

Advanced Macroeconomics Theory
AP/ECON 4020 3.0 Section A– F 2025
Location: CLH 110
Time: T Th 1-2:20pm

Instructor	Professor Henry Tam
Email	thenry@yorku.ca
Office hours	Tues and Thurs 11:30am-12:30pm
Office location	VH 1042
TA	TBA
TA Office hours	TBA
Course webpage	eclass.yorku.ca
Lecture Hours	Tuesday and Thursday 1-2:20pm (In-person lectures).

Land Acknowledgment

York University recognizes that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships with the territories upon which York University campuses are located that precede the establishment of York University. York University acknowledges its presence on the traditional territory of many Indigenous Nations. The area known as Tkaronto has been care taken by the Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the Huron-Wendat. It is now home to many First Nation, Inuit, and Métis communities. We acknowledge the current treaty holders, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. This territory is subject of the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement to peaceably share and care for the Great Lakes region ([LA&PS Land Acknowledgement](#)).

Course description	This course introduces the modern approach to studying macroeconomics and is meant to be a preparation course for graduate studies. This course covers standard macroeconomic topics (economic growth, fiscal policy, etc.) that are covered in intermediate macroeconomics but introduces more rigorous technical analyses. Micro-foundation for macroeconomic models and the dynamics of the macro-economy will be emphasized in this course.
Prerequisites	Prerequisite: AP/ECON 2400 3.00 and AP/ECON 2450 3.00, or equivalents. Recommended prerequisites: AP/ECON 2300 3.00, AP/ECON2350 3.00, and AP/ECON 3530 3.00.
Textbook	<i>Advanced Macroeconomics</i> (5 th edition) by David Romer. McGraw-Hill. (D1D Etext \$55; Print \$99.95+HST (last quoted, subject to change)

Organization Please note that this is an in-person course. All exams will be in-person. There will be NO online alternatives. We will use eClass for posting course materials only. Lecture notes, mathematical notes, announcements, practice problem sets and solutions, exam information, etc., will be posted there. You should check posted materials on a regular basis.

Technical Requirements

Several platforms will be used in this course (e.g., eClass, Zoom, etc.) where students will interact with course materials, the course director/TA, as well as with each other.

Need technical help? Check out the following helpful links for information resources and support:

- [Student Guide to eClass](#)
- [Zoom@YorkU Best Practices](#)
- [Zoom@YorkU User Reference Guide](#)
- [eLearning Getting Started](#) (LA&PS eServices)
- [Student Guide to Remote and Online Learning](#)

To determine Internet connection and speed, there are online tests, such as [Speedtest](#), that can be run. If you need technical assistance, please consult the [University Information Technology \(UIT\) Student Services](#) webpage or write to askit@yorku.ca.

Topics covered This course will heavily rely on course notes and lecture materials given by the instructor. The textbook is to be considered complementary to course notes and lecture materials discussed in class.

Lecture

We shall cover the following topics:

I. Solow growth model

- Ch. 1 (Sections 1.1-1.7) of textbook + Notes + Lecture Materials + Presentation Slides (Part I, II and III)

II. Ramsey-Cass-Koopmans model of neoclassical growth

- Ch. 2 (Sections 2.1-2.6) of textbook + Notes + Lecture Materials + Presentation Slides (Part I, II and III)

III. Government and fiscal policy in Classical model and Ramsey model

- Ch. 2 (Section 2.7) and Ch. 13 (Section 13.1-13.2) of textbook + Notes + Lecture Materials + Presentation Slides (Part I and II)

Because this course is meant to be a preparation course for graduate studies and involves rigorous technical analysis, this course is designed to be heavily mathematically oriented. Knowledge in basic calculus is assumed in the course. You will also be taught a number of mathematical techniques in order to apply them to macroeconomic analysis. The following lists the related mathematical tools used in different parts of the course.

<u>Topics</u>	<u>Mathematical tools used</u>
Solow model	Basic calculus (functions, limits, simple and partial derivatives, some minimal integration) Graphical analysis of dynamic equation in 1 variable
Ramsey model	Constrained maximization and the Lagrangian method (extended to the case of dynamic optimization) Graphical analysis of a system of 2 dynamic equations using phase diagram

Evaluation	In-class Test 1 (Sep 30, Tues, 1-2:15pm)	15%
	In-class Test 2 (Oct 21, Tues, 1-2:15pm)	15%
	In-class Test 3 (Nov 11, Tues, 1-2:15pm)	15%
	In-person Final Exam (cumulative, date and time TBA)	55%

All exams will take place in-person. There will be NO online alternative. Test 1 covers Solow model (Part I and II). Test 2 covers Solow model (Part III) and Ramsey model (Part I). Test 3 covers Ramsey model (Part II and III). The final exam is cumulative and covers the Solow model, the Ramsey model, government and fiscal policy in the classical model and the Ramsey model. You are allowed to bring a “formula” sheet created by yourself to the tests and final exam with standard A4 or letter size paper (written on one side for Test 1 or Test 2 or Test 3 but could be written on both sides for the final exam). If you do better in the final exam than the average of the tests you took, each test will count as 10% and the rest of the weight shifted to the final exam. If you miss any test for any reason, there will be no makeup and the weight will be transferred to the final exam. If you miss the final exam, you will need to request a deferred exam and upon approval you will be given a deferred exam. To request exam deferral, use the following link to the Mach form:

<https://www.yorku.ca/laps/econ/undergraduate-programs/academic-resources/departments-policies/deferred-standing/>

Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.

Grading

The grading scheme for this course conforms to the 9-point system used in undergraduate programs at York University. For a full description of the York grading system, visit the York University [Academic Calendar](#).

Grade	Grade Point	Percent Range	Description
A+	9	90–100	Exceptional
A	8	80–89	Excellent

Grade	Grade Point	Percent Range	Description
B+	7	75–79	Very Good
B	6	70–74	Good
C+	5	65–69	Competent
C	4	60–64	Fairly Competent
D+	3	55–59	Passing
D	2	50–54	Marginally Passing
E	1	40–49	Marginally Failing
F	0	0–39	Failing

Course Policies

Please review the course policies in this section. All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information:

- [Student Rights & Responsibilities](#)
- [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)

Academic Integrity and Conduct

Academic integrity is a fundamental and important value of York University. To maintain a fair and honest learning environment, you are responsible for understanding and upholding academic integrity in all courses and academic activities. You are encouraged to connect with reliable [on-campus resources](#) that support your coursework and academic honesty. To better understand the serious consequences of breaching academic honesty policies, familiarize yourself with the [Senate Policy on Academic Conduct](#). You can learn more about upholding academic integrity in your courses by exploring [SPARK: Academic Integrity Module](#), [LA&PS Academic Honesty](#) and [Academic Integrity for Students](#).

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI)

Students are not permitted to use generative artificial intelligence (AI) in this course. Submitting any work created (in whole or part) through the use of generative AI tools will be considered a violation of York University's [Senate Policy on Academic Conduct](#). Using AI apps such as Microsoft Copilot, ChatGPT, DALL-E, translation software among others to complete academic work without your instructor's knowledge or permission, is considered a breach under York's Academic Conduct Policy. For more information, please review [AI Technology & Academic Integrity: Information for Students](#).

If you're not sure whether using an AI app for your academic work is acceptable, it is recommended that you:

- Carefully review the guidelines for your assessments
- Check for any messages from your instructor on eClass
- Ask your instructor or TA if they are permitting the use of these tools

Accessibility

York University is committed to creating a learning environment which provides equal opportunity to all members of its community. If you anticipate or experience any barriers to learning in this course, please discuss your concerns with your instructor as early as possible. For students with disabilities, contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) to coordinate academic accommodations and services. Accommodations will be communicated to Course Directors through a Letter of Accommodation (LOA). Accommodations for tests/exams normally require three (3) weeks (or 21 days) before the scheduled test/exam to arrange. To learn more, please visit [Accommodated Exam/Test Scheduling](#).

Religious Observance Accommodation

York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community and making reasonable and appropriate [accommodations to adherents for observances of days of religious significance](#). Should any of the dates specified in this syllabus for course assignments, tests, or deadlines conflict with a date of religious significance, please contact the instructor not less than two (2) weeks (or 14 days) prior to the date for which accommodation is sought. If the requested accommodation is for an exam or falls within the formal examination periods, you must complete and submit a [Religious Accommodation Agreement \(PDF\)](#) at least three (3) weeks (or 21 days) before the start of the exam period.

Academic Consideration for Missed Course Work

This policy applies to course assessments worth 20% or less of your overall course grade and does not apply to exams held during the final examination period. Students may self-declare two (2) 7-day consideration periods each 12-week term and one (1) 7-day consideration period per six-week term. An Attending Physician's Statement (APS) is not required for these self-declared absences. However, an instructor may request a signed APS for the final examination period, coursework worth more than 20% of the course grade and missed work outside of the self-declared academic consideration period(s).

Students can submit their self-declaration(s) for academic consideration [using eClass](#). Students are then responsible for contacting the instructor no later than two (2) business days after the end of the consideration period(s) to arrange details of any accommodation for missed coursework. If you do not do this, you may get a zero (0) on the missed work. Where courses have built-in accommodations already established, the instructor may decline providing additional accommodations under this policy. For further details, please review the [Policy on Academic Consideration for Missed Course Work](#).

Final Examination Identification Policy

For final exams in this course, you must present a valid York University official photo identification card ([YU-card](#)) to verify your identity. Also, you will need to sign the exam's attendance roster. Learn more about preparing for your exams by reviewing York's Policies on [Conduct of Examinations](#) as well as the Registrar's Office [Examination Tip Sheet](#).

Intellectual Property

Course materials are designed for use as part of this particular course at York University and are the intellectual property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third-party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian copyright law. Students may not publish, post on an Internet site, sell, or otherwise distribute any course materials or

work without the instructor's express permission. Course materials should only be used by students enrolled in this course.

Copying this material for distribution (e.g., uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a charge of misconduct according to York's [Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#), the [Senate Policy on Academic Conduct](#), and/or legal consequences for copyright violations.

Student Support and Resources

York University offers a wide range of student supports resources and services, including everything from writing workshops and peer mentorship to wellness support and career guidance. Explore the links below to access these on-campus resources:

- [Academic Advising](#) is available to provide students support and guidance in making academic decisions and goals.
- [Student Accessibility Services](#) are available for support and accessibility accommodation when required.
- [Student Counselling, Health & Wellbeing](#) offers workshops, resources and counselling to support your personal wellness and academic success.
- [Peer-Assisted Study Sessions \(PASS\) Program](#) provides free study sessions where students collaborate and enhance their understanding of course content in select courses.
- [Student Numeracy Assistance Centre at Keele \(SNACK\)](#) supports students in courses involving math, statistics, coding and Excel.
- [The Writing Centre](#) provides multiple avenues of writing-based support including drop-in sessions, one-to-one appointments, a Multilingual Studio and an Accessibility Specialist.
- [Centre for Indigenous Student Services](#) offers a community space with academic, spiritual, cultural and physical support, including writing and learning skills programs.
- [ESL Open Learning Centre \(OLC\)](#) supports students with building proficiency in reading, writing and speaking English.
- [Learning Skills Services](#) offers workshops, resources and tips on learning-related topics like time management, note-taking, studying and exam prep.
- [Learning Commons](#) links to supports for writing, learning skills, career development, exam preparation and other learning-related resources.
- [Roadmap to Student Success](#) is a collection of timely and targeted resources to help students achieve academic, personal and professional success at different stages of their university journey.
- [Office of Student Community Relations \(OSCR\)](#) is responsible for administering the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) and provides critical incident and conflict resolution support.
- [Peer Mentorship](#) helps students transition through their first year by connecting them with upper-year students. The mentors can help students find supports and resources. They also lead a community hub on campus.
- [goSAFE](#) is staffed by York students and can accompany York community members to and from any on-campus location, such as the Village Shuttle pick-up hub, parking lots, bus stops or residences.

For a full list of academic, wellness and campus resources visit [Student Support & Resources](#).