

INTERMEDIATE MACROECONOMICS I  
ECONOMICS EC2220A-001/002  
Department of Economics  
Western University

September 2021

**General Information:**

**Instructor:** Baxter Robinson  
**Office:** 4063 SSC  
**Phone:** 519-661-2111 ext. 89118  
**E-mail:** brobin63@uwo.ca  
**Office hours:** Office hours will be held in my office (4063 SSC):

- Mondays from 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM
- Wednesdays from 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

**Delivery mode:** In Person: You must attend weekly lectures  
**Meeting time(s):** Section 001:

- Mondays from 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM in UCC 41
- Wednesdays from 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM in UCC 41

Section 002:

- Mondays from 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM in UCC 41
- Wednesdays from 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM in UCC 41

**Course website:** <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>  
**Undergraduate inquiries:** 519-661-3507 or SSC Room 4075 or [econugrd@uwo.ca](mailto: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 1021A/B** and **1022A/B**, or **2001A/B**; and **Calculus 1000A/B** (with a mark no less than 60%) or **Calculus 1500A/B** (with a mark no less than 60%). The antirequisite for this course is **Economics 2152A/B**.

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:**

The objective of this course is to introduce you to macroeconomics, the study of economics at the level of a whole country. We will study the key facts about how the Canadian economy has grown and fluctuated in the past. We will then link these facts to models that will help understand why our economy behaves the way it does. To solve these models, we will make extensive use of differential calculus. We will then use these models to study important questions like “Why do economies grow?”, “Why do economies sometimes contract?” and “How can we increase prosperity?”.

### **Course Learning Outcomes:**

I hope you will learn five main things from this course:

- The most common ways to measure a countries' income and well-being
- How to solve basic macroeconomic models
- How to usefully interpret and critique these macroeconomic models
- How to use macroeconomic models to evaluate different policy proposals
- What the most important questions are in macroeconomics about economic growth and business cycles

### **Textbook(s) and Course Materials:**

The required text for this course is: **Williamson, Stephen D. Macroeconomics, 6th Canadian edition, Pearson Addison Wesley**. You will need access to a copy of the textbook for the course. There is no need to buy the study guide or MyLab access for this course.

You can order any of the following versions of the text based on your preferences:

- Downloadable PDF: <https://bookstore.uwo.ca/product/cebebookid9678106>
- One-Year Subscription: <https://www.pearson.com/store/p/macroeconomics-sixth-canadian-edition/P100003020596/9780136589976>
- 180 Day Subscription: <https://bookstore.uwo.ca/product/cebebookid9672145>
  - Note that you will also need this textbook if you are taking EC2221B next semester. In this case, 180-days will not be enough time.
- 3-hole Punched Loose-Leaf: <https://www.pearson.com/store/p/macroeconomics-sixth-canadian-edition/P100003020596/9780135616192>

## Course Organization:

This course will be run in-person. You are expected to show up to both the Monday and Wednesday lecture for your section each week.

It is my hope is that this course will remain in-person throughout the semester. However, given that the COVID-19 pandemic is not over, there is a chance that this course will be moved online. In the event of such a transition:

- Video lectures will be asynchronous
- Office hours will be virtual via Zoom
- The date and times of the assignment, midterm exams and final exam will NOT change, but they will be administered virtually

In the event of such a transition, additional details will be provided by the instructor.

## Communication:

- Please feel free to call me Professor Robinson or Baxter. I use he/him/his pronouns.
- I will make announcements through email. I expect that you will check your e-mail at least once every 24 hours between Monday and Friday.
- I expect most course-related questions will be asked either during the lecture, or during my office hours.
- For personal concerns that you wish to discuss in private, I am happy to set up a private meeting either virtually or in-person. Please email me to request one.

## Assessments and Grading:

Your course grade will be made up of one assignment, two mid-term exams, and one final exam. There will also be eight problem sets that will NOT be graded.

- **Assignment [25%]**
  - Due: Friday October 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 PM
  - The topic for the assignment will be economic growth. It will require you to do some simple calculations with data and write up a few paragraphs about what the data tells you.
  - You will be required to submit your assignment to Turnitin.
  - Late assignments without illness self-reports will be subject to a late penalty of 20% per day (Including weekends and holidays).
  - Late assessments with illness self-reports must be submitted within 24 hours of submission of the last illness self-report.
- **Midterm Exams [40%=20% x 2]**
  - Midterm #1: In class on Monday October 18<sup>th</sup> [Tentative]
  - Midterm #2: In class on Monday November 15<sup>th</sup> [Tentative]
  - Each midterm exam will include all the material covered up to that point.
  - Each midterm exam will be a 1 hour and 30-minute exam.
  - Missed midterm exams without an illness self-report or approved documented official accommodation will be given a mark of zero.
  - If there has been an illness self-report or approved documented official

accommodation:

- The weight of a single missed midterm exam will be split evenly between the other midterm exam and the final exam, so the one completed midterm exam will be worth 30% of your grade and the final will be worth 45%
- The weight of two missed midterm exams will be transferred to the final exam, so the final will be worth 75% of your grade
- **Final Exam [35%]**
  - Date and time to be scheduled by the Registrar
  - The final exams will include all the material in the entire course.
- **Problem Sets [0%]**
  - There will be eight problem set that will **not** be graded.
  - These problem sets will be similar in difficulty to the Midterm and Final Exam questions. Completing the problem sets is the best way to prepare for the exams.

### Topics Covered and Readings:

### Williamson Textbook

1. Introduction to Macroeconomics Economic Growth	Chapters 1,2,3
2. Agriculture and Capital	Chapter 7
3. Convergence and Human Capital Static Model	Chapter 8
4. Consumers and Firms	Chapter 4
5. Governments and Labour Market Equilibrium Dynamic Model	Chapter 5
6. Consumption-Savings	Chapter 9
7. Imperfect Credit Markets	Chapter 10
8. Investment and General Equilibrium	Chapter 11

### 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, 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 explicit, written permission. Permitted recordings may not be distributed or shared.

## **Tips on How to Be Successful in this Class:**

- Show up to both Monday and Wednesday lectures each week
  - If you miss a lecture because of illness, family emergencies, mental health challenges or any other reason, you are encouraged to:
    - Ask a classmate to share their notes
    - Read through the lecture slides posted on the portal
    - Read the textbook chapter covering that material
    - Show up to office hours to ask questions about what you missed
  - Take notes on paper during class
- Complete the problem sets
- Read the textbook chapters
  - Take notes on paper as you read
- Show up to office hours
  - Ask all your questions, even the ones you think are embarrassing (they are not!)
- When you are working, turn off your phone (not just to vibrate mode)
- Close all other tabs and programs when you are working on a computer
- Make a set of synthesized notes
  - Take the notes you made while watching the lectures and while reading the textbook and then write a new set of notes that combines all the important information from both.

## **Inclusion**

Every student, regardless of your personal history, your identity and your circumstances, is a valued member of this class. Your experiences are valuable and your success in this class is important to me.

- During lectures and office hours, I expect all students to work with me to create a welcoming environment that is respectful of the full range of diversity in our class.
- You have the right to be called by whatever name you wish. I humbly ask you to help me learn how to pronounce your name correctly.
- You have the right to be referred to by whatever pronouns you wish.
- If you have a religious observance scheduled on the same day as a midterm or final exam, please let me know at least 3 weeks beforehand.
- If there are any barriers to your inclusion in the course, please contact me privately so that we can problem solve together.

## **Mental Health**

Your undergraduate education should be an overall enjoyable experience. It is normal to feel stress at times both because of your academic work or because of non-academic parts of your life. However, if you are experiencing persistent stress or severe emotional distress, mental health resources can assist you in processing your thoughts and emotions.

I encourage you to visit [http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/) to find out about the resources available to you as a Western student, or try <https://good2talk.ca/>.

**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.](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/](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/) for more information and a complete list of resources on how to obtain help.