ECONOMICS OF CHINA
ECONOMICS 3311F
Department of Economics
Western University

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September, 2017
Class Times: M 12:30-2:30; W 12:30-1:30
Classroom: SSC 3010
Course website: https://owl.uwo.ca/portal
Undergraduate inquiries: 519-661-3507, SSC 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

The prerequisites for this course are Economics 2220A/B and 2261A/B.

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. 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 Description:

This course is about the economy of the People's Republic of China, with emphasis on the recent reform period (1980s to the present). It will critically examine China’s remarkable economic performance in historical and comparative context. The course investigates topics related to China’s economic structure, institutions, public policy, and current events.

The course combines lectures with seminar-style class discussions. Active class attendance and participation is important, as is knowledge of the readings. If you are unlikely to attend class regularly and cannot complete the readings on time, then this is not the course for you.
Learning Outcomes

- Students will learn the main features of China’s economy and economic development
- Students will gain experience using economic models and methods through their application in the analysis of China’s economy
- Students will gain skills in independent learning and research, specifically, how to find and interpret Chinese data and statistics; how to find, read and evaluate reports and research about China; and how to learn collaboratively with others in teams or groups
- Students will learn skills in writing and speaking for economics and more generally

Textbook and Reading Assignments:

Reading assignments are an important part of the course and include chapters from a textbook, as well as other items (see Reading List below). The textbook is a draft version of a new edition of *The Chinese Economy* by Barry Naughton, which has been provided by the author for our use free of charge, on the condition that students use it only for personal study and do not circulate or share it. See the Reading List for a full list of required and recommended readings.

Grading and Course Requirements:

Requirements for this course include (a) short assignments, (b) a midterm exam, (c) a group presentation, and (d) a research paper. There is no final exam.

Unless specified otherwise, the exam and all assignments are expected to be your own, individual work. Group assignments are expected to be the work of members of your group. **Plagiarism, whether intentional or unintentional, is unacceptable and will be treated as a scholastic offence.** Take care not to borrow the wording of others, and be sure to cite all sources and references. I recommend all students do the plagiarism quiz and tutorial at [http://lib.usm.edu/plagiarism_tutorial.html](http://lib.usm.edu/plagiarism_tutorial.html).

The course mark will be calculated as follows:

- 25% short assignments (*the lowest mark will be dropped*)
- 25% midterm exam
- 15% group panel presentation (all members of the group receive the same mark)
- 35% research paper
- Class participation: Up to 2 percentage points bonus will be added to the final course mark for good participation in class; up to 2 percentage points penalty will be deducted for lack of attendance or lack of participation in class.

Note: This course will not provide assessment of work accounting for 15% of the final grade before the Nov 5th drop deadline. The Dean of the Faculty of Social Science has approved an exemption from this policy for this course.
Short assignments: Probably 4-5 short assignments, roughly one every second or third week. You can turn in all the short assignments and the lowest mark will be dropped, or you can skip one and all the submitted assignments will count. Most are short writing assignments; some will be based on assigned readings and will be used for class discussions. One will be a topic proposal for your research essay (see below).

The Midterm Exam will be held in class on the date shown below (see Important Dates).

The last few weeks of the term will be devoted to seminar-style group panel presentations by on selected topics. Each group will submit a copy of their presentation slides (e.g., a PowerPoint file) in advance of the presentation. Students in the audience will be expected to complete a few relevant readings, ask questions, and participate in discussion. Attendance of all students at all presentations is mandatory. (If necessary, we may schedule extra classes to ensure time for all group presentations.)

Research essay: 15-20 pages, double spaced (≈4000 words). Students are encouraged to choose an essay topic related to their group presentation topics. Topics must be approved by the instructor. A topic proposal (one-page description of your proposed topic plus one-page preliminary bibliography) is due Nov. 1. The essay should be based on scholarly/academic sources and materials; examples of appropriate references on different topic areas can be found in the reading list. The essay is due at the start of the last class (see Important Dates).

Late assignments and make ups: Short assignments will not be accepted late. There will be no make up for the midterm (reweighting of marks will apply for legitimate, documented cases). Late research essays will be penalized by 10 points out of 100 for each day (24 hours) late.

Important Dates
Mon., Sept. 11 First class meeting
Oct. 9-13 Fall Reading Week
Wed., Nov. 1 Paper topic proposals due
Mon., Nov. 13 Midterm exam (tentative)
Wed., Dec. 6 Last class, research papers due

Course Outline (tentative)
I. Introduction (1 week)
II. China’s Economic Performance (2-3 weeks)
III. Initial Conditions (1 week)
IV. China’s Development Strategy (2 weeks)
V. Population and the Economy (1.5 weeks)
VI. Income Distribution and Poverty (1 week)
VII. Foreign Trade (1.5 weeks)
VIII. Group Panel Presentations (2 weeks)

Please read “Please Note: Department Policies” and “Guidelines for Essay Courses” at the end of the reading list.
READING LIST

Notes:

1. This list contains readings for each topic on the course outline. For most topics I include some current events or opinion pieces to motivate the topic, as well as scholarly readings based on serious, in-depth research. In italics are my comments on the readings.

2. Required vs. optional readings: All readings without asterisks are required readings. A single asterisk indicates recommended, optional readings. A double asterisk indicates additional optional readings that may be useful if you are writing an essay on a related topic.

3. Where to find readings:
   - “Naughton” refers to the draft textbook *The Chinese Economy* by Naughton. It is available on the course website. *DO NOT SHARE OR CIRCULATE.*
   - Most other required readings are available online through the Western Libraries website or at public websites. You can access journal articles online through Western Libraries e-journals. The reading list shows links to public websites, where available.
   - Copies of required readings unavailable online will be posted on the course website for your personal and academic use only; they must not be shared or circulated.

4. Chinese names: Chinese-language surnames appear first, followed by the given name, e.g., Mao Zedong refers to a person whose surname is “Mao” and given name “Zedong.”

I. Introduction

Yao, Aiden, “19th Party Congress Set to Usher in Changes as Politburo Reworked,” South China Morning Post, 4 January 2017, [http://www.scmp.com/business/china-business/article/2059305/19th-party-congress-set-usher-changes-politburo-reworked](http://www.scmp.com/business/china-business/article/2059305/19th-party-congress-set-usher-changes-politburo-reworked). *In Oct/Nov this year China’s Communist Party will hold a high-level meeting (the 19th Party Congress) that will reveal China’s new leadership line up and set the stage for economic policies in the coming years. This article gives some background and speculates about the outcome of that meeting. We will keep an eye on news about the 19th Party Congress and discuss during the term.*


II.A. China’s Economic Performance: Data and Measurement Issues

1. Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) Exchange Rates

A summary of blog posts by economists about the latest PPP exchange rate estimates, how they compare to the previous estimates, and relevance to China. [http://bruegel.org/2014/05/blogs-review-chinas-gdp-ppp-to-surpass-the-united-states/]

“The Big Mac Index: Global Exchange Rates To Go,” The Economist, 13 July 2016. [http://www.economist.com/content/big-mac-index/]. A short explanation of the Big Mac Index and 2017 data for China and other countries. Note that although according to the Big Mac Index China’s currency is undervalued relative to the US$, many other countries’ currencies are more undervalued.


Sumner, Andy, “The Donors’ Dilemma—Did Global Poverty Just Fall a Lot, Quite a Bit, or Not at All?” Global Policy, 16 June 2014, [http://www.globalpolicyjournal.com/blog/16/06/2014/donors%E2%80%99-dilemma-did-global-poverty-just-fall-lot-quiet-bit-or-not-all]. A blog discussing the relationship between PPP exchange rates and poverty measurement.


2. Reliability of China’s GDP Statistics


Naughton, “6, Growth and Structural Change,” pp. 1-6 only (06 Growth and Structural Change 2015.pdf)


Holz, Carsten, “The Quality of China’s GDP Statistics,” China Economic Review 30 (2014): 309-338, read only pp. 309-329 and the conclusion (skip section 4 on Benford’s Law). This article gives an excellent review of past and present problems with China’s official GDP statistics. He carries out some checks on the data and finds no evidence of deliberate falsification. (Note: This issue of the journal contains a special section on Chinese data issues, maybe relevant for some of your essays.)


*Wu, Harry X., “China’s Growth and Productivity Performance Debate Revisited—Accounting for China’s Sources of Growth with a New Data Set,” Conference Board Economics Program Working Paper EPWP #14-01, January 2014 [https://www.conference-board.org/pdf_free/workingpapers/EPWP1401.pdf]. New, alternate estimates of GDP growth and productivity growth from an economist who has spent many years working with these data for China. One of the few serious efforts to address data issues, although not everyone agrees with Wu’s estimates and conclusions. Fairly technical, but worth reading for the main points.


3. **Just for Fun: Some Other Chinese Data Issues (optional)**


**Martin, Michael F., “Trade data discrepancies between China and the US,” U.S. Congressional Research Service Report 7-5700, RS 22640, 24 March 2016, [https://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RS22640.pdf](https://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RS22640.pdf). An excellent report on discrepancies in trade data between China and the U.S. Many of the same discrepancies and problems are relevant when comparing Canadian and Chinese trade data. This article is listed again later on the reading list under foreign trade.**


**Gibson, John, “Rising Regional Inequality in China: Fact or Artefact?” East Asia Forum, 12 August 2012 [http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2012/08/12/rising-regional-inequality-in-china-fact-or-artefact/?preview=true](http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2012/08/12/rising-regional-inequality-in-china-fact-or-artefact/?preview=true). The full analysis is reported in Li, Chao and John Gibson, “Rising Regional Inequality in China: Fact or Artifact?” World Development, 47 (2013): 16-29. Discusses changes in measurement of population from registered to resident, and implications for measurement of provincial GDP per capita and inter-regional inequality.**


II.B. **China’s Economic Performance: Growth, Structural Change and Productivity**

Bloomberg News, “China’s Productivity Growth Is the Worst since the Asia Crisis,” Bloomberg Markets, Sept. 5, 2016, [http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-09-05/china-s-productivity-growth-is-the-worst-since-the-asia-crisis](http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-09-05/china-s-productivity-growth-is-the-worst-since-the-asia-crisis). A news report that productivity growth in China last year, measured as GDP per worker, slowed to 6.6%, the lowest growth since the late 1990s. (Keep in mind that labor productivity growth in Canada and similar countries has been below 2% in recent years.)

“Comparing Chinese Provinces with Countries—All the Parities in China: Which Countries Match the GDP, Population and Exports of Chinese Provinces?” The Economist [http://www.economist.com/content/all_parities_china]. A great map graphic showing for each province the level of GDP, population and exports matched to countries of comparable size. Data are a few years old (for 2010), but gives a sense of the regional diversity within China.


### II.C. China’s Economic Performance: Quality of Life


**State Council, “National Human Rights Action Plan of China 2012-2015.” Xinhuamenet.com, 11 June, 2012 [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2012-06/11/c_131645029.htm]. This is the latest official document outlining the plan for improving human rights over the last three years. It is worth skimming. It reflects the Chinese government and Communist party’s official perspective and policies regarding human rights, and in some ways contradicts or rebuts criticisms from outside.

III. Initial Conditions


IV.A. China’s Development Strategy: The Maoist Period


Mao Zedong, Quotations from Mao Zedong, Beijing: Foreign Languages Press, 1966 [available online at http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/works/red-book/]. This is also known as the “Little Red Book.” Everyone should read at least something by Mao—here’s a famous compilation of his quotations that you can peruse. Other works by Mao are also available on this website.

IV.B. China’s Development Strategy: The Post-Mao Reform Period, 1980s to 2013


Cheng Li. “China’s Team of Rivals.” Foreign Policy (March 1, 2009). [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/02/16/china_s_team_of_rivals?page=0,0] A discussion of the different views among the Communist leadership about China’s development strategy during the Hu-Wen period and the dynamics underlying economic policy directions even to the present.


IV.C. China’s Development Strategy: Policies and Outcomes, 1950s to 2013


Riskin, Carl. China’s Political Economy: The Quest for Development since 1949. New York: Oxford University Press, 1991, 53-183 (chapters 4-7) [posted on course website]. A detailed review of China’s economic policies and trends from the 1950s through the Great Leap and up to the Cultural Revolution. Lots of reading, but there’s a lot of territory to cover!


REVIEW relevant readings and lectures from I.A and II.B.


**Barry Naughton, “The Third Front: Defence Industrialization in the Chinese Interior.” China Quarterly No. 115 (Sept. 1988) 351-386. Discussion of the important Third Front policies, which China adopted in the mid-1960s and which continue to influence China’s economic structure and performance.**

**IV.D. China’s Development Strategy and Outcomes: Recent Developments 2013 to present**

Note: This is a preliminary list of readings. In Oct or Nov China will hold the 19th Communist Party Congress, at which there will changes in the leadership line up that will signal whether reform momentum will pick up in the future. I will add or substitute new readings here as interesting documents or analyses become available. Most of the readings listed below discuss policies announced at the Third Plenum and policy developments since then. The 2013 Third Plenum was a major policy meeting that marked the leadership transition and new policy directions when Xi Jinping assumed leadership. Different observers have different views of progress with reforms since 2013, but most agree that progress has been slow.)


Naughton, Barry, “What Are the Chances for Fundamental Policy Reform in China?” Keynote speech at the NYU Third Annual Conference on Chinese Capital Markets, 13 December 2013 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CYBUDIPIG4]. At the 3rd Plenary Session (Plenum) of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee in 2013, China’s leadership issued a document that announced the reform directions China would follow under its then new leader Xi Jinping. In this speech, Naughton explains and analyses the content of that document and its implications for China’s reform strategy.
“CCP Central Committee Resolution Concerning Some Major Issues in Comprehensively Deepening Reform,” passed at the 3rd Plenum of the 18th Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), 12 November 2013 [http://chinacopyrightandmedia.wordpress.com/2013/11/15/ccp-central-committee-resolution-concerning-some-major-issues-in-comprehensively-deepening-reform/]. Read sections I-VII. This is the key document from the 3rd Plenum discussed by Naughton in his speech. This document and Naughton’s speech provide important background for understanding economic policy and developments since 2013. Watch Naughton’s speech before you read this document, which is a bit heavy going.


Miller, Alice, “How to Read Xi Jinping’s 19th Party Congress Political Report,” China Leadership Monitor 53 (Spring 2017): http://www.hoover.org/sites/default/files/research/docs/clm53am.pdf. In anticipation of the 19th Party Congress, Miller explains the importance of this meeting and how to interpret the political report that will outline decisions regarding China’s economic and other priorities.


**“Report on the Implementation of the 2015 Plan for National Economic and Social Development and on the 2016 Draft Plan for National Economic and Social Development.” http://english.gov.cn/news/top_news/2016/03/19/content_281475310332486.htm. Read section II “Guiding the New Normal and Applying the New Development Philosophy in 2016,” which starts about a third of the way through, and skim the rest. This is a translation of the original five-year plan document adopted last March. It includes both the 13th Five Year Plan and also, first, a report summarizing progress during the previous 12th Five Year Plan.

V. Population and the Economy


Whyte, Martin K., Wang, Feng and Yong, Cai, “Challenging Myths about China’s One-Child Policy,” The China Journal 74 (2015): 144-159. Overview of China’s demographic policies before and since the one-child policy. Challenges the view that the one-child policy is the reason for the dramatic decline in China’s fertility rates.


VI. Inequality and Poverty


“China’s Inequality: Plan to Spread Wealth Must Be Matched by Hard Targets,” Financial Times, 10 February 2013 [http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/e5e12096-71ef-11e2-886e-00144feab49a.html#axzz2dHlp5k8t]. An opinion piece about China’s inequality and the recent policy plans to address inequality.


Sicular, Terry, Shi Li, Hiroshi Sato and Ximing Yue, “Changing Trends in China’s Inequality: Key Issues and Main Findings,” draft paper, 2017. (Will be posted on course website.) A summary of findings on recent trends in inequality and poverty from analysis of recent household survey data from the China Household Income Project (CHIP).


VII. Foreign Trade: China’s Emergence as a Trading Nation, and China-Canada Trade


Anderson, Jonathan. “Is China Export-led?” UBS Investment Research Asian Focus, September 27, 2009 [posted on course website, or [http://www.alloardsleadtochina.com/reports/prc_270907.pdf](http://www.alloardsleadtochina.com/reports/prc_270907.pdf)]. This analysis raises key questions regarding the measurement of exports and their role in China’s economic growth. The estimates he presents are not precise (see readings below for more careful estimates), but the questions he discusses are spot on.


*Felipe, Jesus, Utsav Kumar, Norio Usui, and Arnelyn Abdon. “Why Has China Succeeded? And Why Will It Continue To Do So?” Levy Economics Institute Working Paper No. 611, August, 2010. Course website or http://www.levyinstitute.org/pubs/wp_611.pdf. Looks at how China’s growth has been associated with innovation and structural change that has led to increased sophistication of its exports.


VIII. Panel Presentations: Topic List

I will assign topics to groups of 3-4 students based on sign ups among the following topics. Once topics are assigned, I can give some more suggested readings to get the groups started. Everyone in the class should read the readings below prior to each presentation.

A. The Political Economy of Reform & Relationship between Governance and Growth in China


B. Labor and Employment: Wages, Unemployment, Human Capital, Gender, and Related Policies

Naughton, “8. Labor and Human Capital,” (08 Labor 2015.pdf)

C. State Ownership versus Private Ownership in China’s Economy


D. Land Tenure and China’s Rural Development


E. Macro Policy: China’s Fiscal System and Policies


F. Macro Policy II: China’s Financial System and Monetary Policies


G. The Exchange Rate Regime: Policies and Economic Impacts

Naughton, “16 International Trade;” (16 International Trade 2015 Draft.pdf)

H. Foreign Investment: Inflows, Outflows and Economic Causes & Consequences

Naughton, “17. Foreign Investment and the Capital Account,” (17 Foreign Investment 2015 Draft.pdf)

I. The Canada-China Economic Relationship: What Should Trudeau Know in Order to Make Sound Policy Choices?

Remember that the University expects all students to take responsibility for their own academic Programs. Also remember to check your registration to make sure you are enrolled in the correct courses.

1. Guidelines and policies for the Faculty of Social Science and the Department of Economics are posted online in the current Western Academic Calendar at [http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca](http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca).


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 a notation on your official academic transcript, suspension or expulsion.

4. **Plagiarism:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge it by using quotation marks where appropriate and referencing with footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the current UWO Academic Calendar at [http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg113.html](http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg113.html)).

   The University of Western Ontario uses software to check for plagiarism and students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form. Those found guilty will have penalties imposed as noted in point 3.

5. It is Department of Economics policy that **NO** assignments be dated, stamped or accepted by staff. Students are responsible for submitting assignments in class or to the instructor during office hours.

6. When appealing a mark, students should refer to the University’s Procedures in the current UWO Academic Calendar ([http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg112.html](http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg112.html)). Please note the relevant deadlines.

   The Department will not consider any appeal unless an attempt has been made to settle the matter first with your instructor. If after this discussion you remain dissatisfied with a grade or other decision, you may proceed with a written appeal (e-mails are not acceptable) to the Undergraduate Director in Economics, stating the reasons for your appeal. A useful form and checklist is provided at ([http://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_counselling/responsibilities_policies.html#appeals](http://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_counselling/responsibilities_policies.html#appeals)).

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:

   **Last day to add a 1st term half course:**
   **Friday, September 15th, 2017**

   **Last day to add a 2nd term half course:**
   **Tuesday, January 16th, 2018**

   **Last day to drop 1st term half course without academic penalty:**
   **Monday, November 13th, 2017**

   **Last day to drop 2nd term half course without academic penalty:**
   **Wednesday, March 7th, 2018**
9. Faculty of Social Science policy states that oversleeping or misreading an exam schedule is not an excuse for a make-up. This rule applies to all mid-term tests and final exams in the Department of Economics.

Policy Regarding Makeup Tests and Final Examinations

Academic accommodation will not be granted automatically on request. You must demonstrate by documentation that there are compelling medical or compassionate grounds before academic accommodation will be considered.

If you decide to write a test or an examination, you must be prepared to accept the mark you earn. Rewriting tests or examinations, or having the value of the test or examination reweighted on a retroactive basis, is not permitted. Book airline flights after you know the dates of your final examinations. Airline flights must not conflict with test or final exams.

If you are requesting a makeup test for a midterm or a final examination, unless medically incapable, notify your instructor by email or phone, preferably prior to the scheduled date of the test, but definitely within 24 hours of the date of the test or exam. Failure to follow this procedure may result in denial of a request for academic accommodation or result in a grade of zero. Set up an appointment as soon as possible to meet personally with your instructor. If the instructor is not available, you may send an email message, copying the Undergraduate Coordinator at econugrd@uwo.ca (Social Science Room 4075). Notifying your instructor of a missed test or exam does not automatically entitle you to a makeup test.

Students who seek a makeup test or examination must provide medical or other relevant verification that their absence from a regularly scheduled test or examination is beyond their control. Documentation must support your reasons. Medical documentation should be given to the Academic Counselling Office of your home Faculty as soon as possible (preferably within 24 hours of the test) if you know you may not be able to write your final examination on the scheduled day and time. Failure to follow this procedure, or to provide supporting documentation, may result in denial of a request for academic accommodation or result in a grade of zero. If your documentation is not acceptable, you will be given a zero for the missed test.

For personal illness, if you consult Student Health Services regarding your illness or personal problem, you should request a Student Medical Certificate from the physician. If you were seen by an off-campus doctor, obtain a certificate from his/her office at the time of your visit. The off-campus medical certificate form must be used and can be found at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf. Notes stating "For Medical Reasons" are not considered sufficient.

For any other circumstances, if you are not sure what documentation to provide, ask your Academic Counsellor. If your documentation is judged sufficient, the Academic Counsellor will issue a Recommendation for a Special Examination (a single form for midterms or a triple color form for final examinations). Once you have this form, contact your instructor as soon as possible to make arrangements. Even if approved from your home faculty Academic Counsellor, there is no guarantee that you will be allowed to write the makeup test and exam.

For final examinations, you need permission from your home Faculty Counsellor, your instructor, and the Department Undergraduate Director. Failure to follow this procedure may result in an examination grade of zero. You must ensure that the Special Examination form has been signed by the instructor and Department Undergraduate Director and that the form is returned to the Academic Counselling Office for approval without delay. Make-up final examinations, if permitted, will be written within one month of the end of the exam period.
Policies Regarding Academic Accommodation

Information about the Faculty of Social Science's policies regarding academic accommodation is found on its website at http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp or in Social Science Room 2105. Your "Academic Rights and Responsibilities" are also outlined in the current UWO Calendar at http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg111.html. Claiming that “you didn’t know what to do” is not an acceptable excuse for not following the stated procedures.

Policy Regarding Class Attendance

If your instructor views your class attendance as unsatisfactory, you can be prohibited from writing the final examination. If there is intent to make use of this University policy, you will be notified in writing.

Statement on Mental Health and Support Services

If you or someone you know is experiencing emotional/mental distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/ for more information and a complete list of resources, as well as how to obtain help.
The University of Western Ontario  
Department of Economics  

Guidelines for Essay Courses

Essay Courses

An essay course is defined as a course in which the cumulative amount of written work, excluding written work in examinations, is normally at least 2,500 words (for a half course).

In order to pass an essay course the student must exhibit some minimal level of competence in essay writing as well as the appropriate level of knowledge of the content of the course.

English Language Proficiency for Assignment of Grades

Students must demonstrate the ability to write clearly and correctly. Written work on any subject that shows a lack of proficiency in English and is unacceptable for academic credit will be failed or, at the discretion of the instructor, returned to the student for revision to an acceptable literate level.

To foster competence in the use of the English language within their disciplines, all instructors will take proficiency in English into account in the assignment of grades. Note that this policy applies to all courses, not only essay courses.

Recycling of Assignments

Students are prohibited from handing in the same essay or paper for two different courses. This would be considered a scholastic offence and subject to academic penalties, including, but not limited to, the possibility of zero on that particular assignment.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as “the act or an instance of copying or stealing another’s words or ideas and attributing them as one’s own.”

The concept of plagiarism applies to ALL assignments and their component parts, including essays, reports, diagrams, statistical tables, and computer projects.

Below are examples of some common mistakes that constitute acts of plagiarism. It is plagiarism if you:

- Submit someone else’s work as your own
- Buy a paper from a paper mill, website or other source and submit it as your own work
- Copy sentences, phrases, paragraphs, or ideas from someone else’s work, published or unpublished, without giving the original author credit
- Replace selected words from a passage and use it as your own without giving the original author credit
- Copy any type of multimedia (graphics, audio, video, internet streams), computer programs, music compositions, graphs, or charts from someone else’s work without giving the original author credit
- Piece together phrases, ideas and sentences from a variety of sources to write an essay without giving the original authors credit

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1 From the UWO Academic Handbook. See http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/coursenumbering.pdf

2 From the UWO Academic Handbook. See http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/english.pdf


4 From the San José State University Plagiarism Tutorial http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/tutorial/plagiarism/
Build on someone else’s ideas or phrases to write your paper without giving the original author credit.

Plagiarism is a serious scholastic offence. Possible consequences of plagiarism include a mark of 0% on the assignment, a mark of 0% for the entire course, and expulsion from the university.

Purchasing an essay is a form of plagiarism and a very serious offence. The UWO Academic Calendar indicates that the penalty can be as severe as expulsion from the university.

Instructors may require students to submit their written work electronically to http://www.turnitin.com. Turnitin.com is a service that assists instructors and students in detecting and avoiding plagiarism.

Students wishing more guidance on how to avoid plagiarism or in doubt about whether their work constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor. Claiming that you did not know you have plagiarized is not an acceptable excuse.

The key to avoiding plagiarism is to cite references correctly and fully for the sources you use in your work. The next section provides a summary of style guidelines for citing references.

Referencing and Citation Guidelines

If you use the work or ideas of others in your work, you must acknowledge the contributions of the original authors and provide citations and references to their work.


Economics papers typically use the author-date style of references. A detailed explanation of the author-date style and numerous examples of citations for print and electronic sources are available in chapter 15 of the Chicago Manual of Style Online. See also the handy “Chicago-Style Citation Quick Guide” under Tools on the homepage.

In the body of an essay, in-text citations give the last names of the authors of the piece you are referencing, the year of publication, and, where relevant, page numbers. These in-text citations refer the reader to more complete bibliographic references given in a list of references at the end of the essay. If your paper cites multiple works by the same author(s) with the same publication year, the convention is to add a lower case letter after the date in both the in-text citation and the References, e.g., 1993a and 1993b. This way, the in-text citation points the reader to the correct work in the References.

Examples of in-text citations:

Diamond (1981, 1982) and Mortensen (1982a, 1982b) find these externalities can cause an inefficient level of search activity…

The “new view of unemployment” which emerged during the 1970s emphasized the importance of turnover in the labour force and the brief duration of many employments spells (Hall 1970, 1972; Perry 1972; Marston 1976).

The primary objectives of the LMAS are “1. To provide measures of the dynamic…the Labour Force Survey” (Statistics Canada 1990, 5).

The list of references at the end of the essay should be titled References or Works Cited. It provides more complete bibliographic information about each source cited. In addition to References, you should also provide adequate referencing of any data sources. This should be done in a data appendix following the text of the paper and before the References.
Examples of the author-date style in the References for some commonly used materials follow. Note that for a book with two or more authors, only the first author’s name is inverted, and a comma appears both before and after the first author’s given name or initials.

(i) BOOKS:

Lastname, Firstname. Copyright year. Title of Book. Place of Publication: Publisher’s Name.


(ii) JOURNAL ARTICLES OR ARTICLES IN A BANK REVIEW:


(iii) GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS:

Government Agency, Bureau or Department. Year. Title. Catalogue or issue number or additional information (where applicable).


(iv) NEWSPAPERS:

Lastname, Firstname. Year. “Title.” Name of Newspaper. Month day. Note that the page number should be given in the in-text citation, for example, (Sicular and Hartford 1989, 14).


(v) CHAPTERS IN EDITED BOOKS OR CONFERENCE VOLUMES:

Lastname, Firstname. Year. “Title.” In Title of Book/Volume, edited by Firstname Lastname, page range. Place of Publication: Publisher’s Name.


(vi) ONLINE BOOKS:

Lastname, Firstname. Year. Title. Place of Publication: Publisher. url/web address (access date).


(vii) ONLINE JOURNAL ARTICLES:

A DOI (digital object identifier) is preferable to a URL. If using a URL, use the address that appears in your browser’s address bar when viewing the article (or the abstract) unless a shorter, more stable form of the URL is offered along with the electronic article.
Writing an Economics Essay: Starting Points

The best place to start a written economics assignment is by reviewing your instructor’s description of and instructions for the assignment. If you have questions about the assignment, you should ask your instructor.

A good way to learn how economists write is to read work written by economists. Examples of economic writing can be found in the course outline, economics journals, working papers series, and other economic publications. Your instructor may be able to suggest good examples of published work or provide examples of good student work from past years.

Two books that provide useful advice on how to write for economics are:


Writing an Economics Essay: Resources

An excellent place to start looking for information and ideas is the Resources Link on the Department of Economics website (http://economics.uwo.ca/resources/index.html). Here you will find a comprehensive list of sources for published and unpublished economic papers, articles, books, theses, government publications, data, and so on.

The DB Weldon Library has an outstanding collection of materials in economics, including bibliographies, indexes, handbooks, and periodicals. Library holdings, the online library catalogue, and other resources are available electronically from the Western Libraries Homepage http://www.lib.uwo.ca/. Access is available anywhere there is an internet connection using the OffCampus Proxy Server on the Library main page.

There is a wealth of “how to” information, including YouTube videos, on the Library’s home page. You are strongly encouraged to take a library orientation tour, as well, to learn about where things are located physically and online, and where to go for assistance. You should feel free to consult library staff if you have any questions or are having difficulty using the library.

The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics is a good place to begin exploring topics in economics. The most comprehensive dictionary of economics in existence today, it features articles by influential economists in their areas of expertise. It is available online through the library catalogue, or in print in the Weldon’s Reference section (call # HB 61.N49 2008 v. 1-8).
*EconLit* (*Economic Literature*) is a comprehensive, indexed electronic bibliography of economic literature from 1969 to the present covering major journals, articles in collective volumes (essays, proceedings, etc.), books, book reviews, dissertations, and working papers. Citations, selected abstracts, and links to UWO’s full-text resources are provided. *EconLit* is available through the Library catalogue, or from the Library’s list of Databases found under “Research Tools” on the Library homepage [http://www.lib.uwo.ca/](http://www.lib.uwo.ca/).

You can download and print records from the *EconLit* database. Once you have successfully marked records of interest, download your marked records to a text file, send marked records by email, or export them to a citation manager such as *Refworks*.

*Refworks* is a bibliographic and citation software tool that can be used to construct citations and lists of references in the author-date and other styles. Search the library catalogue (title search) for *Refworks* for access using Western’s group access code.

*CANSIM* (*Canadian Socio-economic Information Management System*) is Statistics Canada’s computerized database of time series data covering a wide variety of social and economic aspects of Canadian life. Access the database by doing a Title Search on the Western Libraries Catalogue, or from the Library’s list of Databases found under “Research Tools” on the Library homepage [http://www.lib.uwo.ca/](http://www.lib.uwo.ca/).

*Western Undergraduate Economics Review (WUER)*

The Department of Economics encourages students to consider submitting their essays to the *Western Undergraduate Economics Review*, a journal published annually by the Department that showcases student work in economics. For information about the *WUER* and its submission guidelines, please visit [http://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/undergraduate_economics_review.html](http://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/undergraduate_economics_review.html)
Alumni Essay Prizes in Economics

The following criteria will be used, and each prize is valued at $550:

1. Students can only win an Alumni Prize once.

2. Two prizes may be awarded at the end of the academic term. One for a student registered in a 2100 level course and one for a student registered in a 2200 or higher level course. Economics 4400E is not eligible for this as it has its own paper prize.

3. Instructors will nominate students for the prize. The paper should be submitted to the Undergraduate Coordinator for consideration by the Essay Prize Committee, which will decide the winner.

4. The Essay Prize Committee will consist of the Undergraduate Program Director, WUER Faculty Advisor and one other faculty member. The decision of the Committee is final and cannot be appealed.

5. Papers will be judged on content, originality, use of references, spelling and grammar.

The grade given to the paper will not influence the decision of the Essay Prize Committee as all comments by the original marker will be removed.

The deadlines for submissions are:

   Fall courses: December 21\textsuperscript{st}
   Winter courses: April 30\textsuperscript{th}

The winner of the essay prize will have his/her paper submitted in the spring to the Western Undergraduate Economics Review. Other appropriate papers may also be submitted.