

MACROECONOMIC POLICY ECONOMICS EC2139F-001

Department of Economics
Western University

L. MacDonald

September 2020

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E-mail: lmacdon5@uwo.ca, Please write **EC 2139** in the subject heading of your e-mail to ensure that I receive it.

Office Hours (tentative) via Zoom: Mondays 1:30-3:00 pm

Classroom meeting times via zoom: This is an online live (synchronous) Zoom class which takes place M: 4:30-6:30pm; W: 5:30 - 6:30pm (ET). You are expected to be available during these times for lectures, discussions, and exams and attend classes regularly. You will be tested on the class discussion, not just materials posted on OWL. Note that all times are times in London, ON (ET) and *allowances will not be made for students in different time zones, or students who miss classes*. You must use your UWO credentials to enter our class site. ***Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the system requirements for Zoom. Information about the system requirements are available at the following link: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us>.***

Course website: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>. This will provide a schedule of readings as well as pertinent dates, etc. It will provide some course content, but not all. You should check the site regularly for current updates to the reading list and announcements.

Undergraduate inquiries: 519-661-3507 SSC Room 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 prerequisite(s) for this course is (are) **Economics 2152**. Economics 2153 is recommended. You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken any anti-requisite courses. 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 Objectives:

This is an essay course dealing with contemporary macroeconomic issues. The class will be primarily **seminar style, NOT lecture style**, where assigned articles and chapter readings will be discussed in class by the instructor as well as the students. Therefore, it is important that assigned readings be read *before* class, as assigned readings will not be summarized in class. You are responsible for **all material covered in lectures**, as well as the assigned readings. Some topics not in the readings will be covered in class, and you will be responsible for them.

Course Learning Outcomes:

- Students will be able to distinguish between fiscal policy and monetary policies and evaluate strengths and weaknesses of various other policies
- Students will be able to apply economic concepts to critically analyze fiscal, monetary and other policies
- Students will choose, research and write a research proposal and essay on a macroeconomic topic approved by the instructor
- Students will be able to use economic concepts to discuss and participate in classroom discussions on various topics dealing with fiscal and monetary policies
- Students will be able to critically analyze various readings and statistics on key macroeconomic policies and provide their own policy recommendations

Textbook:

There are no textbooks for this course. There will be many assigned readings.

Technical Requirements:

- Laptop or computer
- Stable internet connection
- Microphone
- Webcam

For technical support, see the OWL Help page or contact Western Technology Services Helpdesk (<https://wts.uwo.ca/about-wts/contact.html>). Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox are the preferred browsers for OWL; update your browser frequently.

Grading:

ASSESSMENT: Your course grade will be computed in the following way. Note that all times are dates and times in London, ON (ET). Extensions, makeups, allowances *will not be provided* for students in different time zones as this is a live online class.

Class Participation	Ongoing (hopefully including one or two debates)	10%
Essay Proposal	Due <u>no later than</u> Monday, October 26 th at 4:30 pm (EDT)	5%
Midterm exam*	Monday, October 19th 4:30 – 6:30 pm (EDT)-class time	25%
Essay (greater than 2499 words)	Due <u>no later than</u> Monday, November 23 rd at 4:30 pm (EST)	31%
Final exam	To be set by the registrar	29%

**to be confirmed by the Registrar.*

As this is an essay class, failure to submit the essay of the required length will automatically lead to failing the course, regardless of grades received on the other assessments.

Participation: this grade will be calculated based on classroom discussions during which you should demonstrate that you have read the assigned readings. Participation is **not** the same as attendance. You must participate during our live Zoom classes in order to receive a grade. Also, there may be some mandatory classes where attendance will be taken and marks will be deducted for non-attendance. Participation may also include one or two in class debates, if workable. Participation may also include items such as exit surveys, online discussions, etc. More information will be provided later.

Essay: Students can satisfy this requirement with one major essay (2500-3000 words, greater than 10 typed pages, not including tables, figures, appendices, footnotes or bibliography). The instructor **MUST** approve the topic chosen by the student in advance. There will be some topics that you will not be allowed to choose. These will be discussed in class. Submission of a purchased or recycled essay will result in a mark of zero being recorded for the essay requirement of the course. More information will be posted later on OWL.

Students must submit your paper electronically to Turnitin.com, through the Assignments tab on OWL. If you do not submit your paper to Turnitin.com, your paper will not be marked and it will be given a grade of zero. Instructions for submission will be provided later.

NB: there will be **penalties applied** at the discretion of the instructor if the paper is **less than** 2500 words **or exceeds** 3000 words. Feel free to hand in your essay or proposal early if that fits better with your schedule. Late penalties are listed below.

Late paper penalties (apply to the proposal and the essay):

10 points	1- 24 hours late	
20 points	24 - 48 hours late	NB: weekends will count when
30 points	48 - 72 hours late	deciding on late paper penalties
50 points	72 - 96 hours late	
no credit	if more than 96 hours late, but the proposal must still be submitted	

Note: I will NOT accept excuses such as “I can’t open the file,” “I lost the disk”, etc. I highly recommend that you save multiple versions of your essay on your hard drive and on disk.

All submitted documents (proposal, essay, midterm, final exam) will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between Western University and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Makeup Policy:

Makeups for the midterm and final exam will be granted with approved documentation **only (approved by both the Instructor and Academic Counseling)**. Students **must** follow Western University’s procedures for approval of their absence from any exam in order to receive an accommodation. Please see the **Please Note Department Policies for 2020-2021** section of this syllabus for details on these procedures. If during the Fall 2020 term Western University announces any changes to these procedures, please follow those procedures.

Students with an **approved** absence (approved by both Academic Counseling and the instructor) from the midterm exam or final exam AND who e-mailed me **within 48 hours of the exam** will be able to write the makeup, which will be at a time scheduled by the Department. There will be one time for the makeup exam, which may be zoom-proctored and have a different format or length than the originally scheduled exam. If students are unable to write the midterm makeup at the time scheduled, students may be required to write a 3 hour cumulative final exam.

If students do not follow the deadlines stated, the instructor will assign a grade of zero. The medical certificate can be found at https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_document.pdf.

All submitted documents (quizzes, midterm, final exam) will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between Western University and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

The exams: will be primarily short answer essay style (True, false uncertain, explain), which will cover the readings assigned in class plus material covered in lectures.

Examinations in this course will be conducted using Zoom. You will be required to keep your camera on for the entire session, hold up your student card for identification purposes, and share your screen with the invigilator if asked to do so at any time during the exam. The exam session will not be recorded. More information about the use of Zoom for exam invigilation is available in the Online Proctoring Guidelines at the following link:

<https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/onlineproctorguidelines.pdf>

Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the system requirements for Zoom. Information about the system requirements is available at the following link: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us>.

** Please note that Zoom servers are located outside Canada. If you would prefer to use only your first name or a nickname to login to Zoom, please discuss this with your instructor in advance of the test or examination.*

Classroom Policies:

Classroom Behavior: Standard rules of netiquette apply in the virtual classroom. You are to behave so as not to be a distraction to me or to your fellow students. Those students who repeatedly break these rules will be asked to leave the virtual classroom (this includes chronic lateness).

- 1) You are to give full attention to anyone speaking, whether myself or a fellow student. Turn off (or put on vibrate) your cell phone. Do not answer your cell phone in class.
- 2) Be on time for class. If you are late or have to leave early, enter and exit as quietly as possible.
- 3) Please use your computer and/or laptop if possible (as opposed to a cell phone or tablet).
- 4) Please be prepared to turn your video camera off at the instructor's request if the internet connection becomes unstable. [L] [SEP]
- 5) Unless invited by your instructor, do not share your screen in the meeting. [L] [SEP]
- 6) The course instructor will act as moderator for the class and will deal with any questions from participants. To participate please consider the following: [L] [SEP]
 - a) If you wish to speak, use the "raise hand" function and wait for the instructor to acknowledge you before beginning your comment or question [L] [SEP]
 - b) Remember to unmute your microphone and turn on your video camera before speaking and remember to mute your mic and turn off your video camera after speaking (unless directed otherwise) [L] [SEP]
 - c) Please self-identify when speaking. [L] [SEP]

General considerations of "netiquette": [L] [SEP]

- d) Keep in mind the different cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the students in the course. [L] [SEP]
- e) Be courteous toward the instructor, your colleagues, and authors whose work you are [L] [SEP] discussing. [L] [SEP]
- f) Be respectful of the diversity of viewpoints that you will encounter in the class and in your [L] [SEP] readings. The exchange of diverse ideas and opinions is part of the scholarly environment. [L] [SEP]
- g) Be professional and scholarly in all online postings. Cite the ideas of others appropriately. [L] [SEP] Note that disruptive behaviour of any type during online classes, including inappropriate use of the chat function, is unacceptable. Students found guilty of Zoom-

bombing a class or of other serious online offenses may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct. ^[1]_[SEP]

The first session and some of the following remote learning sessions for this course may be recorded by the instructor. The data captured during these recordings may include your image, voice recordings, chat logs and personal identifiers (name displayed on the screen). The recordings will be used for educational purposes related to this course. The recordings may be disclosed to other individuals under special circumstances. Please contact the instructor if you have any concerns related to session recordings.

Participants in this course ***are not permitted to record the sessions***, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. If students record lectures without permission, this will be viewed as an academic offense and will be subject to academic penalties.

OWL: It is your responsibility to check the OWL site for this class as well as your email on a regular basis. You are responsible for any announcements or assignments made in class as well as on OWL. This includes any changes made to the syllabus as well as assignment changes.

Attendance Policy: You are expected to attend virtual class on a regular basis. There will be many class discussions that will form the basis of exam questions. Also, there is a strong correlation between class attendance and performance! If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what you have missed from a classmate. I do **NOT** provide my lectures to students, other than what is on OWL.

E-mail Policies:

Please refer carefully to the following e-mail policies. According to FIPPA, I am not allowed to respond to non-UWO email addresses. So please use your UWO email address in all communications and for our Zoom sessions. Also, please enter the course number in the subject heading of your email. I will try to respond to all emails within 48 hours, not counting the weekend. I will **NOT** respond to emails such as the following:

- 1) Any question that is on this syllabus or elsewhere on OWL: such as assignment dates, exam times, course material etc. If you have not received a reply to your question, check the syllabus and OWL.
- 2) The late penalty schedule for the essay is clearly stated on the syllabus, refer to it if needed.
- 3) Requests for extra assignments, reweighting of assignments etc. as these are prohibited under Senate regulations.
- 4) Requests for my lecture notes. I do not provide my lecture notes to students, other than the material which is on OWL.
- 5) Please use the forums on OWL to ask your questions so that all students can benefit from your questions and answers, unless your question is personal in nature or pertains specifically to your essay topic.

How to do well?

Treat this course as you would a face-to-face course. Attend class and keep up with the readings, lectures and forums. Unless otherwise instructed, you must read the recommended readings **BEFORE** class in order to actively participate in class.

Follow the calendar on OWL. Pay attention to the announcements.

Ask questions when you have them. Do not be afraid to ask questions. Check the forums if you have questions. Asking questions about class content is a form of participation. Attend virtual office hours. Connect with others. Form virtual or physical study groups to bounce ideas off each other.

You will not do well if you try to just memorize definitions, facts etc. Try to think about the overall concepts, ideas, and policies. You will be tested primarily using short answer questions where you will need to think about advantages and disadvantages **ECONOMICALLY** of policies, lessons learned, etc. You cannot do well on these types of questions if you do not think about the concepts. Think of the big picture!

Note: you will be tested on all material covered in the course, unless you are told otherwise. This includes the extra topics included, the topics in the forums, the lecture notes, etc.

Professionalism, Privacy and Copyright:

- Students are expected to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#)
- All lectures and course materials, including slides, presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. Students may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational purposes only.
- Students may not record lectures and may not reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, assessments, or any other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without written consent.
- Recordings (audio or video) are not permitted without written consent. Permitted recordings may not be distributed or shared.
- Students are expected to follow online etiquette expectations described above.
- Students will be expected to take an academic integrity pledge before all assessments.
- The instructor may record some sessions. Recorded sessions will remain within the course site or unlisted if streamed.

PRELIMINARY (VERY TENTATIVE) READING SCHEDULE; readings **will** be added or deleted based on student and professor interest. The major topics discussed in class *may NOT* be used for your essay. **Follow the calendar on OWL to see the most updated required readings. As this course is a seminar class which deals with current events, the reading list will evolve as the course progresses.**

KEY TOPICS

- 1) **International Trade Policy, with a focus on NAFTA and the USMCA (or CUSMA).**
- 2) **Brexit**
- 3) **Economic Effects of COVID-19**
 - A) **Impacts on Monetary Policy, Bank of Canada Policies**
 - B) **Impacts on Fiscal Policy, links to government deficits and debts**

4) 2008 Financial Crisis, with a comparison to COVID-19

5) There will be one or two “mini-topics” that will be chosen via class consensus if time permits.

Introduction

Brander, James A. *Government Policy Toward Business*, 5th edition, John Wiley & Sons, Canada Ltd, Mississauga, 2014. Refer to PPT slides under Resources on OWL.

1) **POSSIBLE READINGS FOR NAFTA/USMCA(CUSMA):**

Instructor lecture notes on trade and tariffs.

Robinson, Colin. “ NAFTA Primer for Canadians”, Canadian Global Affairs Institute, August 2017. https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/cdfai/pages/2821/attachments/original/1502737800/A_NAFTA_Primer_for_Canadians.pdf?1502737800

Ciuriak, Dan and Meredith Crowley, “Weaponizing Uncertainty: Trade Policy under the Trump Administration”, CD Howe Institute, June 19, 2018. <https://www.cdhowe.org/public-policy-research/weaponizing-uncertainty-trade-policy-under-trump-administration>

“The World Trading System is under Attack”, July 19, 2018, The Economist, found at <https://www-economist-com.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/briefing/2018/07/19/the-world-trading-system-is-under-attack>

Ciuriak, Dan and Jinglian Xiao, “CD Howe Intelligence Memo”, June 6, 2018. https://www.cdhowe.org/sites/default/files/blog_Dan%20and%20Jingliang_0606.pdf

2) **Possible readings for Brexit**

The Economist, “ The Chilling Economic Effects of Brexit Uncertainty are Intensifying” , August 15, 2019. <https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2019/08/15/the-chilling-economic-effects-of-brexit-uncertainty-are-intensifying>

Note: login through Weldon Libraries to get free access to the Economist.

Tetlow, Gemma and Alex Stojanovic, “Understanding the Economic Impact of Brexit”, Institute for Government, November 2018. <https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/sites/default/files/Economic%20impact%20of%20Brexit%20summary.pdf>

Rand Corporation, “Examining Economic Outcomes after Brexit”, nd. <https://www.rand.org/randeurope/research/projects/brexit-economic-implications.html>.

3) **Possible Readings for COVID-19 Effects**

Gans, Joshua. “Economics in the Age of COVID-19”. MIT Press, forthcoming. It can be found for free here: <https://economics-in-the-age-of-covid-19.pubpub.org>.

OECD, Economic Outlook. <http://www.oecd.org/economic-outlook/>

Worldbank, “The Global Economic Outlook during the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Changed World”, June 2020. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2020/06/08/the-global-economic-outlook-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-a-changed-world>

CD Howe, “Dashboard”, <http://dashboard.cdhowe.org> (provides key stats for the Canadian economy)...handy resource

International Monetary Fund, “Policy Responses to COVID-19”, <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

Hartley, Jonathan S. and Alessandro Rebucci, “An Event Study of COVID-19 Central Bank Quantitative Easing in advanced and Emerging Economies”, National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 27229, June 2020. <https://www.nber.org/papers/w27339.pdf>

Alberola, Enrique, Yavuz Arslan, Gong Cheng and Richhild Moessner, “Fiscal Response to COVID-19 in Advanced and Emerging Market Economies” BIS Bulletin No 23, Bank for International Settlement, June 2020. <https://www.bis.org/publ/bisbull23.pdf>

3A) POSSIBLE READINGS FOR MONETARY POLICY:

Instructor Lecture notes on Money Model and Links to Inflation

Instructor Lecture notes on Exchange Rate targeting versus inflation rate targeting.

Bank of Canada, “Our COVID-19 response; negotiating diverse economic impacts”.

<https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2020/06/our-covid-19-response-navigating-diverse-economic-impacts/>

Bank of Canada, “ COVID-19: Actions to Support the Economy and Financial System”,

<https://www.bankofcanada.ca/markets/market-operations-liquidity-provision/covid-19-actions-support-economy-financial-system/>

Cavallino, Paolo and Fiorella de Fiore, “Central Banks’ Response to COVID-19 in Advanced Economies”, BIS Bulletin, No 21, Bank for International Settlement, June 2020.

<https://www.bis.org/publ/bisbull21.pdf>

Eichenbaum, Martin, Johannsen, Benjamin K and Sergio Robelo. “Understanding the Volatility of the Exchange Rate”, CD Howe Commentary, February 2018.

https://cdhowe.org/sites/default/files/attachments/research_papers/mixed/Final%20Feb%205%20Cocmm%20502_web.pdf

Instructor Lecture notes on “Inflation Targets vs. International Monetary Integration”, Laidler 2002 summary.

3B) Possible Readings for Fiscal Policy

Tasker, John Paul, “Ottawa to Post \$343B Deficit as Spending Hits Levels not seen since Second World War”, CBC, July 8, 2020. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/bill-morneau-fiscal-update-budget-deficit-1.5641864>

Robson, William BP, “COVID-19 must not Undermine Governments’ Fiscal Accountability”, CD Howe memo, June 25, 2020. <https://www.cdhowe.org/intelligence-memos/william-bp-robson---covid-19-must-not-undermine-governments'-fiscal>

Kronick, Jeremy M, “A Baseline Understanding of Fiscal Sustainability”, CD Howe Memo, June 15, 2020. <https://www.cdhowe.org/intelligence-memos/jeremy-m-kronick---baseline-understanding-fiscal-sustainability>

Hanniman, Kyle, “COVID-19, Fiscal Federalism and Provincial Debt: Have we Reached a Critical Juncture?”, Canadian Journal of Political Science, Vol 53, 2790285, 2020. https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-cambridge-core/content/view/CECCDA17E5548F344889908561D22B3A/S0008423920000621a.pdf/covid19_fiscal_federalism_and_provincial_debt_have_we_reached_a_critical_juncture.pdf

4) POSSIBLE READINGS FOR THE 2008 FINANCIAL CRISIS

Instructor Lecture notes on the Financial Crisis.

Bernanke, Ben. *The Federal Reserve and the Financial Crisis*, Princeton University Press, New Jersey, 2013. Also available online through Weldon’s proxy server at <http://lib.myilibrary.com.proxy2.lib.uwo.ca/ProductDetail.aspx?id=436400>

Taylor, John B, *Getting Off Track: How Government Actions and Interventions Caused, Prolonged and Worsened the Financial Crisis*, Hoover Institution Press, Stanford University, 2009. http://www.2shared.com/document/EgsDAIBM/Getting_Off_Track_-_How_Govern.html, http://books.google.ca/books/about/Getting_Off_Track.html?id=qv1TkncYjXYC&redir_esc=y

Blinder, Alan S. *After the Music Stopped: The Financial Crisis, The Response and the Work Ahead*. The Penguin Press, New York, 2013.

Scott, Kenneth E, “The Financial Crisis: Causes and Lessons”, in *Ending Government Bailouts as we know them*, eds. Kenneth E Scott, George Schultz, John Taylor, Hoover Institution Press, Stanford University, California, 2009.

The Inside Job, optional viewing.

OPTIONAL BACKGROUND READING: Students are encouraged to read the editorial/commentary pages of the *Globe and Mail* or *Financial Post* or equivalent regularly and to skim the *Economist* weekly. This will help you choose an essay topic.

David Laidler and William Robson. *Two Percent Target, Canadian Monetary Policy since 1991*,

2004. CD Howe Institute, Weldon Call Number : HG655.L345 2004 N. Chapters 1, 3, 6, and 8.

David Laidler, Editor. *Securing Monetary Stability: Canada's Monetary Policy Regime after 2011*, CD Howe Institute. Weldon Call Number: [HG655.S435 2010](#), This item is also available online through Western Libraries.

Thiessen, Gordon. "The Canadian Experience with Targets for Inflation Control", *Canadian Public Policy*, Vol XXIV, No. 4, 1998 (December). You can access this from the CPP website at <http://economics.ca/cpp/>

Please Note
Department & University Policies for 2020-2021

The University expects all students to take responsibility for their own Academic Programs. Students should check their registration to ensure they are enrolled in the correct courses.

Academic Rights and Responsibilities: Students should be familiar with their “Academic Rights and Responsibilities” as outlined [here](#) in the Western Academic Calendar. Claiming that “you didn’t know what to do” is not an acceptable excuse for not following the stated procedures.

Guidelines and Policies for Students are posted online in the current Western Academic Calendar at <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca>. Undergraduate information for the Faculty of Social Science can be found at: <https://www.ssc.uwo.ca/undergraduate/index.html> and for the Department of Economics at: <https://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/index.html>.

Rules of Conduct for Examinations: Students are expected to know the university’s Rules of Conduct for Examinations, available [here](#).

Cheating and Academic Offences: Students are responsible for understanding what it means to “cheat.” The Department of Economics treats cheating and other academic offences 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 Economics courses or programs. The University may impose further penalties such as suspension or expulsion.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is an academic offence. Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Ideas/passages taken from another author must be referenced with footnotes or citations and acknowledged with quotation marks where appropriate. Western University uses software to check for plagiarism and students may be required to electronically submit their work. Those found guilty will be penalized as noted in point 3. See Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students [here](#) in the Western Academic Calendar.

Academic Appeals: Students should refer to the Student Academic Appeals section [here](#) in the Western Academic Calendar. Please note the relevant deadlines.

Department Appeals Procedures: The Department will not consider an appeal unless an attempt has been made to settle the matter with the instructor first. Students who remain dissatisfied with the outcome may submit a written appeal to the Undergraduate Director in Economics, stating the reasons for their appeal. Information on the Department of Economics’ appeals procedure and the appeals form are available [here](#).

Systematic Adjustments: Systematic adjustments of class grade distributions (either up or down) can occur in Economics courses. The systematic adjustment of a class grade distribution is **not** grounds for an appeal.

Add/drop deadlines:

Deadline to add a first term half course:

Thursday September 17, 2020

Deadline to drop a first term half course:

Thursday November 12, 2020

Oversleeping or Misreading the Exam Schedule: Faculty of Social Science policy states that oversleeping or misreading the exam schedule is NOT grounds for a makeup. This rule applies to all exams in the Department of Economics.

End of Term Travel: Students must book travel arrangements AFTER final exam dates have been posted; travel is not an acceptable excuse for absence from a final exam.

Rewriting Exams and Retroactive Reweighting are NOT Permitted: Students who proceed to write a test or examination must be prepared to accept the mark. Rewriting tests or examinations, or retroactive reweighting of marks, is **not** permitted.

Accommodation Policies: Students with disabilities should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD), which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence: Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office for more information about the relevant documentation. It is strongly recommended that students notify the instructor as soon as possible, ideally before the assessment, when they become aware of an absence. University policy is that students must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the SMC or immediately upon their return from their documented absence. Failure to follow University policy and procedures may result in denial of academic accommodation and a grade of zero.

Individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds or for other reasons. **All required documentation for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see:
[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs.](#)

For the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Religious Accommodation: Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Policy Regarding Class Attendance and Engagement: If the instructor deems a student's attendance or engagement in the class to be unsatisfactory, that student may be prohibited from writing the final examination. Examples of unsatisfactory class engagement include frequent absences from an in-person or synchronous online class, lack of assignment submissions, and inadequate use of online course materials. Instructors who intend to make use of this policy will notify the student in advance.

Statement on Mental Health and Support Services: Students under emotional/mental distress should visit http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for more information and a complete list of resources on how to obtain help.

Guidelines for Essay Courses

Essay Courses¹

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

To pass an essay course, students must exhibit a minimal level of competence in essay writing in addition to comprehension of the course content.

English Language Proficiency for Assignment of Grades²

Written work that demonstrates a lack of English proficiency will be failed or, at the discretion of the instructor, returned to the student for revision to an acceptable level.

To foster competence in the English language, *all instructors will take English proficiency into account when marking*. This policy applies to all courses, not only essay courses.

Recycling of Assignments

Students are prohibited from handing in the same paper for two different courses. Doing so is considered a scholastic offence and will be subjected to academic penalties.

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.”³

Plagiarism applies to ALL assignments including essays, reports, diagrams, statistical tables, and computer projects. Examples of plagiarism include:⁴

- Submitting someone else’s work as your own
- Buying a paper from a mill, website or other source and submitting it as your own
- Copying sentences, phrases, paragraphs, or ideas from someone else’s work, published or unpublished, without citing them
- Replacing selected words from a passage from someone else’s work and using it as your own without citing them
- Copying multimedia (graphics, audio, video, internet streams), computer programs, music compositions, graphs, or charts from someone else’s work without citing them
- Piecing together phrases and ideas from a variety of sources without citing them
- Building on someone else’s ideas or phrases without citing them

¹From 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

³Excerpted from HC Black, *Black’s Law Dictionary*, West Publishing Co., 1999, 7th ed., p. 1170.

⁴ Adapted from the San José State University Plagiarism Tutorial <https://libguides.sjsu.edu/plagiarism>

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

Instructors may require students to submit written work electronically to <http://www.turnitin.com>. This is a service that assists instructors in detecting plagiarism.

Students seeking further guidance on avoiding plagiarism should consult their instructor. ***Claiming ignorance is not an acceptable excuse.***

The key to avoiding plagiarism is to correctly cite reference sources.

Referencing and Citation Guidelines

The Economics Department has adopted the citation guidelines used in *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 16th edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010. You can find an online version on the Western Libraries website. Go to <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/essayhelp/index.html> and click on 'style guides'. For off-campus access, use the *OffCampus Access* sign-in on the Library's homepage.

Economics papers often use the in-text **author-date** style of citations and references. Details and examples of this style are shown 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 list the last names of the authors of the piece that are referenced, the year of publication, and, where relevant, page numbers. In-text citations refer the reader to a complete list of bibliographic references at the end of the essay. Papers that cite multiple works by the same author(s) with the same publication year should add a lower case letter after the date in both the in-text citation and References (e.g., 1993a and 1993b). In doing so, the in-text citation points the reader to the relevant work.

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 should provide complete bibliographic information about each source cited. In addition, students should also provide adequate referencing of any data sources. This can be done in a data appendix following the text of the paper and before the References.

Examples of the format and content of references can be found here: <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/files/styleguides/ChicagoStyleAuthorDate.pdf>.

Writing an Economics Essay: Starting Points

To start a written assignment, review your professor's instructions. Read published work written by economists, which will give you examples of the structure and content of economics writing. Examples are readings in the course outline, journals, working papers, etc.

Two helpful sources that give information about how to write for economics are:

McCloskey, Dierdre N. 2000. *Economical Writing*, 2nd edition. Prospect Heights, Illinois: Waveland Press.

Greenlaw, Steven A. 2006. *Doing Economics: A Guide to Understanding and Doing Economic Research*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Co.

Writing an Economics Essay: Resources

The **Resources Link** on Western University's Department of Economics website (<http://economics.uwo.ca/resources/index.html>) provides a link to a list of sources for published and unpublished economic papers, articles, books, theses, government publications, data, etc. Western Libraries has a very useful economics resource page <https://guides.lib.uwo.ca/economics>.

DB Weldon Library has a collection of bibliographies, indexes, handbooks, and periodicals in economics. Library holdings, the online library catalogue, and other resources are available electronically from the Western Libraries Homepage <http://www.lib.uwo.ca/>. These can be accessed off-campus with the OffCampus Proxy Server on the Library main page.

Students are encouraged to take a library orientation tour to learn about where sources of information are located both physically and online. Consult library staff for questions

The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics is the most comprehensive dictionary of economics in existence today. 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 an electronic bibliography of literature from 1969 to the present. It covers journals, collected articles, books, book reviews, dissertations, and working papers. It also provides citations, selected abstracts, and links to Western's full-text resources. Students can also print records by downloading marked records to a text file, sending marked records by email, or exporting them to a citation manager such as *Zotaro*. For a list of citation software, see <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/essayhelp/citationmanagementsoftware.html>.

CANSIM (Canadian Socio-economic Information Management System) is Statistics Canada's database of time series data covering a variety of economic aspects of Canadian society. Access the database by a Title Search on the Western Library's Catalogue, or from the Library's list of Databases under "Research Tools" on the Library's homepage.

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 further information, please visit http://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/undergraduate_economics_review.html.

Essay Prize in Economics

Two prizes may be awarded at the end of the academic year. One prize is for a student registered in a 2100 level course, and one is for a student registered in a 2200 or higher level course. Each prize is valued at \$500.

Students can only win the Essay Prize in Economics once. Economics 4400E is not eligible for this prize as it has its own essay award.

Instructors will nominate student essays for the prize. The essay should be submitted to the Undergraduate Coordinator for consideration by the Essay Prize Committee, which will decide the winner. 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 appeal.

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 instructor submissions are:

Fall courses: January 1st

Winter courses: May 1st

The winner of the essay prize is encouraged to submit their paper to the Western Undergraduate Economics Review. Other appropriate papers may also be submitted.