

Economics 659(L01) (Macroeconomic Theory)

Instructor:	Trevor Tombe	Lecture Location:	SS 423
Phone:	403-220-8068	Lecture Days/Time:	TR 12:30-13:45
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Office Hours:	TR 11:00-12:00	WINTER 2016	

Course Description

Introduction to the analysis of macroeconomics at an advanced level. Provides an overview of theories addressing the major questions of macroeconomic phenomena. Some coverage of applied topics, such as economic growth and government policy.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

Students will become familiar with core models of macroeconomics, and how they can help us understand the world around us. We will also explore more quantitative applications of common frameworks used by researchers.

Prerequisites/corequisites

Admission to the Master of Arts Economics program.

Required Textbook(s)

None.

Recommended Textbook(s)

Daron Acemoglu (2009), *Introduction to Modern Economic Growth*. Princeton University Press.

Reserved Readings

None.

Course Requirements/Assessments:

We will cover the following topics (time permitting). The associated readings are indicated in italics under each topic. Readings from Acemoglu (2008) are suggested, as lecture notes will be comprehensive and sufficient, while readings from the Reading List are required and available online through the library.

- **Week 1:** The Financial Crisis and the Policy Response
 - a. Overview of the Crisis, its Macroeconomic Effects, and the Policy Response
 - b. Empirical Estimates of Fiscal Policy
 - *Ramey (2011a, 2011b)*
 - *Romer and Romer (2010)*

- **Weeks 2-3:** The Solow Model
 - a. Economic Growth and Development (Acemoglu, Chapter 1)
 - b. The Solow Growth Model: Theory (Acemoglu, Chapter 2)
 - c. The Solow Growth Model: Data (Acemoglu, Chapter 3-4)
 - *Deaton and Heston (2010)*
 - *Johnson et al. (2013)*
 - *Feenstra et al. (2009)*

- **Weeks 4-6:** Neoclassical Growth
 - a. Infinite-Horizon Optimization and Dynamic Programming (Acemoglu, Chapter 6)
 - b. The Neoclassical Growth Model: Theory and Application (Acemoglu, Chapter 8)

- **Weeks 7-11:** The Micro of Macro
 - a. Firm-Level Idiosyncratic Shock and Distortions
 - *Gabaix (2011)*
 - *Jones (2011)*
 - b. Diversification and Economic Volatility
 - *Carvalho and Gabaix (2013)*
 - c. Misallocation and Productivity
 - *Hsieh and Klenow (2009)*

- **Weeks 12-13:** Search Models of the Labour Market

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

Problem Sets: 20% (4 x 5%)

Midterm Examination 1: 25%

Midterm Examination 2: 25%

Final Examination: 30%

The importance dates are:

- Problem Set 1: January 21
- Problem Set 2: February 11
- Midterm 1: February 16
- Problem Set 3: March 3
- Midterm 2: March 24
- Problem Set 4: April 7
- Final Exam: TBA

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.

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details

Department of Economics Criteria for Letter Grades. Economics professors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

Grade	Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	4.00	Outstanding	C+	2.30	All grades below "B-" are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements. Individual programs may require a higher passing grade.
A	4.00	Excellent-superior performance, showing-comprehensive understanding of subject matter	C	2.00	the subject matter
A-	3.70	Very good performance	C-	1.70	
B+	3.30	Good performance	D+	1.00	
B	3.00	Satisfactory performance	D	1.00	
B-	2.70	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies	F	0	

Grading Scale

A+	95 – 100	B	73 – 76	C-	60 – 62
A	85 – 94	B-	70 – 72	D+	56 – 59
A-	80 – 84	C+	67 – 69	D	50 – 55
B+	77 – 79	C	63 – 66	F	0 – 49

Tests and final exams are marked on a numerical (percentage) basis, then converted to letter grades. The course grade is then calculated using the weights indicated above.

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

There will be a department scheduled final examination, held in a classroom, lasting 2 hours. Non-programmable calculators **will** be allowed during the writing of tests or final examinations.

Tests and exams **will not** involve multiple choice questions.

Reappraisal of Grades

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>

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class; no reappraisal of term work is permitted after the 15 days. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavorable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct,

<http://www.ucalgayr.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Academic Accommodation

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. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, Visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

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 www.ucalgry.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf

Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

Absence from a Test/Exam

THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP OR DEFERRED QUIZZES under any circumstances, nor may the quizzes be written early. Students unable to write the quizzes 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. 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 www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final. Under no circumstance will this be accommodated by the department.

Important Dates

Jan 11	Lectures begin.
Jan 22	Last day to drop full courses (Multi-term) and half Courses. No refunds for full courses (Multi-term or half courses after this date.
Jan 25	Last day to add or swap full courses (Multi-term) and half courses. Last day for change of registration from audit to credit or credit to audit.
Jan 29	Fee payment deadline for full and half courses
Feb 14-21	Reading Week. No lectures.
Apr 13	Lectures End. Last day to withdraw with permission from half courses.
Apr 16-27	Exam Period

Faculty of Grad Studies website: <http://grad.ucalgary.ca/home>

Graduate Students Association: <http://gsa.ucalgary.ca/>

Professional Development for Grad Students

Workshops and resources can be found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/mygradskills/>

Economics Graduate Association: <http://econ.ucalgary.ca/ega/>

Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at

www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints

Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course

Safewalk

The safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus. This service is free and available 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year.

Call 403-220-5333