptable excuse for not following the stated policies and procedures.
2. Students must familiarize themselves with the “**Rules of Conduct for Examinations**” http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/administration.pdf.
3. **Cheating as an academic offence:** Students are responsible for understanding what it means to “cheat.” The Department of Economics treats cheating incidents 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 other Economics courses or programs. The University may impose further penalties such as suspension or expulsion.
4. **Plagiarism:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. When taking an idea/passage from another author, it must be acknowledged with quotation marks where appropriate and referenced with footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is an academic offence (see Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Western Calendar at http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20).

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.

5. It is a Department of Economics policy that **NO** assignments be dated, stamped, or accepted by staff. Students must submit assignments to the instructor.
6. **Appeals:** University policies and procedures for appealing a mark can be found in the Student Academic Appeals section in the current Western Academic Calendar at: http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14. **Please note the relevant deadlines.**

Department of Economics procedures for appealing a mark can be found here: https://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_counselling/responsibilities_policies.html#appeals. 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 proceed to submit an appeal to econugrd@uwo.ca. Please follow the instructions and use the appeal form shown in the above link.

7. **Systematic adjustments of a class grade distribution** (either up or down) can occur in Economics courses. The fact that grades have been adjusted is **not** grounds for an appeal.

8. Note the following **add and drop deadlines**:

- Deadline to ADD OR DROP a first term full or half course: **Fri, Sept 15, 2023**
- Deadline to WITHDRAW from a first term full or half course: **Mon, Nov 13, 2023**

Policy Regarding Makeup Tests and Final Examinations

Faculty of Social Science policy states that oversleeping or misreading an exam schedule is NOT grounds for a makeup. This rule applies to midterm and final exams in the Department of Economics.

Policies Regarding Academic Accommodation

- Academic accommodation will not be granted automatically on request. Students must demonstrate by documentation that there are compelling medical or compassionate grounds before academic accommodation will be considered. The Faculty of Social Science's policies on academic accommodation are found at https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic_consideration.html
- **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities or accessibility challenges should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD, see http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html), 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](#).
- **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. Students must also book travel arrangements **AFTER** final exam dates have been posted as they must not conflict with tests or final exams.
- Unless medically incapable of doing so, students must notify their instructor prior to the test date or at least within **24 hours** when requesting a makeup exam. Failure to follow this procedure may result in denial of academic accommodation and a grade of zero. Students should also set up an appointment as soon as possible to meet with their instructor. If the instructor is not available, send an email message to the instructor, copying the Undergraduate Coordinator at econugrd@uwo.ca. **Notifying instructors of a missed exam does not automatically entitle students to a makeup.**

- For medical illnesses, students may consult Student Health Services and request a Student Medical Certificate from the physician. If assessed by an off-campus doctor, students must obtain a certificate from his/her office at the time of the visit/assessment. Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is available here:

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

- **Documentation for Accommodation:** 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.
- **Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence** is available here: https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/probation_rtw/appeals.html
- **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.

Statement on Remote Proctoring:

While Western intends to hold most classes, mid-terms, and finals in person, the London-Middlesex Health unit may require western to teach in a remote format. If this occurs, all assessments will be done remotely and may involve the use of remote proctoring software (i.e., Proctorio, ProctorTrack). Instructors will provide information on the details should the need arise.