

Joseph B. Steinberg
Department of Economics
University of Toronto
ECO202Y1Y — LEC0201
Macroeconomic Theory and Policy
2016–2017

Syllabus

Lectures: Tuesdays, 10am–12pm, AH100
Tutorials: Fridays, 11am–12pm, AH100

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Office hours: 2–4pm on Mondays

Teaching assistants:

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Course Description: ECO202 is an intermediate-level course in macroeconomics. Topics include: measurement of macroeconomic aggregates, long-run economic growth, short-run fluctuations and stabilization policy, international trade, and exchange rates.

Textbook: The textbook for this course is *Macroeconomics*, by Charles I. Jones, Third Edition.

Grades: The course grade consists of **term work worth 55%** and a **final exam worth 45%**. Class participation is encouraged and I reserve the right to use class participation performance to make minor adjustments to your final course grade. Term work consists of **3 term tests** and **2 written assignments**. In the fall semester there will be two term tests, each worth 15% of your final grade, and one written assignment worth 5%. In the winter semester, there will be one term test worth 15%, one written assignment worth 5%, and the final exam.

Notes on tests:

- Tests (both term tests and the final) take the form of short-answer questions only — there will be no multiple choice or true/false questions! My tests aim to assess your understanding of course material, not your ability to memorize facts or do arithmetic. Expect to explain concepts in your own words, derive important model equations and results algebraically and explain their importance, and solve for equilibrium variables both algebraically and numerically.
- Term tests take place during class time. Please arrive at the exam location by 10am at the latest. The doors to the exam room will open at 10am sharp. Upon entering the room,

please form a line at the front by the desk. I and/or one of my TAs will distribute test materials. After collecting your test materials, please promptly find a desk.

- **There will be NO makeup term tests!** If you miss one term test, regardless of the reason, the weight for that test will be shifted to the final exam. **Any additional missed term tests will receive a score of zero, regardless of the reason!**
- For re-grading term tests, you must submit your test materials and a detailed written description of your complaint **within 2 weeks** of receiving your test grade. No re-grade requests will be accepted after 2 weeks. **Note: your entire test will be re-graded, and your test score may go up or down!**
- The final exam takes place during the final exam period in April at the end of the school year. There are multiple sections of ECO202, and 30% of the final exam grade will consist of questions that students in all sections must answer. I work with the other ECO202 instructors to create these common shared questions. All sections use the same textbook this year.
- On all exams, you may use non-programmable calculators only. No graphing calculators, mobile phones, or any other computational aids will be allowed.
- Please remember to bring your student ID card to all exams. After obtaining your test materials and finding a desk, please place your ID card on the desk. I, or one of my TAs, will take attendance during the exams by looking at your cards.

Notes on written assignments:

- The two written assignments will ask you to use the tools you learn in the course to **critically evaluate** an article from a journalistic outlet like *The Wall Street Journal* or *The Economist*. I will post the articles on Blackboard along with more information about the assignments approximately two weeks before the assignments are due.
- You need to submit your written assignments online in **two ways:** on **Blackboard** and on **Turnitin.com** by the dates/times in the table below. No extensions will be granted for any reason (illness, computer problems, etc.) There is a 10% point (out of 100%) penalty per 24 hours for late assignments. In other words, if you would have received a score of 84% on a written assignment turned in on time, you will receive a score of 74% if you turn it in 24 hours late or less, a score of 64% if it is between 24 and 48 hours late, and so on.

Notes on academic integrity:

- Academic integrity is of utmost importance to learning and scholarship at the University of Toronto. You are expected to adhere to the university's *Code of Behavior on Academic Matters* (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>). Cases of academic misconduct are taken very seriously and the consequences can be severe. All suspected cases will be reported to the Department of Economics and OSAI.
- Plagiarism is a concern with writing assignments. Your assignments must be submitted to **Turnitin.com**. Being unaware of what plagiarism entails is not a defense! You can find

details about what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it here:

<http://www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity>.

- University of Toronto disclaimer on 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.”

Schedule of term work and final exam:

Test	Date	Time / location	Weight in course grade
1 st term test	10/18/2016	10am–12pm / EX310–320	15%
1 st written assignment	11/15/2016	10am online	5%
2 nd term test	12/6/2016	10am–12pm / EX310–320	15%
3 rd term test	2/28/2017	10am–12pm / EX100	15%
2 nd written assignment	3/21/2017	10am online	5%
Final exam	TBD	TBD	45%

Lectures, tutorials, and other course structure items: Lectures will typically cover new material from the textbook and supplementary sources. Tutorials on Friday will generally be led by the TAs, who will discuss solutions to recommended problems and term test questions, and answer your questions about material covered in the lectures. I reserve the right to use the tutorial time to cover additional lecture material if necessary. There will be several “writing tutorials” during the year that will focus on preparing you for the writing assignments.

I will post recommended problem sets, writing assignments, announcements, and other materials on Blackboard. It is your responsibility to check Blackboard often. Lecture notes and slides posted on Blackboard will usually be incomplete, so you must attend lectures to obtain the necessary information to complete them. Notes will not be posted until after the relevant lecture. Recommended problem sets will not be graded, but I highly suggest that you do them as they are an excellent way to prepare for the term tests and final exam. The TAs will provide solutions to some or all of the example problems during the tutorials depending on time and student interests.

Email policy: The best form of communication with me is in person, either after lectures or during my office hours (see below). Any questions about exam or writing assignment marks should be directed to TAs first. If you must contact me or one of the TAs by email, make sure to identify yourself and use your UTOR email account. Email from other addresses may not reach us. Also, please put “ECO202” somewhere in the subject line. I and my TAs reserve the right to respond to emails anytime within 48 hours after receiving them. Do not expect a response before those 48 hours are up.

Office Hours: I hold office hours every Monday from 2–4pm (TAs hold office hours by appointment only). If you would like to attend my office hours, you must reserve a time slot in advance using this Google Docs calendar:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Bm9GPoJLx3TXCy8O_nVeWRTFOt_T-7KNKdORFgN8Ye8/edit?usp=sharing.

As shown in the calendar, time slots are available in 15-minute increments. To reserve a slot, simply type your name. You may only reserve multiple time slots if you email me first. One exception to this policy is if you would like to attend office hours in a group of several students (many students like to do this before term tests). Groups of X students may reserve X time slots, where X is any number greater than or equal to one. Just fill in the names of all students in the group in each of the slots on the calendar that you would like to reserve.

Course outline:

Topic	Chapter(s)	Description
Introduction	1–2	Introduction to macroeconomics and macroeconomic measurement
The long run	3	Empirical overview of long-run growth
	4–5	Modeling long-run growth
	6	“Ideas” and technological progress
	7–8	Labor markets and inflation in the long run
The short run	9	Measuring short-run fluctuations, a simple model
	10	The Great Recession: facts and causes
	11	The IS curve
	12	Monetary policy and the Philips Curve
	13	The AS/AD model, stabilization policy
	14	Applying the model to the Great Recession
Extras	15 (?)	DSGE models
	16–17 (?)	Consumption and investment
	18 (?)	The role of government
	19 (?)	International trade
	20(?)	Exchange rates and international finance

Note: Actual pace and content of course may differ from above!