

Economics 659 (Macroeconomic Theory) –COVID 19 Updates

Instructor:	Kunio Tsuyuhara	Lecture Location:	Zoom on D2L
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Office Hours:	R 16:00-17:00 or by appointment	Winter 2020	

Textbooks: The textbook that I use for this course is:

- Aghion, P. and P. Howitt. 2009. The Economics of Growth. MIT. **(Required)**

Update: We have covered up to Chapter 6 before the cancellation of in-person class, and the second midterm on March 24 will cover up to what we covered on March 12, the final in-person class.

After the second midterm, starting from March 26, we will resume our “lectures” online via Zoom meeting feature on D2L.

Logistically, I will give my lecture during our regular lecture time, but I also record it so that you can catch up with the recorded lectures at your convenient time and location. However, I still try to maintain the interactive nature of our lecture, so I encourage you to participate in our live online lecture.

E-mail Policy: To avoid confusion that is often created by e-mail messages, please refrain from sending an e-mail asking about course contents, lecture materials, etc., and please come to my office hours for those kinds of questions (see below). You’ll be amazed how easy and satisfying it is this way!

Update: I generally maintain this policy during this time as it doesn’t change the difficulty of communicating those technical materials over the email. However, I open up video-chat meetings as requested. Please see below.

Office Hours Update: Since you are encouraged not to come to school, our in-person office hours are cancelled. However, I open up video-chat meetings with you, via Skype or Zoom, as an alternative form of student contact. I’ll be available during our regular office-hour time as well as upon your request during the weekday.

TA: There will be weekly tutorials by the TA (schedule TBD), where students will have the opportunity to review questions from assignments and exams and to go over or ask other practice questions (brought by the students, not by the TA). Regular attendance is strongly encouraged. As my E-mail policy implies, TA will not respond to your email communication regarding the course materials. In addition, TA is not responsible for your question outside of the office hours and TA sessions. You are advised to refrain from asking the TA regarding the course materials outside of designated occasions.

Update: Teaching assistant’s weekly tutorials (in-person format) are also cancelled. He will be available via email, and possibly Skype upon request. He will provide the answer keys to the assignments and post them on D2L.

Desire2Learn: This course will make use of the Desire2Learn (D2L) platform. Please note that D2L features a class e-mail list that may be used to distribute course-related information. D2L sends e-mail only to your University of Calgary address.

Update: *I emphasize that D2L is a vital source of communication now more than ever. If you don't have a habit of coming to our class page often, please do so now. Our online delivery will be done via Zoom on D2L. Please make sure you know how it works.*

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details: Student performance will be evaluated through class participation (worth 5%), a collection of problem sets (worth 5%), two midterms (30% each), and a final exam (30%). The problem sets, midterms and the final are to assess your learning outcome 1, and mostly on problem solving skills. The in-class discussion and class participation are to assess your learning outcome 2.

Update: *The general grading scheme does not change. However, the second midterm and the final exam will be conducted in a take-home manner. The take-home midterm 2 will be conducted as originally scheduled on March 24, and its timing will be announced few days in advance. The date and timing of the take-home final exam will be announced in due course as it may need to be altered from the original schedule.*

The take-home exams (both the midterm and the final) will be an open-book manner as well. As such, the types of questions and their difficulty levels need to be adjusted accordingly. You can use any resources (my slides, the textbook, and even the internet, if you think useful...), but collaborations among students are strictly prohibited. Any minor trace of collaboration will be severely penalized. Don't even think of it!

Few more assignments will be provided to prepare you for the kind of questions you see in the take-home exam, and you are expected to hand in your work (a scanned digital file) via Dropbox on D2L. However, the grading and TA's feedback will need to be adjusted accordingly given our limited capacity. He will likely not be able to give as detailed feedback as before, but he will prepare his solution key as detailed as he can. It will be your responsibility to review and compare your work with his solution key.