

**University of Waterloo
Department of Economics**

Syllabus
Economics 407
Macroeconomics
Spring 2021

Instructor: Matthew Doyle

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Please note that, at present, I do not have access to my office. As a result, the best way to contact me is through email, which I check regularly.

Email: m6doyle@uwaterloo.ca

(Virtual) Office Hours: Tuesdays: 1:30pm-3pm,
 Thursdays: 10:30am-Noon,
 and by appointment.

Delivery:

This class will be taught remotely. As a result, there will be no in class meetings.

The course content will be delivered primarily through course notes, which I will make available through Learn. I will supplement the notes with video lectures that will also be made available through Learn. The video lectures will not attempt to duplicate the format of an in person lecture. Instead, they will consist of a series of shorter videos, each covering a relatively narrow portion of the notes.

I will be holding virtual office hours via WebEx to facilitate student-instructor interaction. I will host office hours during the times indicated above, which will be exclusive to Econ 407. The link to the WebEx meeting room will be available through the course page on Learn. You do not need to schedule an appointment to access my scheduled office hours. You can simply click on the link to connect. If you would like office hour consultation outside of my scheduled hours then send me an email and we can arrange a different meeting time. I am also willing to attempt to answer questions through email, though I may request a WebEx meeting instead, as some questions are much easier to answer “face-to-face.”

During a normal semester, I have numerous conversations with students on topics that are not directly related to the course material. For example, students often drop by my office to inquire about graduate school, or to talk about newsworthy economic events. You should feel free to use office hours for this kind of interaction.

Course description:

The existence of large differences in average incomes and living standards across countries and time is a central feature of the world. This goal of this course is to examine these differences. The course uses economic analysis to understand the sources of investment and innovation, and the role of economic, social, and political institutions in economic growth and development.

Textbook:

Since there is no textbook that closely fits the structure and level of this course, there will be no required textbook for the class. Instead, the main reference for this class will be the class notes that I will post on Learn.

For a textbook pitched at a level a bit below Econ 407, but covering many of the same topics, I recommend:

Weil, David N. (2013) Economic Growth, *Routledge*

If you prefer something pitched at a slightly higher level than Econ 407, then you might want to try:

Acemoglu, Daron. (2009) An Introduction to Modern Economic Growth *Princeton University Press*

Evaluation:

The assessment tool in Econ 407 will be a series of written assignments. The assignments will be a mix of short answer questions and mathematical problems. The mix will change chapter by chapter, as some topics lend themselves more naturally to formal modelling and analysis than do others. All assignments are to be handed in via the Dropbox on Learn. Please include your name on your assignment, and check that all pages are correctly oriented.

The due dates for the assignments are as follows:

Assessment	Due Date
Assignment 1	Tuesday, June 1 st , 11 pm
Assignment 2	Tuesday, June 15 th , 11 pm
Assignment 3	Tuesday, June 29 th , 11 pm
Assignment 4	Tuesday, July 6 th , 11 pm
Assignment 5	Tuesday, July 20 th , 11 pm
Assignment 6	Tuesday, Aug. 3 rd , 11 pm

The Learn Dropbox is scheduled to close at 11 pm. Ideally, you should prepare to submit your assignment prior to the closing of the Dropbox. Note, however, that I am typically still awake at 11pm, so if you are having problems with the Dropbox, you can email me, and we should be able to sort something out. For the purposes of feedback, I will be posting solutions to all of the assignments on the Wednesday after they are due. Naturally, I cannot accept late assignments once the solutions have been posted.

The assignments will be equally weighted. Your grade on the assignments will be the average of your best 5 assignments. Consequently, you can miss one assignment without providing any sort of documentation. If you are required to miss multiple assignments, you must submit documentation for all missed assignments in order to qualify for an alternate accommodation, which will take the form of a written exam with coverage of the missed topics. If needed, this exam will take place sometime after the last day of classes (Aug. 5th).

You are expected to complete all assessments on your own. If you are stuck on an assignment, you should get in touch with me, rather than collaborate with a classmate.

Outline of Topics:

Date	Topic	Assignment Due
May 10 th – May 28 th	1. Data and description	Combined with Chp. 2.
May. 17 th – May 28 th	2. Malthusian growth theory	June 1 st
May 31 st - June 11 th	3. Factor accumulation	June 15 th
June 14 th – June 25 th	4. Technological progress	June 29 th
June 28 th – July 9 th	5. Growth theory: summary	Combined with Chp. 6
June 28 th – July 9 th	6. The fundamental causes of growth	July 13 th
July 12 th – July 23 rd	7. Institutions	July 27 th
July 26 th – Aug 6 th	8. Other topics	Dec. 7 th

Statements and links to be included on all course outlines:

Academic integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. [Check [the Office of Academic Integrity](#) for more information.]

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4](#). When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. [Check [the Office of Academic Integrity](#) for more information.] A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate associate dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71, Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties, check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under [Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances](#) (other than a petition) or [Policy 71, Student Discipline](#) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72, Student Appeals](#).

Note for students with disabilities: [AccessAbility Services](#), located in Needles Hall, Room 1401, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.