

Economics 1100 YB: Principles of Economics

Winter 2020

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Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday 10:00-11:30 in AT 1001

Office Hours: Wednesday 9:00-11:30 or feel free to stop by anytime.

Course Description

Economics 1100 is a full-year course on the subject of Economics. It is broken up into two sections. The fall term covered the topic of microeconomics while this winter term will cover the topic of macroeconomics. This course outline pertains to the winter term. Your final grade in this course will be an equally weighted average of your fall and winter term grades.

Macroeconomics is the study of the workings of the economy as a whole. We will cover topics such as the determinants of aggregate output, the nature of the business cycle, employment, the role of government in the economy, long-run growth, inflation, and exchange rates.

We will be studying these issues through the use of a model of the macroeconomy. This model will be built up slowly as we progress through the course. For this reason, it is highly advised that you do not miss any classes. If you do miss a class, it is important that you catch up as quickly as possible.

Graduate students from the Department of Economics will be hosting weekly **Tutorial Sessions**. Feel free to drop by with any questions you may have. It is highly recommended that you attend these sessions. The date and time of these will be announced shortly after the beginning of the semester.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this portion of the course students will

- have a firm understanding of how our macroeconomy functions.
- have a better understanding of the causes of unemployment in a country.
- be able to understand and analyze a simple model of the macroeconomy.
- be able to identify the effect that certain government policies will have on the economy.

- be able to engage in informed discussion regarding the general state of the economy and in what direction it is headed.
- understand the causes and consequences of inflation.
- understand the role that a central bank plays in an economy.

Textbook

Ragan, Christopher T.S. (2017). *Macroeconomics: Sixteenth Canadian Edition*. Pearson, Toronto.

The course will follow this book quite closely, so it is essential that you procure a copy as soon as possible. It is available at the Lakehead University bookstore.

Certain versions of the textbook grant you access to MyEconLab which allows you to make use of online material such as practice quizzes and tests. Use courseid code **skogstad81727** to access the site. Note that this is not a free service. Although access to this site is not required, I do recommend it.

I highly recommend you read the indicated chapters as we go through the material. I am hoping to have time to cover chapters 19-28 and 31 of the textbook. That is 292 pages of material, which translates into an average of 24 pages per week of reading. Given this, I recommend that you devote at least 2 to 3 hours a week to your readings for this course, outside of the 3 hours of classroom time. Additional time for reviewing lecture notes and doing practice problems is recommended.

Grading

Your grade for the winter term will be determined by weekly quizzes, two tests, and one cumulative final exam. The date of the final exam will be set by the university, but will occur between April 6th and April 20th. Do not make plans to leave Thunder Bay before the end of the exam period.

Quizzes	(20%)	Weekly
Test 1	(20%)	February 6th
Test 2	(20%)	March 12th
Final Exam	(40%)	TBA

One day a week (most weeks), during the class, we will have a short quiz. The dates of these will not be announced in advance. The purpose of these is to encourage your continued attendance and to provide you with feedback regarding your understanding of the material. Missed quizzes will not be able to be re-written.

Students who miss a test must provide me with a valid reason. If a valid reason is given, the weight of that test will be placed instead onto their final exam. The final exam cannot be missed except with a valid reason as outlined in the university's guidelines. A missed final exam without a valid reason will receive a grade of zero.

The format of the two tests and the final exam will be multiple choice questions, similar to last term.

Academic Misconduct

The University and myself take a serious view of offences against academic honesty such as plagiarism, cheating and impersonation. Penalties for dealing with such offences will be strictly enforced. If you are unaware of what constitutes academic misconduct, Lakehead has provided a series of self-guided lessons through myCourseLink to help you better understand the issues. The course is known as AWARE, and students are free to self-enroll if they desire.

Penalties for those found guilty of attempting to obtain academic credit dishonestly can include receiving a grade of zero for the assignment/essay in question, receiving a grade of zero in the course, and more severe penalties such as removal from their program of study or the university.

The University Regulations regarding academic dishonesty can be found at:
<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/provost-vice-president-academic/academic-integrity-plans-policies/academic-dishonesty-regulations>

The Student Code of Conduct can be found at:
<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/policies/student-related/code-of-student-behaviour-and-disciplinary-procedures>

General Advice

Treat university as your job. You should be devoting at least 40 hours a week to your job. If you are taking 5 courses, then this course should take up 8 hours a week, 3 of which are spent in class.

Students should attend all lectures.

Keep ahead of the reading. If you are able to read the relevant chapter in the textbook prior to attending class, your understanding of the material will be greatly improved. After the class, you should also re-read the relevant chapter.

If you are finding the material challenging, I encourage you to drop by my office for assistance. You can also contact me by e-mail with any questions, comments, or concerns. Although I have set aside specific office hours for this course, I encourage students to visit me at any time to discuss the course, or to discuss economics in general.

Students should also make use of the tutorial sessions that will be offered.

The MyEconLab website is a fantastic resource. Doing practice exams/quizzes online will only help your understanding of the material.

First year is a fun and stressful time. Lakehead University has many resources to help you with the stress. I can certainly help direct you to the appropriate resource, whether it be a health related issues, an academic related issue, an accessibility related issue, or any other similar issue.

A lot of the learning for this course comes outside of the classroom through reading the textbook, working on practice problems, or discussing the subject with your peers, TAs, or myself.

Outline

We will almost certainly be able to cover topics 1 through 11. If time permits we will add on topics 12 through 14. Note that certain material in 13 and 14 will be covered in early lectures, so students may find it helpful to read those chapters as well.

1: Macroeconomic: An Overview	(Chapter 19)
2: GDP	(Chapter 20)
3: A Simple Short-Run Macroeconomic Model	(Chapter 21)
4: Government and Trade	(Chapter 22)
5: Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply	(Chapter 23)
6: Moving to the Long-Run	(Chapter 24)
7: Long-Run Growth	(Chapter 25)
8: Money and Banking	(Chapter 26)
9: The Interest Rate	(Chapter 27)
10: Monetary Policy	(Chapter 28)
11: Debt and Deficits	(Chapter 31)
12: Exchange Rates	(Chapter 34)
13: Inflation	(Chapter 29)
14: Unemployment	(Chapter 30)