

Department of Economics
University of Toronto
Fall 2015

ECO 209Y – L0301

Macroeconomic Theory and Policy

Wednesday 2:00 – 5:00 PM

INSTRUCTOR

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OFFICE HOURS

Wednesday, 9:00 – 10:00 AM

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The aim of this course is to provide full coverage of modern macroeconomic theory and to demonstrate the use of theory in analyzing important macroeconomic issues in Canada, such as unemployment, inflation, productivity slowdown, high interest rates, and volatile exchange rates. Special attention will be paid to the effects of the key monetary and fiscal policy variables: government taxation and expenditure decisions and central bank money supply decisions.

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOK

R. Dornbusch, S. Fischer, R. Startz, F.J. Atkins, and G.R. Sparks, *Macroeconomics*, Seventh Canadian Edition (McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 2005).

LECTURES

Lectures will be held on Wednesday from 2:00 to 4:00 PM (and occasionally to 5:00 PM) in room SS 1083.

CASE STUDIES

Formal lecture presentations will be complemented with case-study analyses where students will be able to express their views and understanding based on the theoretical and technical knowledge acquired in the course and beyond. There will be about 10-12 case studies mostly concentrated in the second term. All case-studies will be part of the required course material for term tests and final exam.

ECONOMIC NEWS

Economic news will regularly be posted on the course website in order to familiarize students with relevant current economic issues. All posted news items will be part of the required course material for term tests and final exam.

TUTORIALS

Tutorials will be offered weekly to answer questions arising from the problem sets, end-of-chapter problems, or other course material. Tutorials will be held on Wednesday from 4:00 to 5:00 PM in room SS 1083.

ECONOMICS AID CENTRE

Tutors will be available to provide individual instruction on course material at the Economics Aid Centre. The Centre will operate every Thursday from 1:00 to 2:00 PM in room GE 168.

ECONOMICS STUDY CENTRE

The Economics Study Center is staffed by third- and fourth-year undergraduate students who act as peer mentors to Economics and Commerce students. The peer mentors assist students on a one-to-one basis or in study groups. The Centre will operate in room GE 110 during the following hours: Monday to Thursday from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM; and Friday from 11:00 to 3:00 PM.

Further information can be found on the Centre's website

(<http://www.economics.utoronto.ca/index.php/index/undergraduate/load/studyCentre>).

TESTS/EXAM

There will be three 2-hour tests and the final exam. The tests will **not** be written during regular lecture times. They will be written on the following dates:

	Date	Time	Location
Test 1	Friday, October 30	4:00 to 6:00 PM	EX 200
Test 2	Examination week (Dec. 11-22)	TBA	TBA
Test 3	Friday, February 26	4:00 to 6:00 PM	EX 200

Students with a time conflict will be allowed to write the tests at an alternative time. In such cases, students must submit evidence — and receive approval — **at least one week** before the date of the test. Please note that a “time conflict” means that you have a regular university class at that time.

TERM PAPER

As part of the course requirements, students will write a short **term paper** on a topic to be assigned on **February 26**. The paper should be about 1,500 words in length (5-6 double-space pages). This essay will be due at the beginning of class on **March 23** and the penalty for late submission will be **5 percentage points per day**.

Note that, in addition to providing a hard copy, students will be asked to submit their term paper to Turnitin.com for the detection of possible plagiarism. The paper must be submitted to Turnitin.com before midnight of **March 23**. The detailed procedures for submission will be announced later.

The University requires that the following paragraph be included in the syllabus of all courses using Turnitin.com:

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting

plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

Please note that you are not obligated to submit your paper to Turnitin.com. If you object to submit your paper to Turnitin.com, let me know by March 4 and I will offer you a reasonable offline alternative.

EVALUATION

The breakdown of the final grade will be as follows: each of the three tests will count for 15 percent of the final mark, the term paper will also count for 15 percent of the final mark, and the final exam will count for the remaining 40 percent of the final mark.

GUIDELINES FOR WRITING THE TERM PAPER

There are several Writing Centres at the University of Toronto where you can receive helpful information to guide you in writing an academic essay. A list of these Writing Centres can be accessed at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/centres>. More general advice on academic essay-writing can also be electronically accessed at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/general/general-advice>.

MAKE-UP TEST

Students missing a term test for a certified medical reason, or other approved cause, will be permitted to write a comprehensive (cumulative) make-up test towards the end of the second term. **In these instances, students are required (*without exceptions*) to submit official documentation *within one week of the missed test*.** In the case of illness, the University of Toronto official *Verification of Student Illness or Injury* form, available for downloading from the course website, must be used. **This form must be submitted to the *instructor in person* (i.e., not to the Department's receptionist and not by fax or e-mail). Students deemed ineligible for writing the make-up test will receive a *grade of zero* for the missed test.** The make-up test will be written on Friday, **March 4** from 4:00 to 6:00 PM in a location to be announced. Please note that the make-up test will cover the entire material covered for Tests 1, 2 and 3. Also note that there will be no special allowance for any possible time conflict.

SUBMISSION OF MEDICAL CERTIFICATES

The University is cracking down on the excessive use — i.e., abuse — of doctors' notes to request tests and exam deferrals. Doctors' notes are supposed to certify that a student was ill and thus unable to write a test on a specific date, but they are not supposed to be used as an instrument for time management. The Office of Student Academic Integrity (OSAI) will evaluate the submission of suspicious medical certificates.

If you are unable to write any of the tests for a medical reason, you must submit an official University of Toronto *Verification of Student Illness or Injury* form where the physician clearly indicates that in his/her professional opinion you were unable to write the test on that particular date. This means that the doctor cannot limit him/herself to repeat what you have told him/her — the physician must clearly certify that you were sick **and** unable to write the test on that particular day.

Note that *Verification of Student Illness or Injury* forms indicating conditions such as *headaches, stomach ache, cold or other similar conditions* will usually not be accepted as sufficient excuse for not writing a test. All suspicious submissions of medical certificates will be rejected or forwarded to OSAI for further evaluation.

MARKING AND APPEALS

Disputes over the evaluation of a test should be discussed with the instructor. After reviewing the solution posted on the course website, submit in person a **brief note** clearly indicating the reasons for your disagreement with the marking. Disagreement with the marking means that an error might have been made — for instance, the marker failing to consider a part of your answer. Note that indicating that in your view you deserved a higher mark is not a sufficient reason for requesting a remarking of a test. You must submit your appeal **within one week** after the test is returned to students. Please note that all questions of the test will be remarked and not only the question in dispute.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is one of the cornerstones of the University of Toronto. It is critically important both to maintain our community which honours the values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness and responsibility and to protect you, the students within this community, and the value of the degree towards which you are all working so diligently.

According to Section B of the University of Toronto's *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (<http://www.utoronto.ca/govcncl/pap/policies/behaveac.html>), which all students are expected to know and respect, it is an offence for students:

- To obtain unauthorized assistance on any assignment.
- To provide unauthorized assistance to another student. This includes showing another student completed work (e.g., an answer in a test).
- To falsify or alter any documentation required by the University. This, includes, but is not limited to, doctor's notes.
- To use or possess an unauthorized aid in any test or exam (e.g., a cell phone).
- To continue writing when the time is up in any test or exam.
- To submit a medical note to get out of a test when the student is not actually sick.

There are other offences covered under the Code, but these are by far the most common. Please respect these rules and the values which they protect. [For useful tips for avoiding academic misconduct visit the website of the Office of Student Academic Integrity at <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/students/how-can-i-avoid-an-offence.>]

SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEM SETS

The purpose of the problem sets is to help you build skills and to deepen your understanding of the course material. One important skill is being able to figure out a solution approach to a problem that you have not seen before. To develop this skill and get a thorough comprehension of the subject you must make every effort to solve the problem yourself with the help of your lecture notes and the textbook. Consider answering these questions as if they were part of an open-book exam with the additional advantage of not having a time constraint. After you complete your answer to a question, then compare it to the solution provided in order to confirm that your answer is correct or to reflect where you might have gone wrong.

Looking at the solutions before attempting to answer the questions is not helpful. You might look at the solution and say: "Oh, this is easy." And it might be easy, but you haven't learned anything from this exercise. I would dare you to wait 30 minutes and attempt to answer the same question without looking at the solution. You will see that the "easy" answer to the question is still as difficult as it was 30 minutes earlier. To look at the solutions first is the wrong approach — most likely you will forget the correct "easy" answer in no time. However, if you get to answer the question by yourself you will learn a lot more than just what the correct answer might be. You will

learn “how” to get to the correct answer and you will also learn many details that had escaped you when you read your lecture notes and the textbook time and time again. And I can assure you that what you learn in this way you will not easily forget.

Of course, all this also applies to the use of the solutions to old tests posted on the course website. **Attempt to answer these old tests without looking at the solutions!**

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

I. INTRODUCTION AND DETERMINATION OF NATIONAL INCOME

1. Introduction (Ch. 1)
2. National Income Accounting (Ch. 2)

II. THE FIXED PRICE MODEL

3. Aggregate Expenditure and Equilibrium Income (Ch. 10)
4. The IS-LM Model (Ch. 11, except section 11.4)
5. Monetary and Fiscal Policy (Ch. 12)
6. Introduction to the Open Economy (Ch. 5)
7. The Open Economy with Fixed Exchange Rates (Ch. 13)
8. The Open Economy with Flexible Exchange Rates (Ch. 13)

III. THE FLEXIBLE PRICE MODEL

9. The Derivation of the Aggregate Demand (AD) (Ch. 11, section 11.4 and Ch. 6)
10. The Derivation of the Aggregate Supply (AS) and the Interaction between AD and AS (Ch. 3, section 3.1)
11. The Aggregate Supply Curve and Sticky Wages (Ch. 7)
12. The AD and AS Curves and Inflation (Ch. 7 and Ch. 8)
13. The AD and AS in an Open Economy (Ch. 9)

IV. BEHAVIOURAL FOUNDATIONS

14. The Demand for Money (Ch. 16 and Ch. 3, section 3.3)
15. The Supply of Money (Ch. 18)
16. The Consumption Demand (Ch. 14 and Ch. 19, section 19.4)
17. The Investment Demand (Ch. 15)