

Department of Economics
University of Toronto
ECO208Y1 –L0201
Macroeconomic Theory
2022-23

Professors : M. Alexopoulos (Fall) & Prof. Terry Yip (Spring)

Lectures: T1-3, Location NL 6

Tutorials: W2-4pm, Location SS 2117

TAs: There are three TAs assigned to the course.
They are Stephen Gagnon, Tasnia Hussain and Benjamin Straus.

Office hours: Details for the TA and Instructor’s office hours will be posted on the class webpage.

Communication:

The best form of communication in this course is in person, either with myself or the TAs, during lecture, tutorials, and office hours. In the event that an e-mail communication is needed, please make sure to always identify yourself and to use your UTOR e-mail account (the “utoronto” account) to ensure delivery of the message.

The class has been assigned a set of specialized email addresses that should be used when asking clarifying questions for the course materials.

To reach the instructors and TAs for the class, please use the email address:
m.alexopoulos@utoronto.ca

For emails that contain sensitive information or requests, please you should put “Instructor” In the subject heading to make sure that it is directed to the Instructors. All other emails will monitored by the TA and support staff.

The professors and teaching assistants will do their best to provide an initial response to communications within 2 business days.

Course Description: ECO208 is an intermediate-level course in macroeconomics. The course develops a unified framework that is based on micro-foundations to study macroeconomic events and policy. Topics covered in the course include: (a) measurement of output, prices, and business cycles, (b) economic growth, (c) analysis of fiscal and monetary policy, (d) business cycles, (e) international trade and exchange rates, (f) unemployment. Data from the Canadian, U.S. and a number of other economies will be used throughout the course.

Prerequisites: The following courses are prerequisites for this course: ECO100Y1; MAT133Y1/(MAT123H1,MAT124H1)/(MAT135H1, MAT136H1)/MAT137Y1/MAT157Y1. Students are responsible for ensuring any prerequisites for this course have been fulfilled. Prerequisites must be completed before taking a course. By taking this course, you acknowledge

that you can be removed from the course at any time if you do not meet all requirements. For further information, please consult the Course Calendar available from the Registrar's Office.

Textbook: The required textbook for this course is Macroeconomics by Stephen Williamson, Sixth Canadian Edition (hereafter W). The book is available at the University of Toronto Bookstore (214 College Street). This is an excellent text in macroeconomics and we will follow it closely. Recommended readings will be announced and posted throughout the course.

Grading and Exam Policy: The course grade consists of term work worth 65% and a final exam worth 35%. Term work includes three term tests and two written assignments. Tests will be written during class time or in tutorial in the regular room assigned for the course. While three tests will be given, as an insurance policy, only the best two of the three tests will be counted towards the course grade. Each of these tests will count for 25% of the final grade. There will be **NO make-up for term tests**. This implies, for example, that a student who takes one exam and fails to take the other two will receive zero as one of the marks, i.e., 0 for 25% of the final grade. Under no circumstances will term weight be shifted to the final exam. Each of the written assignments will count towards 7.5% of the course grade. These will build and expand on material covered in the course. Details will be given in class.

Assignments:

All parts of the final assignment must be submitted on-line through the course portal. It is every student's responsibility to ensure that their online submission is submitted successfully by the due date. Accommodations will not be made for unsuccessful/late submissions due to, but not limited to: i) the system timing out; ii) uploading incorrect document(s)/files; iii) failing to properly convert times between different time zones and/or iv) poor internet connection / no internet connection etc. Issues such as Computer viruses, hard drive failures, lost or corrupted files, incompatible file formats, faulty internet, battery problems, etc., are common issues when using technology, and are not acceptable grounds for a deadline extension. It is each student's responsibility to make sure that they have made appropriate backups of their work, and have properly working equipment and internet connection.

Ouriginal: Students will be required to submit their course assignments to Ouriginal (via the Quercus course portal) for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In making a submission, students will allow their assignments to be included as source documents in the reference database. These will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. If you have an objection to the use of Ouriginal for the submission of your work, please make an appointment to speak with me to discuss alternative arrangements more than one week before the posted due date.

Late Penalties: There will be a late penalty of 10% per day (including holidays and weekends) for assignments handed in past the deadline. The late penalty may be waived if the student is ill and provides appropriate medical documentation. If a student fails to submit an assignment during the course for any reason, they will receive a grade of zero for the assignment.

Class participation is encouraged and will count positively towards marginal adjustments to the final course grade. No other work will be counted towards the grade. Term tests will be given during class time. The location for these exams will be announced at a later date. More details on the exams will be given during the course of the lectures.

Missed Term Work/Test: Students who miss a test or due date because of circumstances beyond their control (e.g. illness or an accident) can request that they be granted special consideration. Leaving early for holidays, pre-purchased plane tickets, family plans, or time conflicts with tests/assignments in other courses are not acceptable excuses for missing a quiz, a test or any term work. The following steps must be completed in order to be considered for academic accommodation for any missed quiz/test/assignment:

1. Your absence must be declared on ACORN on the day of the missed test / due date, or by the day after, at the latest.
2. You must notify the instructor by within one week of the missed test / deadline.
3. The University is temporarily suspending the need for a doctor's note or medical certificate for any absence from academic participation if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. However, this policy may change at any point during the course. Please check if the policy has changed if you are ill.
4. If you missed your test for a reason connected to your registered disability, the department will accept documentation supplied by Accessibility Services.
5. If you visited a Dentist, Nurse/Nurse Practitioner, Physician/Surgeon, Psychologist, Psychotherapist or Social Worker registered and licensed in the Province of Ontario, you can have them fill out the University's Verification of Student Illness or Injury form for submission.
6. Consult the Office of the Registrar should your absence be lengthy or affect multiple courses.

The written explanation and documentation that you submit represents an appeal from you, requesting the opportunity to account for that portion of your grade in some other manner. If an appeal is not received, or if the appeal is deemed unacceptable, you will receive a grade of zero for the item you missed

If an individual anticipates missing an assignment deadline (i.e., an in-Tutorial Assignment or the Term Assignment) due to uncontrollable circumstances and requires an extension, they should request this at least 5 business days in advance. Students may be required to submit supporting documentation. The reallocation of grades for assignments missed for legitimate reasons will be made at the instructor's discretion. Any assignments handed in after the work has been returned to the class cannot be marked for credit and will be assigned a grade of 0%.

Re-grading Policy: Students who want to have a term test or assignment re-graded must submit a re-grade form within two weeks of receiving the grade. The re-grade form will be available from the class website. The request must provide specific information about your concerns (a simple request asking for a regrade without justification will not be sufficient to have a regrade request granted). Please be advised that the marker may re-read & re-mark the whole test and your overall mark may go up, down or remain the same

Web-Site: Announcements, lecture notes, suggested problems, and any other class-related material will be posted on Quercus. Suggested sample problems will be assigned for each topic but will not be graded. The Wednesday time allocation will be generally used for Tutorials given by one of the Teaching Assistants (TA) for discussion of problems and solutions and for answering questions. Solutions to problems will not be posted. Tutorials will generally be held every Wednesday starting on September 30. Students enrolled in this course will be able to use the Economics Study Centre. See the Department of Economics' web page for details.

Student Conduct: It is your responsibility as a student at the University of Toronto to familiarize yourself with, and adhere to, The Code of Student Conduct, which is a University policy that sets out expectations for student behavior, and prescribes processes for dealing with prohibited behaviour.

The Student's Companion to the Student Code of Conduct is a set of frequently asked questions and the responses about the Code of Student Conduct. It aims to simplify and clarify Code usage for the University's community members.

It is also:

- your responsibility to avoid course conflicts;
- your responsibility to honour the copyright of course materials;
- your right to receive accommodations for religious observances and accessibility issues

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic Integrity is central to upholding the integrity of a UofT degree. As such, any form of copying, plagiarizing, or other types of academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Any student caught engaging in academic misconduct will be subject to academic discipline ranging from a mark of zero on the assignment, test or examination to dismissal from the university as outlined in the academic handbook. Any student aiding or abetting another student in such misconduct will also be subject to academic penalties.

Cheating and plagiarism are serious offences and carry severe penalties. All UofT students are expected to be familiar with the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters See <https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019>). Ignorance of the policies is not a defense. Please familiarize yourself with the code to avoid preventable issues from arising.

Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement in term work.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Fabricating sources or facts.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment (including purchasing of a term assignment)
- Using or possessing unauthorized aids on tests.
- Looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test.
- Misrepresenting your identity.
- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.
- Posting test, essay, or exam questions to message boards or social media.
- Creating, accessing, and sharing assessment questions and answers in virtual "course groups."
- Working collaboratively, in-person or online, with others on assessments that are expected to be completed individually.
- Accessing unauthorized resources (search engines, chat rooms, Reddit, etc.) for assessments.

Accessibility:

For accessibility services/accommodation, please see: <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as>

Resources to help you at the UofT are listed at the Academic Success Centre:

<https://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/asc>

For course-related issues, please get in touch with the instructor and your College Registrar. For longer- run issues or issues outside our course please contact your College Registrar

<http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/newstudents/nextsteps/contact>

General Outline of Topics Covered:

- 1) Introduction (W, Chapter 1)
- 2) Measurement (W, Chapter 2)
- 3) Business-Cycle Measurement (W, Chapter 3)
- 4) Consumer and Firm Behavior (W, Chapter 4)
- 5) A Closed-Economy One-Period Model (W, Chapter 5)
- 6) Unemployment (W, Chapter 6)
- 7) Economic Growth (W, Chapter 7-8)

- 8) A Two-Period Model (W, Chapter 9)
- 9) A Real Inter-temporal Model with Investment (W, Chapter 11)
- 10) A Monetary Model (W, Chapter 12)
- 11) Business cycle Models (W, Chapters 13-14)
- 12) International Trade in Goods and Assets (W, Chapter 15)
- 13) Money and Banking (W, Chapter 17-18)

**Note that the material in some chapters will be complemented with parts of the Mathematical Appendix from the textbook and from additional notes.

Some Relevant Dates:

Sept 13–First day of Class

Sept 28-First tutorial

Oct 18–First term exam (during class on Tuesday)

First week of Nov. – Assignment 1 posted

Nov 9-8–Fall break, no class, office hours or tutorials

Nov 18- Assignment 1 due

Dec 6–Second term exam (during class on Tuesday)

Jan 10-Classes resume

Feb 14–Third term test

Feb. 20–Last day to drop course without academic penalty

Feb 20-24–No classes, tutorial or office hours (reading week)

First week of Mar - Assignment 2 posted

Mar 17 - Assignment 2 due

April 6–Last class