



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
UNIVERSITY

ECON 102

Introductory Macroeconomics

Winter 2021

Instructor:

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Department of Economics – Faculty of Arts



Syllabus

Course Overview

This three-credit course provides an introduction to macroeconomic concepts. Students will learn about national income accounting and the components of the national economy; unemployment; inflation; economic growth; the AD/AS model; exchange rates; and how to analyze the impact of government policies and economic shocks on the economy in both the short-run and long-run.

Course Outcomes

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Compute basic macroeconomic indicators, such as the unemployment rate and inflation rate
- Analyze short-run fluctuations and long-run trends of the economy
- Build a simple model to study the impact of government policies and shocks on the economy
- Relate the theoretical classroom material to current news stories about the economy

Course Delivery

This will be a largely *asynchronous* course: All the course material (textbook chapter, lecture notes, audio lectures, news articles and practice problems) will be posted on Moodle, and students are expected to cover the material on the stipulated days. To assist students with questions, I will be available on-line during the scheduled class times, and can answer questions via e-mail at any time. However, **note that quizzes and exams must be written online and will be scheduled for specific dates and times.**

Scheduled Class Times

Although we will not have formal online lectures, do note whether you are registered for Section 23 or Section 24, as you must write quizzes and exams for your Section. In addition, if you wish to find me live online, you must do so during the scheduled days and times below.

Section 23: (O4/O5) Wednesday 12:45 to 2:00PM and Friday 11:15AM to 12:30PM

Section 24: (O1/O2) Wednesday 9:45 to 11:00AM and Friday 8:15 to 9:30AM



Course Materials

Textbook:

Greenlaw, S.A. and D. Shapiro (2019) *Principles of Economics*, 2nd Edition, Openstax.

This is a FREE e-book that can be downloaded from the following site:

<https://openstax.org/details/books/principles-economics-2e>

This textbook has the advantage of being free while also being relatively thorough; however, it has the disadvantage of being written for a U.S. audience. Consequently, the online lecture notes that I will post will not only simplify the material, but also “Canadianize” it.

News Articles:

A recent news article will be assigned for each of the eight Topics. Questions related to the articles will appear on the quizzes and final exam. Articles are typically published following releases of major macroeconomic indicators, such as GDP, the inflation rate and the unemployment rate. Articles will only be selected from FREE online sources, such as *CBC*, *CTV News* and *CNN*, and posted on Moodle the week that the relevant topic will be covered.

Calculators:

Students are expected to do some simple calculations, so they should have a calculator at their disposal. It does not need to be a fancy Scientific or Business calculator – any \$5 calculator that can perform the basic functions of addition, subtraction, division and multiplication will suffice.



Course Schedule

- Wednesday January 13: Review Syllabus & course overview (live online)
- January 15, 20, 22: Topic 1: The Macroeconomic Perspective (Chapter 19)
- January 22, 27, 29: Topic 2: Unemployment (Chapter 21)

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 3: Online QUIZ #1 (Covers Topics 1 & 2 ONLY) – 20%

- February 5, 10, 12: Topic 3: Inflation (Chapter 22)
- February 12, 17, 19: Topic 4: Economic Growth (Chapter 20)

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 24: Online QUIZ #2 (Covers Topics 3 & 4 ONLY) – 20%

- February 26, March 3, 5: Topic 5: The AS/AD Model (Chapter 24)
- March 5, 10, 12: Topic 6: The Keynesian Perspective (Chapter 25)

WEDNESDAY MARCH 17: Online QUIZ #3 (Covers Topics 5 & 6 ONLY) – 20%

- March 19, 24, 26: Topic 7: The Neoclassical Perspective (Chapter 26)
- March 26, 31, April 7: Topic 8: Exchange Rates (Chapter 29)
- April 9: Review entire course (live online)

APRIL (Date to be set by the Examinations Office): Online FINAL EXAM (Covers Topics 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8) – 40%



Getting Ready

Accommodations

If you are a registered Tramble Room student, please send me an email (gkacz@stfx.ca) advising me of this **before January 20**, and copy this email to the Tramble Rooms (tramble@stfx.ca). Be sure to say in your email whether you receive time-and-half or double-time for quizzes and exams, and specify any other accommodations you may require during the course. If you do not provide sufficient notice that you are a Tramble Room student, you may not get the extra time or other accommodations you need.

Where to Go for Help

Accessibility

If you require accommodations but have not yet registered with the Tramble Room (tramble@stfx.ca), please contact them right away. [Click here for more information.](#) Once you are registered with them, see the Getting Ready section above for additional steps you must take to ensure you get the accommodations you need.

Course-Related Questions

If you have a question about any aspect of the course that is not covered by this document, please contact me by e-mail, or login to Moodle when I'm live on-line during the scheduled course days and times.

I will not be holding face-to-face office hours, but we may have Teaching Assistants (TAs) assigned to this course who may be able to answer some course-related questions. I will let you know by the second week of the term whether we in fact have some TAs, and how to contact them for assistance.

Skills Improvement

The Student Success Centre provides advice, tutorials, and resources that can improve your academic writing, time management, and other skills. [Click here to learn more.](#)



Course Evaluation

The table below shows the points and weighting of each assessment component of the course.

Assessment Component	Description	Points	Weighting (%)
Quiz 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• online, 1 hour• 40 multiple-choice and computational questions covering Topics 1 & 2	40	20
Quiz 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• online, 1 hour• 40 multiple-choice and computational questions covering Topics 3 & 4	40	20
Quiz 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• online, 1 hour• 40 multiple-choice and computational questions covering Topics 5 & 6	40	20
Final Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• online, 2.5 hours• 100 multiple-choice and computational questions covering Topics 1 through 8	100	40



Course Policies

Academic Integrity

The highest standard of academic integrity is expected. All students must understand the meaning and consequences of academic offences such as plagiarism, cheating, tampering, and falsification. For more information, please see “Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures” (St. Francis Xavier University, 2006). [Click here to view this document.](#)

Exam and Quiz Dates

Every exam and quiz must be written on the date, and within the time frame, that is stipulated in the Schedule. A grade of zero will be given for any exam or quiz that is missed without just cause (such as medical emergency).

Quizzes

An alternative date or time frame will be considered only in cases where there are documented medical or compassionate grounds.

Final exams

Changes to Final Exam dates must be requested and approved through the Dean’s Office.

Withdrawal

There are deadlines for withdrawing from this course, and possible academic consequences for doing so. [Click here for more information on “Course Drop and Tuition Refund Dates”.](#)