

Department of Economics, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, York University
ECON 2400 3.00 Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory I (Sec A) [S1 2024]
Course Outline

1.1 Course Webpage

eclass.yorku.ca (available by the first day of class).

1.2 Prerequisite / Co-requisite

Prerequisite: AP/ECON 1000 3.00, AP/ECON 1010 3.00, and AP/ECON 1530 3.00, or equivalents. **Prerequisite or corequisite:** AP/ECON 1540 3.00. Course credit exclusions: GL/ECON 3240 6.00 (prior to Fall 2014), SB/ECON 2000 3.00. Note: Acceptable course substitutes are available in the Calendar.

1.3 Course Instructor/Contact

Lecture Day/ Time/ Location: Tuesday & Thursday 14:30-17:30 (YK Vari Hall D)

Instructor: Dr. Simin Seury, Department of Economics, York University, 4700 Keele St., Toronto, ON M3J 1P3, CANADA. Phone: N/A. Email: seury@yorku.ca

Office Hours: Mon 9:00-10:00 & Other days by appointment (Scheduler & link to be posted on eclass)

TA's Email and Hours: Gideon Attado; Email: nunanag@yorku.ca; office hours: Fri 12 pm - 1 pm

2.1 Course Description

The objective of this course is to introduce you to intermediate-level tools for analyzing macroeconomic phenomena. You will learn to measure macroeconomic variables, grasp the intricacies of national income accounting, and analyze the dynamics of business cycles. The course aims to equip you with a solid understanding of modern macroeconomic theory, using models based on microeconomic principles. You will also learn to investigate the causes of economic trends and assess the impact of government policy on national economic performance, with a particular emphasis on the Canadian economy.

2.2 Course Text / Readings:

Required Textbook: Macroeconomics (6th Canadian Edition), by Stephen D. Williamson, Pearson Canada, 2020. [Note: we are following the Canadian edition; not the US edition.]

Additional journal articles would be referred from time to time; you would be able to read these journals from our York Library for free.

2.3. Tentative Topics

The course would cover the following topics (as time permits):

1. Introduction & Measurement Issues

- Ch 1: GDP, Macroeconomics Models, Microeconomic Principles, Disagreement in Macroeconomics, Analysis of Macroeconomic Events.
- Ch 2 and Ch 3: Measuring Macroeconomic Variables, National Income and Expenditure Accounting, Price Indices, Labour Market Measurement, Business Cycle management.

2. Consumer and Firm Behaviour

- Ch 4: Work–Leisure Decision and Profit Maximization.

3. A Closed-Economy One-Period Macroeconomic Model

- Ch 5: Analysis of competitive equilibrium outcome, characterized by the equilibrium values of the aggregate output, consumption, employment, taxes, and the real wage (endogenous variables). Analysis of Pareto Optimality and Welfare Theorems.

4. Economic Growth

- Ch 7: Economic Growth: Malthus and Solow.
- Ch 8: Income Disparity among Countries and Endogenous Growth

Mathematical concepts (materials from ECON 1530 and 1540) will be used extensively in this course, including differentiation, applications of derivatives, optimization (both single-variable and multi-variable), utility maximization, profit maximization, necessary and sufficient conditions, and comparative statics.

Please refer to the **Tentative Schedule** for further details, which is posted below the 'Course Outline' on our course page. Your instructor reserves the right to make minor adjustments to the content coverage as the course progresses.

3.1 Tests and Evaluation

Components	Due Date / Time / Structure ⁽¹⁾	Weight
Midterm	Syllabus: Chs 1, 2, 3, 4. In-person, during class time on Thursday, May 23, 2024.	30%
Quizzes	Six eClass quizzes throughout the semester; lowest quiz grade will be dropped.	15%
Final Exam	Syllabus: Cumulative (including everything covered throughout the semester). In-person. Date: TBA (According to the Final Exam schedule provided by the Registrar's Office for this term).	45%
Project	Project presentation video (4%) due in eClass: May 31, 2024, by 5 pm. Project essay (6%) due in Turnitin: June 14, by 5 pm. Both components need to be submitted to receive any grade for the project.	10%

Notes: (1) If there are any changes to any of these dates, students will be notified on or before the 2nd week.

The Summer Exam Period runs from June 19 to June 21 (inclusive). It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you are available to sit for examinations during the entire exam period for the term corresponding to your course. No alternative date for the final exam will be offered.

3.2 Missed exams/Tests and Other details

No permission is ever given to a student to attend a test or exam in advance of its scheduled date.

No permission is ever given to a student to rewrite a test or exam to improve their grade.

There are no make-up options for quizzes or the project. Quizzes are accessible asynchronously for 24 hours, so it is advisable to complete them well before the deadline to avoid last-minute issues. The grade from the lowest quiz will automatically be dropped. You will have several weeks to complete your project; therefore, no make-up options or opportunities to shift the weighting are available for the project.

Students missing midterm may have the permission to write a make-up if (a) they were sick at the time of the test, and (b) *they did not attempt the original midterm*, and (c) they notified the instructor by email (seury@yorku.ca) of why they have missed the exam within 48 hours of the missed test. If all these conditions are met, the student may be permitted to answer make-up questions on the date of the final exam under this alternate scheme: *Make-up Midterm 20% + Final Exam 55% + Quizzes (15%) + Project (10%)*. Syllabus of the make-up midterm would include contents covered from Chs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. There are no other make-up exams (that is, there is no make-up of a make-up midterm). If a student miss writing the make-up exam, even if they obtain permission to shift some weight to the final exam by writing a longer final exam, they will receive 0 (zero) out of the missed make-up midterm (0 out of 20%) and will have their grade according to the remaining components of the alternate scheme: *Final Exam (55%) + Quizzes (15%) + Project (10%)*.

Students missing the final exam and requesting deferred exams would need to comply with the Department of Economics policy on deferred exams before a deferred exam will be granted. Deferred Standing Mach forms (managed by the Department) need to be completed and submitted online. Students who do not submit the Deferred Standing Mach form within 7 days of the missed exam, will receive a zero for their final exam score. The Deferred Final Exam structure may change according to the University's policy. There would be *only one* deferred exam date; the date of the deferred final exam is at the discretion of the course director. A link specific to the Deferred Final Exam Applications for this semester will be provided by the department here, closer to the final exam date: <https://www.yorku.ca/laps/econ/undergraduate-programs/academic-resources/department-policies/deferred-standing/>.

3.3 Grading and Re-evaluation Policy

To achieve a grade, you must earn it. Unless I made any error regarding the scores, marks cannot be upgraded. The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (see <https://www.yorku.ca/laps/hist/academic-resources/academic-advising/grading-system> for more details). Final course grades given by the instructor will use the standard York grading scale and may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles. Should there be any request for re-grading, your Instructor/Grader reserves the right to re-grade the entire content of the exam (as such, any problem/mistake in your answer that was overlooked during the first evaluation, might get noticed during the re-evaluation). So, your marks may be increased/decreased/unchanged after the re-evaluation.

3.4 Technology Requirements

This course includes in-person lectures, tests, and exams, but will also utilize the eClass Learning Management System (LMS) for various activities. Therefore, access to a laptop or desktop computer with a camera, microphone, and a reliable, high-speed internet connection is required for full participation. You can verify your internet speed with tools like [Speedtest](#). Additionally, you are responsible for regularly backing up your files, using antivirus software, and allowing extra time for online tasks to accommodate potential technical issues. Common technology issues such as computer viruses/malware, crashed drives, broken printers/devices, lost or corrupted files, incompatible file formats, faulty internet, and lost Wi-Fi connections are not acceptable excuses for missing tests, exams, or deadlines. Students must submit an online presentation that includes audio and video. There may also be other online meetings for grading, academic integrity concerns, or live online office hours. If these requirements are not suitable for you, you may wish to reconsider enrolling in this section of the course.

Should there be any Zoom session with other students, if you have privacy concerns, you can provide your first name or a nickname, and you can keep your webcam and microphone off. Students do not have the permission to record any Zoom sessions (unless they obtain special permission from me). For one-to-one Zoom interactions, I need to see you during our interaction and, therefore, you need to activate your webcam and microphone.

Here are some useful links for student computing information, resources, and help: [Student Guide to eClass](#); [Zoom@YorkU Best Practices](#); [Zoom@YorkU User Reference Guide](#); [Computing for Students Website](#); [Student Guide to eLearning at York University](#)

4.1 Emails and Communication: Etiquette/Netiquette

Eclass (Moodle announcements, folders, assessments, and forums) will be utilized extensively for communication throughout the course. It is imperative that you consistently follow all class announcements. In eClass, under Forums and Netiquette, you will find a discussion forum for each topic. Should you have any inquiries specific to a chapter or topic, please post them in the corresponding forum. Additionally, you are encouraged to respond to other students' questions. Engaging in this manner can be an enriching learning experience, even if the responses are not entirely accurate. This practice not only fosters meaningful discussion but also facilitates mutual learning among students. I will monitor and contribute as necessary, typically once per day on weekdays. Before posting a question, please review all relevant information thoroughly and adhere to proper netiquette.

Netiquette encompasses a set of guidelines and standards designed to foster a positive online learning environment. These standards should be adhered to in all your online communications, including emails and forums, with all participants. For more information, explore resources from York University at https://careers.yorku.ca/student_topic/practice-good-email-etiquette and additional insights from [ASU Online](#).

Email communication is to be reserved for **administrative concerns** that cannot be addressed through other means. With hundreds of students enrolled each semester, even a small percentage of students sending emails can result in a significant volume of correspondence. Therefore, I may not be able to respond to inquiries about course content, including issues already detailed in the course outline, schedule, or announcements.

However, if you have a question that is not addressed in the course materials or it is unsuitable for forum discussion, I am happy to help. When emailing me, please adhere to formal communication etiquette and consult the **guidelines for a sample email format** posted under **“Forums and Netiquette.”**

4.2 Letters of Accommodation

If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns about the course or course materials, please contact Student Accessibility Services (<https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca>) at the beginning of the semester as soon as possible. **Please note: Students no longer submit Letters of Accommodation to their instructor.** Rather, students request their Letter of Accommodation through a companion Student Portal available through Student Accessibility Services. Instructors will then access the Letters of Accommodation directly via a Faculty Portal.

4.3 Important Dates and ADD/Drop Deadlines

	Summer 1 2024
Semester Start date for the University	May 06
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	May 13
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	May 21
Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Jun 03
Last Day of Classes for the university during this term	Jun 17
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript – see note below)**	Jun 04 – Jun 17
Final Exam period for the university (our exam date, TBA by registrar's office)	Jun 19 – Jun 21

4.3 Other Important course information for students

Course materials and Copyright: 1) Course materials should be used for educational purposes only and as a means for enhancing accessibility; 2) students do not have permission to record, duplicate, copy and/or distribute the materials (these acts can violate not only copyright laws but also FIPPA); and 3) if there are any recordings by the instructor, those are to be destroyed after the end of classes.

Important Academic Forms

- Religious Accommodation - <https://secure.students.yorku.ca/pdf/religious-accommodation-agreement-final-examinations.pdf>

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Curriculum & Academic Standards webpage: <https://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/>

- Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants
- Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities
- Student Conduct Standards
- Senate Policy on Academic Honesty and the Academic Integrity Website: <https://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/policies/academic-honesty-senate-policy-on/>

As per Senate Policy, academic honesty and integrity is defined as conduct that violates the ethical or legal standards of the University community or of one's program or specialization, which is subject to severe penalties. Students are responsible for understanding the nature and consequences of these offences (in the context of all graded components in this course, including the paper), as contained in the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. Please familiarize yourself with the meaning of academic integrity by completing SPARK's Academic Integrity module: (<https://spark.library.yorku.ca/academic-integrity-what-is-academic-integrity>). Breaches of academic integrity range from cheating to plagiarism (i.e., the improper crediting of another's work, the representation of another's ideas as your own, etc.). All instances of academic dishonesty in this course will be reported to the appropriate university authorities, which may result in severe punishment, as per Senate Policies.

To promote academic integrity in this course, students will be normally required to submit their online written materials to Turnitin (via eClass) for a review of textual similarity and the detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their material to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used only for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The similarity index will be visible only to your instructor and graders. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin service are described on the Turnitin.com website.

You need to agree to follow an **“ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT/AGREEMENT”** for all graded components, a sample of which is provided here:

- You will complete all your graded components (assignments/tests/exams/quizzes/papers/projects) solely by yourself, unless explicitly directed by me as your instructor to do it differently. No other person will assist or complete these graded components for you; impersonation, and receiving or giving any form of assistance, paid or not, from or to another person is cheating and breaches academic honesty principle, and will be subject to academic penalty. More specifically:
- You will complete the graded components without any testing aids that are not approved by me as your instructor. Accordingly, you are NOT ALLOWED to use your notes, the textbook, or any other paper or digital resources (including online or in-person consultation with others) during tests/exams, unless explicitly allowed to do so by me as your instructor.
- You will not discuss the graded assignment/test/exam/quiz questions or potential answers with anyone, including other students, both in this course and elsewhere. This includes future online and in-person communication.
- Copying other people's words in your answers is not allowed and will be considered as plagiarism/cheating. This means that you must put answers/descriptions in your own words if you are using sources you have not written, such as the reference papers, course slides or other study notes.
- All test/exam materials are the property of the Department of Economics, York University, and unauthorized dissemination or recording of the tests/exams (including, but not limited to, unauthorized posting/emailing of any part of the tests/exams) is prohibited. You will not replicate, copy, print, take picture or record any lecture and/or questions on the graded assignments/quizzes/exam/test to share with others.
- It is your responsibility as a student to conduct your academic work, including your exams, in the manner that adheres to the university's standards of academic integrity, as outlined in: [“https://spark.library.yorku.ca/academic-integrity-what-is-academic-integrity/”](https://spark.library.yorku.ca/academic-integrity-what-is-academic-integrity/).

Let us have a respectful and enjoyable journey together!