

Syllabus
Economics 408
Business Cycles
Winter 2020

Instructor: Matthew Doyle
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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 12:30-2:30

Meetings:

This class meets on Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30-9:50 am in STC 20.

Overview:

This course examines the issue of economic fluctuations. It begins with a discussion of the history of business cycles, as well as a description of the facts. The course then presents some of the leading potential explanations of these fluctuations.

Textbook:

There is no required textbook for the class. I will post on UWLearn as the semester progresses.

Evaluation:

There will be a midterm exam worth 25% of the final grade. The midterm will take place in class on Thursday, Feb 13th.

There will be a final exam, which will be worth 50% of the final grade. The final exam will take place during the final exam period at a time and place chosen by the Registrar's Office.

Finally, there will be a series of written assignments that will make up the remaining 25% of the course grade. These assignments are to be handed in during class time, and late assignments will not be accepted unless the student and instructor have made a prior agreement to allow a late submission. The assignments will be equally weighted. Students are expected to complete all assignments on their own.

Policy on Missed Assignments and Tests:

No make-up tests will be provided. A student who does not have a relevant medical certificate will receive a mark of zero on a missed test and that student's final grade will be computed in accordance with the formula specified above. For students who do have a relevant medical certificate the weight from the missed midterm will be applied to the final exam.

A student may fail to submit *one* assignment without penalty. A student who misses more than one assignment will receive accommodation only for missed assignments for which the student is able to provide relevant medical documentation. The form of the accommodation is that the weight from the missed assignments will be shifted to the final exam.

Tentative Outline of Topics:

1. Description and Data
2. Efficient Fluctuations
3. Sticky Prices
4. Coordination Failures
5. Bank Panics
6. Other topics as time permits

Statements and links that must be included on all course outlines

Cross-listed course (requirement for all Arts courses)

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](#) 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. 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 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.