

The University of Western Ontario
Department of Economics
**Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory
and Policy I**
ECONOMICS 2152B-002
Winter 2017

Instructor: Bohan Li

Lecture Time and Location: M 11:30am - 1:30pm, W 12:30pm - 1:30pm, SH 3345

Top Hat: <https://www.tophat.com>, Join Code: 777954

Office Hours: T 3:00-4:00; Th 4:00pm - 5:00pm, SSC 4035

Email: bli296@uwo.ca (Please use subject "[Econ 2152]" in all emails)

Course Website: <https://owl.uwo.ca>

Undergraduate Inquiries: 519-661-3507, SSC 4075, or email to econugrd@uwo.ca

Course Description:

This is the first course in the macroeconomic theory sequence. This course mainly introduces the methodology macroeconomists use. We'll start by reviewing the construction of macroeconomic variables and their behavior over the business cycle. We'll cover the building blocks of a dynamic general equilibrium model, with special emphasis on the worker's labor-leisure choice and intertemporal consumption choice. We'll also discuss the reasons behind these modeling choices.

Textbook:

Williamson, Stephen D., *Macroeconomics*, 4th Canadian edition, Pearson Canada, 2013.

It is required that students have access to the textbook, and they are highly recommended to have the study guide as well. A copy of the textbook will be available in the reserve section of the Weldon library once the term begins.

The course will cover material beyond the textbook, and this material can show up on quizzes and exams. Please consult the lecture notes for these materials.

Registration:

You are responsible for ensuring you are registered in the correct courses. If you are not registered in a 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 Counselor immediately.

Prerequisites:

- Economics 1021A/B and 1022A/B, or Economics 2001A/B
- MCV4U, or Mathematics 0110A/B, or Calculus 1000A/B, or Calculus 1500A/B, or Mathematics 1225A/B, or Calculus 1100A/B.

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites. 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.

Learning Outcomes:

After completing this course, a successful student will be able to:

1. Describe the questions macroeconomists examine and what methods they use to answer them.
2. Recall the way macroeconomic variables are constructed and their behavior over the business cycle.
3. Explain the components of a dynamic general equilibrium model and what endogenous variables they determine.
4. Translate written descriptions of consumers, firms, governments, and markets into equations and graphs.
5. Solve for the optimal behavior of consumers and firms using equations and graphs.
6. Solve for the equilibrium of macroeconomic models using equations and graphs.
7. Find the effect of changing exogenous variables on the equilibrium using equations, graphs, and economic reasoning.

Assessment:

The course grade will be based on four assignments, one midterm exams, the final exam, and in-class questions using Top Hat. The distribution of the marks is as follows:

Assessment	Weight
Top Hat	10% (see Top Hat, below)
Assignments	20% (5% each)
Midterm exam	30%
Final exam	40%

Top Hat: I will use the Top Hat application to ask questions during class. These questions may come with marks for participation and/or correctness. For each class, I will replace the mark for Top Hat with your mark on the next exam if your mark on the next exam is higher. You need to subscribe to the Top Hat application to submit your responses. If you do not wish to subscribe, the marks will be reweighted to the midterm and final exams equally. Please contact me if you are unable to purchase the subscription.

Assignments: Assignments are due in class or to my mailbox (SSC 4019) by 3pm on the indicated date. Please attach the required cover page to the front of your assignment. Late assignments will be penalized by 10% for each day it's late.

Exams: Midterm and final exams will contain multiple choice problems and short answer problems. All exams are closed book. All electronic devices, except for a non-programmable calculator, will be prohibited during exams.

Policy Regarding Missing Midterm Exam: If a midterm exam is missed for acceptable reasons, a make-up exam will be provided if the student is able to take it within 5 days of the exam date. Otherwise, the assessment will be adjusted to redistribute the missed midterm exam's weight to the final exam. Students must provide medical or other relevant documentation that support their reasons for the absence to the Academic Counseling Office of your home Faculty.

Tentative Assessment Schedule:

Please note that the following is a tentative schedule and the dates and material covered is subject to change. All changes in schedule and deadlines will be announced in advance in class and/or on OWL. Students are responsible for learning about these changes.

Date	Assessment	Coverage
Jan 23	Assignment 1 Due	Ch 1, 2, 3, Math Review
Feb 8	Assignment 2 Due	Ch 4
Feb 16 (7-9pm)	Midterm 1	Ch 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Mar 13	Assignment 3 Due	Ch 9
Mar 27	Assignment 4 Due	Ch 11
TBA	Final exam	Ch 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12

Please Note
Department Policies for 2016 – 2017

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>.
2. Students must familiarize themselves with the “Rules of Conduct for Examinations” <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg136.html>.
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/2016/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/2016/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).

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 first term half course:
Friday, January 13th, 2017

Last day to **drop** first term half course without academic penalty:
Tuesday, March 7th, 2017
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 Counselor. If your documentation is judged sufficient, the academic counselor 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 Counseling 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/2016/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.