

University of Waterloo
Department of Economics

Syllabus
Economics 306
Macroeconomics
Fall 2020

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: Mondays: 9:30am-11am,
Wednesdays: 1:30pm-3pm,
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 306. 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:

This course introduces students to the analysis of inter-temporal trade-offs in macroeconomics. Its main objective is to show how economists use economic theory to analyze the role of incentives and general equilibrium considerations in the macro-economy. The course is intended to lay the theoretical foundations that underpin the upper level courses in Macroeconomics (Econ 406, 407, 408, 409, and 496).

Textbook:

Since there is no textbook that closely fits the structure 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.

If you would like a textbook reference for the course, the book I recommend is: Williamson, Stephen. Macroeconomics. Any edition will work. This book has chapters on many, but not all, of the topics we will cover in Econ 306. It does a good job with the diagrammatic treatments, but relegates the calculus approaches to a mathematical appendix.

Some material (for example, consumption under uncertainty) is not covered by the Williamson book. If you would like a textbook reference for that material, I recommend Romer, David. Advanced Macroeconomics. Be aware that this book is pitched at a slightly higher mathematical level than the course as a whole (I do use the Romer textbook in Econ 408 in case you are reluctant to buy a book just for one or two chapters of Econ 306).

Evaluation:

Assessment	Due Date
Assignment 1	Monday, Sept. 21 st , 11 pm
Assignment 2	Monday, Oct. 5 th , 11 pm
Assignment 3	Monday, Oct. 26 th , 11 pm
Assignment 4	Monday, Nov. 9 th , 11 pm
Assignment 5	Monday, Nov 23 rd , 11 pm
Assignment 6	Monday, Dec. 7 th , 11 pm

Assignments:

The assessment tool in Econ 306 will be a series of written assignments. The assignments will be a mix of short answer questions and math problems. The first practice assignment is already available on Learn--you can take a look at it to get a sense of what the assignments will look like. 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 Learn dropbox is scheduled to close at 11 pm. It is a virtual certainty that someone will have an issue with technology failure at some point during the semester. 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 Tuesday 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 accomodation, which will take the form of a written exam with coverage of the missed topics. If needed, this exam will take place some time after the last day of classes (Dec. 7th).

Students are expected to complete all assessments on their 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
Sept. 8 th - Sept. 18 th	1. Consumption and savings	Sept. 21 st
Sept. 21 st - Oct. 2 nd	2. Consumption under uncertainty	Oct. 5 th
Oct. 5 th - Oct. 23 rd	3. Static general equilibrium with production: Diagrams	Oct. 26 th
Note: Oct. 10 th - Oct. 18 th is reading week		
Oct. 26 th - Nov. 6 th	4. Static general equilibrium with production: Calculus	Nov. 9 th
Nov. 9 th - Nov. 20 th	5. Dynamic general equilibrium with production: 2 periods	Nov. 23 rd
Nov. 30 th - Dec. 4 th	6. Modelling government	Dec. 7 th

The course will be divided into six blocks, each lasting two weeks. For each block I will post a set of notes, some video lectures, and a practice assignment on or before the starting date indicated in the table above. At the start of the second week, I will post a set of solutions to the practice assignment, as well as the actual assignment for that unit. The following table outlines the structure of a typical block:

	Monday	Rest of the week (suggested study pattern)
Week 1	Notes, videos, and practice assignment available on Learn	Week 1: read the notes and attempt to work through the practice assignment
Week 2	Assignment, and solutions to the practice assignment posted to Learn	Week 2: review solutions to practice assignment, and refer back to the notes as needed Work on the assignment
	Assignment due by 11pm	Week 1 of the next topic

Statements and links to be included on all course outlines:

[Economics Department Deferred Final Exam Policy](#)

Cross-listed course

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Academic Integrity

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

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. 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 professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

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.

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](#).

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Note for students with disabilities: [The AccessAbility Services office](#), located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (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 the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.

Recommended statements to be included on course outlines

Mental Health Support

All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health supports if they are needed.

On Campus

- 🕒 Counselling Services: counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca / 519-888-4567 ext 32655
- 🕒 **MATES**: one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
- 🕒 Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek from Student Life Centre

Off campus, 24/7

- 🕒 **Good2Talk**: Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- 🕒 Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-433 ext. 6880
- 🕒 **Here 24/7**: Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- 🕒 **OK2BME**: set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 extension 213

Full details can be found online at the Faculty of ARTS [website](#)

Download [UWaterloo and regional mental health resources \(PDF\)](#)

Download the [WatSafe](#) app to your phone to quickly access mental health support information

Territorial Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are living and working on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River.