

Economics 599 (L01) (Selected Topics in Economics III)

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Lecture Location: ZOOM Delivery
Lecture Days/Time: MW 0900-1145

Office: ZOOM Delivery
Office Hours: MW 1400-1500

(Spring 2020)

Course Description:

This is a course in applied macroeconomics. In this course, students will learn to apply the theories that they have learnt in ECON 303 and ECON 359 to think about real-world macroeconomic problems. The course will involve a lot of reading, writing, data analysis and class discussion.

Course Learning Outcomes:

After completing this course, students will have

1. a better understanding of the intermediate macroeconomic theory and how it can be applied to a variety of real-world situations;
2. acquired basic understanding of a host of macroeconomic issues through reading, writing, data analysis and discussion;
3. completed a term project in the form of a case study of a major economy, written a project report and made an in-class presentation of their analysis.

Course Outline:

In the first one-third of the course (eight 75-minute lectures), I will do a quick review of the topics covered in ECON 303 and ECON 359. I may also cover some additional topics which may include—but are not limited to—the following:

- Controversies in macroeconomics (Keynesians, Monetarists, Real Business Cycles, New Classicals, New Keynesians)
- Macroeconomic policy (monetary, fiscal and exchange rate policies)
- New developments in macroeconomic theory (dynamic models) and their applications

At the end of this part of the course, I will give a midterm exam consisting of analytical problems that will test students' understanding of the intermediate macroeconomic theory.

In the second one-third of the course (eight 75-minute lectures), we will have class discussions on applications of intermediate macroeconomic theories in the following four broad areas:

- Longterm economic growth (two 75-minute lectures)
- Fiscal policy (two 75-minute lectures)
- Monetary policy (two 75-minute lectures)

- Open economy issues (two 75-minute lectures)

For these applications, our primary focus will be on the Canadian economy, though we may also talk about the US economy. For each broad topic, there will be some pre-assigned reading(s) and students will be expected to have read them before the lecture. We will start with a list of motivating macroeconomic questions and discuss them in the light of intermediate macroeconomic theory. We will then move on to the assigned reading(s) and other materials related to the questions of interest. For each topic, we will also look at some data sources, download some data and do a preliminary analysis of it. After the two 75-minute sessions reserved for each topic, each student will prepare a 400 to 500-word (strictly one-page, single spaced, normal margins, Calibri 11 font) reflection on the topic of discussion. At the end of this part of the course, I will give an essay-type midterm exam.

In the third one-third of the course (eight 75-minute lectures), students will make presentations of their term projects. The course enrolment is capped at 30. Students will work in groups of two. Each group will do a case study on a unique large economy (other than Canada and the US) and prepare a written report. The report will be divided into three parts:

1. Macroeconomic profile of the country
2. The main macroeconomic problems facing the country (past and present)
3. Possible solutions to the problems. These may include the solutions that the country is already trying and/or new solutions proposed by the students

The length of each report will be between 900 to 1100 words (excluding graphs, tables and references). Each group will make a 25-30 minute Zoom presentation of their project. There will also be a 10-minute Q&A session after each presentation.

Prerequisites/corequisites:

ECON 357, ECON 359 (ECON 395 strongly recommended)

Required Textbook(s):

None

Recommended Textbook(s): None

Online Delivery:

This course will be delivered online. Students are expected to be able to participate online in accordance with this Course Outline. Lectures, assignments, office hours, exams, readings and other course material, etc. all require online access and this access is the responsibility of the student.

Desire2Learn:

This course will make use of the Desire2Learn (D2L) platform. Students who are registered in the course can log on at <http://d2l.ucalgary.ca> through their student centre. Please note that D2L features a class e-mail list that may be used to distribute course-related information. These e-mails go to your University of Calgary e-mail addresses only.

Lectures:

Lectures will be delivered online at the Registrar scheduled times and delivered using ZOOM. The lectures will be recorded and subsequently posted to D2L.

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

MIDTERM 1	15%
MIDTERM 2	15%
REFLECTIONS	10%
CLASS PARTICIPATION	10%
FINAL EXAMINATION	30%
TERM PROJECT	20%
	100%

The official grading system will be used. See <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html>.

A passing grade on any particular component of the course is not required for a student to pass the course as a whole.

If a student's letter grade on the final exam exceeds their midterm(s) letter grade, the weight of the midterm(s) is (are) transferred to the final exam. The student must have written the midterm(s) or provided supporting documentation for the absence(s) such as a medical note or statutory declaration.

As per the Writing Across the Curriculum Statement in the Calendar, writing and grading thereof will be a factor in the evaluation of student work. See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>.

The final examination will be an open-book, take-home exam. The exam will be available on D2L 24 hours before the end of the Registrar's scheduled final exam time. Students will hand in their exam in pdf format on D2L prior to the end of the scheduled completion time of their final exam using DropBox. The exam is intended to be completed in 2 hours. Students will have four hours to complete the exam, at the time of their choosing, within the 24 hour period.

The midterm exam(s) will be an open-book, take-home exam(s). The exam(s) will be available on D2L. Students will download the exam from D2L, complete the exam, scan it, and submit using Dropbox in D2L. Students will have three hours to complete the exam, at the time of their choosing, within a designated 24 hour period. The exam is intended to be completed in 75 minutes.

All other course components will also be accessed, submitted, and returned through D2L.

If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>. Under no circumstance will this be accommodated by the Department.

Tests and exams **WILL NOT** involve multiple choice questions.

The exact date for the in-class midterm(s) will be announced at least one week in advance.

THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP OR DEFERRED QUIZZES/TESTS/EXAMS under any circumstances, nor may the quizzes/tests/exams be written early. Students unable to write the quizzes/tests/exams because of documented illness, family emergency, religious observance, or university-sanctioned event will have the weight shifted to the final examination; otherwise a grade of zero will be assigned.

Reappraisal of Grades and Intellectual Honesty:

For Reappraisal of Graded Term Work, see Calendar I.2

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

For Reappraisal of Final Grade, see Calendar I.3

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Statement of Intellectual Honesty, see Calendar K.4

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-4.html>

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct, see Calendar K.5

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>

Academic Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services. SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act:

Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. Assignments can only be returned to the student and will be accessible only to authorized faculty and staff. For more information, see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/files/legalservices/faq-students.pdf> and http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/files/legalservices/faq-faculty_0.pdf.

Copyright Legislation:

See the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright at www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf. Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Recording of Lectures:

Recording of lectures is prohibited, except for audio recordings authorized as an accommodation by SAS or an audio recording for individual private study and only with the written permission of the instructor. Any unauthorized electronic or mechanical recording of lectures, their transcription, copying, or distribution, constitutes academic misconduct. See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>.

Important Dates:

Please check: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>.

Student Organizations:

Faculty of Arts Students' Association (F.A.S.A.):
Economics Department Representative

E-mail: econrep@fasaucalgary.ca and Web: www.fasaucalgary.ca.

Society of Undergraduates in Economics:

<https://www.ucalgarysue.com/>.

Society of Undergraduates in Economics is a student run organization whose main purpose is to assist undergraduate economics students to succeed both academically and socially at the University of Calgary. Services include access to the exam bank, career events such as Industry Night and information sessions, mentorship programs, and social events for members. They invite you to join by contacting SUE at societyofundergradsineconomics@gmail.com.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Call them at 403-220-3580, or email them at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>, which has detailed information on common academic concerns, including program planning and advice.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625].

Student Support and Resources:

- See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for information on campus mental health resources, the Student Ombuds' Office, Student Success Centre, Safewalk, and Emergency Evacuation and Assembly.
- Online writing resources are available at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support>.

Notes:

1. Students are responsible for all assigned material, e.g., supplementary material posted on D2L, regardless of whether or not the material was covered in class.

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2020-04-27