

Economics 102H: Winter 2023
All Sections: L0101, L0201, L0301, L0401, and L5101
Principles of Macroeconomics

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Course Description

This is an introductory course in basic macroeconomic principles. The focus is on the operation of the economy in the aggregate, and how the actions of individuals and firms interact to determine the economy-wide level of economic performance including the level of output, unemployment and inflation. In this context, we will analyze the important role of government and government policy in the macro economy. We will also cover issues relating to exchange rates and international trade. This course is designed to expose you to the facts, theories and models of the discipline of macroeconomics. It is also designed to develop your analytical skills, to use graphs as tools to analyze problems, to help you to think for yourself, and to learn to apply the principles and techniques of economics to new problems and situations.

For each topic, you are expected to complete the readings, come to lectures and tutorials, participate in topic discussions, and complete homework and assessments by their due dates. You will have an opportunity to ask questions during Q&A hours with the professor or in tutorials with the Teaching Assistants (TAs).

Time Zones

Where relevant, all times posted in the syllabus and on Quercus will be in Toronto time (ET and EDT after daylight savings time starts on March 12, 2023).

Public Health

The syllabus is written under the assumption that public health allows all lectures, tutorials, midterm tests and final to be in person. Any changes will be announced on Quercus.

Required Materials

The text for the course is *Principles of Macroeconomics*, by Betsey Stevenson and Justin Wolfers, 2020, 1st edition, Worth Publishers, Macmillan learning. The textbook, both hardcopies and digital versions, can be obtained from the U of T Bookstore.

Note this textbook is different from the one used in last years (Krugman). There is overlap in content, but also significant differences. Using a different textbook than Stevenson and Wolfers (or not buying the textbook at all) is at your own risk.

Handouts, readings and recordings posted on Quercus are part of the required materials for the course and are testable. I will inform you of these additional readings through announcements on Quercus.

For each chapter in Stevenson and Wolfers, we will identify problems at the end of the chapter to work through. Additional problems will be assigned that you can access through Quercus. These problems will be taken up in tutorial. There is no substitute for working through these problems for preparation for the tests.

Achieve is an online platform that provides supplementary problems and is packaged with the e-book and some versions of the physical book as sold by the U of T Bookstore. These problems are easier than the ones you can expect on the tests, but you may find them helpful for learning the material. *Achieve* is not required however.

Lectures, Q&A-Hours, and Tutorials

Lectures

In the lectures I will give an overview of the course material, explain how the pieces are connected and solve problems in class. Lectures are scheduled in person, and you can choose any of the following five options, space permitting. Lectures will not be recorded, unless there are changes to the public health situation.

- L0101 in BT101, Monday and Wednesday 12-1 PM
- L0201 in BT101, Monday and Wednesday 1-2 PM
- L0301 in BT101, Tuesday 9-11 AM
- L0401 in BT101, Tuesday 1-3 PM
- L5101 in MS2158, Wednesday 5-7 PM

Q&A Hours

Every week, starting in week 1, Prof. Vellekoop will hold two Q&A hours, one on Zoom and one in person. Here I will discuss materials related to the lecture and take up questions raised on Piazza. The goal is to foster interaction, and therefore the online session will not be recorded. You can go to any Q&A you like. Q&A hours is also a good place to come in and listen to other students asking questions.

- Online on Zoom, login info will be posted on Quercus, Monday 7:30-9 PM
- In person, location will be announced on Quercus, Wednesday 3-4:30 PM

Tutorials

In addition to the lectures and the Q&A hours, there will also be weekly tutorials that will begin the first week of classes. The primary purpose of the tutorials will be to review material from the lecture and to work through problem sets that will be provided in advance. Recorded solutions will be provided the week after a tutorial is held. Tutorial attendance is not mandatory, but highly recommended.

TA Office Hours

Every week TAs will hold office hours. A schedule of hours and mode (a mix of in person or online) will be posted on Quercus. There will be more office hours available the week before a midterm.

Grades

Your final grade is based on two tests, seven assignments, and a final exam. The breakdown is as follows:

Assessment	Percentage
2 Midterm tests	40%
7 Assignments	15%
Final Exam	45%
Total	100%

Midterm Tests and Final Exam

There will be two 90-minute midterm tests. Total weight of the term tests is 40%, each test is 20%. The final exam, which represents 45% of your grade, will be scheduled by A&S and is two hours in length. Term tests are scheduled to be in person, but public health requirements may require a change to online testing. Exact day and time as well as the format will be announced on Quercus well before the test, for coverage see the course outline.

- Term Test 1 in the week of February 6.
- Term Test 2 in the week of March 13.

Prof. Vellekoop will organize an online review session before each midterm, on Thursday February 2, 12-1pm for Midterm 1, and Thursday March 9, 12-1pm for Midterm 2. Login details will be posted on Quercus before, and recordings will be posted afterwards.

Remark 1: if you write tests with ATS, register with ATS as soon as possible for tests.

Remark 2: Two weeks before the test we will open a Forms document for you to notify us of possible conflicts with the upcoming midterm. You need to provide documentation of the conflict. A conflict is another midterm test at the same time, lecture or graded in-class participation.

Assignments

Seven assignments are scheduled throughout the term, with the dates provided in the schedule below. Each assignment weighs 3%, and we will drop your lowest **two** grades (best five out of seven policy). The assignments will be a mix of short data collection exercises and short writing exercises (“blog posts”). Assignments will be graded on a seven-point scale (0% - 50% - 60% - 70% - 80% - 90% - 100%).

The deadline for data assignments is hard, and late submissions will not be graded.

Assignments need to be uploaded in two places: Crowdmark and Quercus. We will use Crowdmark for grading of all assignments. For the plagiarism check we require that assignments be uploaded in Quercus. Assignments that do not comply with uploading requirements will not be graded. Details of the upload procedures will be announced on Quercus.

Missed Assessments

- You can miss two assignments without penalty. There is no make-up assignment.
- For midterm tests you are required to fill out a Missed Assessment Form (available on Quercus) **before** the test starts, in addition to self-declaring absence on Acorn. A comprehensive makeup test will be organized the week of March 20, 2023. Day, time and location will be announced. The makeup test can replace at most one midterm. There is no makeup test for missing the makeup test. If you miss two midterm tests, you need to contact your college registrar first and have them reach out to us (this is a procedure, not a guarantee that you will be accommodated).
- If you miss the final exam, you need to petition A&S.

Remarking Policy

Remarking requests must be submitted using the Regrade Request Form available on Quercus. The form will be available for one week, starting a week from the day the assessment has been returned to students. Requests will not be accepted before or after this window. It is important that you explain clearly why your answer merits additional marks. Pointing to specific passages in either the textbook or lecture notes is highly recommended.

Email Protocol

ECO102 is very large class (~2,000 students), which unfortunately makes it difficult for me to reply to class emails. Please do not email the instructor or TAs directly but use eco102@utoronto.ca, which is managed by our administrative support team and Head TA. This email address will be checked regularly during weekdays with emails forwarded to prof. Vellekoop as necessary. We will do our best to reply to our emails promptly. In general, please reserve emails for emergencies.

In addition, we will use **Piazza** as a discussion board, where students can post questions and TAs and fellow students can answer them.

Class Schedule

Lecture	Week of	Topic	Chapters	Deadline
1	Jan 9	GDP and Unemployment	9 and 11	
2	Jan 16	CPI and Inflation	11 and 12	Assignment 1
3	Jan 23	Long-run Growth	10	Assignment 2
4	Jan 30	Investment Financial Markets	14 15.1-15.3	
5	Feb 6	Exchange Rates	16	Assignment 3
	TBA	Midterm 1 lectures 1-4		
6	Feb 13	Income and Expenditure	Appendix	Assignment 4
		Reading week		
7	Feb 27	AD-AS	21	
8	Mar 6	Fiscal Policy	23	Assignment 5
9	Mar 13	IS-MP	18	
	TBA	Midterm 2 lectures 5-8		
10	Mar 20	Phillips Curve and Inflation	19	Assignment 6
	TBA	Make up test lectures 1-8		
11	Mar 27	Monetary policy	22	Assignment 7
12	Apr 3	Fed Model	20	
	TBA	Final Exam		

Assignments

The release and due date schedule for assignments is here:

	Assigned	Due Date	Topic
1	January 9	January 16	Data assignment 1
2	January 17	January 23	Writing assignment 1
3	January 24	February 6	Data assignment 2
4	February 7	February 13	Data assignment 3
5	February 28	March 6	Writing assignment 2
6	March 14	March 20	Data assignment 4
7	March 21	March 27	Writing assignment 3

The **due date** is 11:59pm Toronto time. There will be a grace period of 16 minutes to account for technical difficulties. Submissions after the grace period will not be accepted and graded. The writing assignments will be based on readings, podcasts, and other current sources connected to materials in the class. These additional readings will be an integral part of testable material.

Plagiarism Detection Tool

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool 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 tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>).

Final Grades

You must obtain a grade of 63% in ECO 102 to be eligible to take higher-level courses required for an Economics Major degree. Unfortunately, not every student achieves this mark. Awarding of final grades is coordinated across all sections of ECO102 in order to assure fair and consistent treatment of all students. We do NOT offer additional coursework for students to improve their grades.

Grading Software and Storage Policy Tests

This course will use Crowdmark, a collaborative online grading tool for marking and providing feedback on graded term assessments. Crowdmark provides efficiencies with grading, data recording, returning term assessments and handling regrade requests. Copies of student work marked in Crowdmark, including grading and feedback, will be available online to students for at least one year. Digital (i.e., online) copies will serve as the authoritative record for course administrative purposes, and paper copies of assessments scanned and uploaded to Crowdmark will be destroyed after the term has ended and final grades are approved. If you have questions about how your information is stored on Crowdmark, please contact your course instructor.

Where to Find Help

- The Economics Study Centre is staffed by third and fourth-year undergraduate students (Learning Assistants) who assist students on a drop-in basis. They plan on both in-person and online hours this year. Full details, including physical location and a join link, are available on Quercus.
- Recognized Study Groups (RSG) Small group collaboration has been shown to be an effective mode of studying. Recognized Study Groups are voluntary, peer-led study groups of 3-6 students enrolled in the same course. In addition to supporting students' study habits and academic success, RSGs also encourage student participants to be socially connected with their peers. Participants earn a Co-Curricular Record (CCR) credit. Visit the RSG website (<https://sidneysmithcommons.artsci.utoronto.ca/recognized-study-groups/>) to find out more and join.

Ongoing Learning Disability or Accommodation Requirement

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have an ongoing disability issue or accommodation need, you should register with Accessibility Services (ATS) (accessibility.utoronto.ca) at the beginning of the academic year. Without registration, you will not be able to verify your situation with your instructors, and instructors will not be advised about your accommodation needs. ATS will then assess your medical situation, develop an accommodation plan with you, and support you in requesting accommodation for your course work. Remember that the process of accommodation is private: ATS will not share details of your condition with any instructor, and your instructors will not reveal that you are registered with ATS. Please contact eco102@utoronto.ca if you are registered or as soon as you register with ATS.

Copyright Policy

This course will be recorded on video and will be available to students in the course for viewing remotely and after each session. Course videos and materials belong to your instructors, the University, and/or other sources depending on the specific facts of each situation and are protected by copyright. In this course, you are permitted to download session videos and materials for your own academic use, but you should not copy, share, or use them for any other purpose without the explicit permission of the instructor. For questions about the recording and use of videos in which you appear, please contact your instructor

Academic integrity

Academic integrity is one of the cornerstones of the University of Toronto. It is critically important both to maintain our community which honors 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 Behavior on Academic Matters, 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 on 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.

More details are provided in the link below:

<https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019>

There are other offenses covered under the Code, but these are by far the most common. Please respect these rules and the values that they protect. For useful tips for avoiding academic misconduct, please visit the website of the Office of Student Academic Integrity at: <https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity>.