

## Course Syllabus

### EC 640 A – MACROECONOMICS I

Lazaridis School of Business and Economics, Department of Economics, Waterloo  
Fall | 2020

#### Instructor Information

Instructor: Stephen Snudden  
Office: LH 3022 (Working Remotely)  
Tutorials: Thursdays, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. on MLS Zoom  
Phone: 1-613-532-2360 (email preferred)  
Email: [ssnudden@wlu.ca](mailto:ssnudden@wlu.ca) (begin with EC640 in the subject box, do not use MLS)  
Lecture: Two posted Mondays at 8:00 a.m. on MLS.  
URL: <https://mylearningspace.wlu.ca/> (use your Novell login)

#### Course Overview

Macroeconomics is the study of economic aggregates. This course will cover:

1. Economic growth.
2. Business cycles.
3. Fiscal and monetary policy.

This course will introduce students to the study of macroeconomics at an advanced level. The objective is to familiarize students with important macroeconomic concepts. The main focus will be canonical macroeconomic models that underlie current macroeconomic theory and policy. The methods will center on discrete-time models and cumulate to micro-founded, dynamic stochastic general equilibrium models. Math is used heavily throughout this course. The topics covered include economic growth, business cycles, and fiscal and monetary policy.

#### Course Materials

- The lecture notes are required reading and will be self-contained.
- Stata 16 is required. A 6-month student licence of Stata/IC is \$48 USD. That's said, I recommend at least a 1-year licence for MABE students as it may be used for other courses and your masters research paper (MRP). <https://www.stata.com/>
- There is no required textbook for this class but these supplementary reading materials may be helpful to obtain:
  1. (Textbook) Michael Wickens. 2008. Macroeconomic theory: a dynamic general equilibrium approach. First Edition, Princeton University Press.
  2. (Textbook) José L. Torres. 2015. Introduction to dynamic macroeconomic general equilibrium models. Second Edition, Vernon Press.

- (Textbook) Stephen D. Williamson, 2017, Macroeconomics, Fifth Canadian Edition, Pearson Education.

### Course Evaluation

Item	Weight	Due Date
Assignment 1	10%	Oct. 4 <sup>th</sup> , 6 p.m.
Assignment 2	10%	<del>Oct. 25</del> , Nov. 1 <sup>st</sup> , 6 p.m.
Assignment 3	10%	<del>Nov. 22</del> , Nov. 29 <sup>th</sup> , 6 p.m.
Midterm Exam	25%	<del>Oct. 29</del> , Nov. 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2:30–3:50 p.m.
Participation	5%	Semester long
Final Exam	40%	TBD
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	

Note: Fall term reading week Oct 12 - Oct 16, no lectures or tutorials.

### Assignments

Three assignments will be posted on MyLearningSpace a couple weeks before the due date. Each assignment will be worth 10%. The assignments' exercises are designed to prepare students for being macroeconomists as well as for exam questions. Students may work on assignments individually or in groups of a few people. Assignments are due by 6 p.m. on the due date. Assignments will be handed in to MyLearningSpace in pdf format. Late assignments will *not* be accepted. There will be *no exceptions* to this rule. If *all three* assignments are completed, the assignment with the lowest grade will *automatically* be excluded and the weight will be transferred to the other assignments.

### Exams

There is one midterm exam to be held my MyLearningSpace during class time. The midterm exam will include everything covered up to Assignment 2. All students are required to write the midterm exam. If you do miss the midterm exam, there will not be a make-up midterm exam. However, if appropriate and timely documentation is provided the weight will be transferred to the final exam.

The final exam will be held at a date and location to be set by the University. The final exam will include all the material covered in the course. If you wrote the midterm exam but end up with a higher grade on the final exam than the midterm, all the midterm grade weight will be transferred to the final exam. Students are strongly encouraged not to make any commitments (i.e., vacation) during the final examination period. Students are required to be available for examinations during the examination period.

### MyLearningSpace

This course is administered through MyLearningSpace on [mylearningspace.wlu.ca](http://mylearningspace.wlu.ca). There will be no in-person lectures during the Fall of 2020. The title of this course on MLS is *EC-640-A - Macroeconomics I*. This website contains all course content: syllabus, lecture notes, recorded

lectures and tutorials, notifications, and surveys. The assignments and exams will be administered on this website. Check the website frequently for important announcements.

### Participation and Tutorials

The participation component of the grade will involve two online surveys (worth 1.5 grade point each) to be posted on MyLearningSpace as well as presence and contribution during at least two online tutorials (1 grade point each). The participation requirement for tutorials can be waved at the discretion of the professor for exceptional circumstances, such as time zone issues. Extra grade points maybe awarded to students who show exceptional contribution to the course. The tutorials are required content and will be recorded and posted. The tutorials will review practice questions for the exams, discuss solutions to assignments and midterms, give advice for the assessments, and answer student questions. As such, tutorials jointly serve as office hours and questions should be asked at these sessions.

### Tentative Course Outline

	Topics	Supplementary Readings
1	Introduction to Macroeconomics	Wickens Ch. 1; Torres Ch. 1
2	Measurement	Williamson Ch. 2 and 3
3	Introduction to Growth and DGE	Wickens Ch. 2.1-2.3
4	Solow Models	Wickens Ch. 3.1-3.3
5	Simulating DSGE models	Stata_dsge16.pdf
6	Growth Theory: Solow Models	Wickens Ch. 3.1-3.3
7	Micro foundations: Two-Period Models	Williamson Ch. 9
8	The Centralized Economy: Neoclassical (Ramsey) Growth Model	Wickens Ch. 2.4-2.8, 3.4- 3.6, 15.3;
9	The Decentralized Economy: Competitive Equilibrium and Real Business Cycles Models	Wickens Ch. 4, 14.1-14.2, 15.5-15.6; Torres Ch. 2
10	Policy in DSGE Models	Wickens Ch. 14.3, Torres Ch. 7
11	Structural VARs; DSGE estimation and calibration	Kilian (2011) Structural Vector Autoregressions; Stata_dsge16.pdf
12	Monetary Policy: New-Keynesian Models	Wickens Ch. 13, 14.4

Note: Portions of some of the chapters may be skipped, and other material may be added. This will mainly be in response to student feedback. Updates will be provided in class.

## **Academic Misconduct**

Laurier is committed to a culture of integrity within and beyond the classroom. This culture values trustworthiness (i.e., honesty, integrity, reliability), fairness, caring, respect, responsibility and citizenship. As a Laurier student you are responsible for familiarizing yourself with this policy and the accompanying penalty guidelines, some of which may appear on your transcript if there is a finding of misconduct. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalty, please consult Laurier's [academic integrity](#) website. Ignorance is not a defense. If you need clarification of aspects of University policy on Academic and Research Misconduct, please consult your instructor. **Software will be used to check for plagiarism on assignments. Students will be required to submit their written work in electronic form to have it checked for plagiarism.**

## **Intellectual Property**

The educational materials developed for this course, including, but not limited to, lecture notes and slides, handout materials, examinations and assignments, and any materials posted to MyLearningSpace, are the intellectual property of the course instructor. These materials have been developed for student use only and they are not intended for wider dissemination and/or communication outside of a given course. Posting or providing unauthorized audio, video, or textual material of lecture content to third-party websites violates an instructor's intellectual property rights, and the Canadian Copyright Act. Recording lectures in any way is prohibited in this course unless specific permission has been granted by the instructor. Failure to follow these instructions may be in contravention of the university's Code of Student Conduct and/or Code of Academic Conduct, and will result in appropriate penalties. Participation in this course constitutes an agreement by all parties to abide by the relevant University Policies, and to respect the intellectual property of others during and after their association with Wilfrid Laurier University.

## **Recording Synchronous (live) Class Sessions Statement**

Synchronous (live) class sessions will be delivered in this course through a video conferencing platform supported by the university [Zoom]. Steps have been taken to protect the security of the information shared. For more information about Zoom, please visit ICT's Tech Support and Services page.

Class sessions will be recorded with the video and audio (and in some cases transcription) made available to students in the course in MyLearningSpace for the duration of the term. The recordings may capture your name, image or voice through the video and audio recordings. By attending in these live classes, you are consenting to the collection of this information for the purposes of administering the class and associated course work. If you are concerned about the use or collection of your name and other personal information in the class, please contact the course instructor to identify possible alternatives.

To learn more about how your personal information is collected, used and disclosed by the University, please see Laurier's Notice of Collection, Use and Disclosure of Personal Information.

## Resources:

- [Academic Calendar](#): Review the Academic Calendar for information regarding all important dates, deadlines, and services available on campus.
- [Waterloo Student Wellness Centre](#): 519-884-0710, x3146. The Centre supports the physical, emotional, and mental health needs of students. Located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Student Services Building, booked and same-day appointments are available Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 8:30 am to 7:30 pm, and Thursdays and Fridays from 8:30 am to 4:15 pm. Contact the Centre at x3146, [wellness@wlu.ca](mailto:wellness@wlu.ca) or @LaurierWellness. After hours crisis support available 24/7. Call 1-844-437-3247 (HERE247).
- [Good2Talk](#) is a postsecondary school helpline that provides free, professional and confidential counselling support for students in Ontario. Call 1-866-925-5454 or through 2-1-1. Available 24-7.
- [Waterloo Foot Patrol](#): 519.886.FOOT (3668). Foot Patrol is a volunteer operated safe-walk program, available Fall and Winter daily from 6:30 pm to 3 am. Teams of two are assigned to escort students to and from campus by foot or by van.
- [Waterloo Student Food Bank](#): All students are eligible to use this service to ensure they're eating healthy when overwhelmed, stressed or financially strained. Anonymously request a package online 24-7. All dietary restrictions accommodated.
- [Mathematics and Statistics Learning Support \(MaSt\)](#): MaSt offers diagnostic and review services to refresh your knowledge in fundamental math skills. Support includes weekly homework sessions and drop-in help. All students are eligible to use this service. Office Location: P215, Peters Building (Waterloo).