

Introductory Macroeconomics

ECON 102:23, Winter 2022

Wednesdays 9:45-11am and Fridays 8:15-9:30am, GM001

Professor: Diana Alessandrini

Email: dalessan@stfx.ca

Class Webpage (Moodle): [Moodle.stfx.ca](https://moodle.stfx.ca)

Office hours (Collaborate)

Mondays	12:45-2:00 PM
Wednesdays	3:00-4:30 PM
Thursdays	2:15-3:30 PM
Fridays	10:00 AM-12:00 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an introductory course that covers basic topics in macroeconomics. The main objective of the course is to introduce students to the language and analytical framework used by economists to analyze real world phenomena. The course will discuss how to calculate basic macroeconomic indicators such as the gross domestic product, the consumer price index and the unemployment rate. We will also discuss long-run economic growth and business cycles. Then, attention will turn towards the role of policymakers in stabilizing the economy using fiscal and monetary policy.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

- **Lecture notes:** I will post lecture notes on a weekly basis on Moodle. Please print them and bring them to class.
- **iClicker:**
I will be using the i>clicker student response system in class this semester. i>clicker helps me set the pace of lectures and gives everyone a chance to participate in class. You will need to use **the application "REEF Polling" on your smartphone, tablet or laptop, and pay the subscription fee (\$20)**. A summary of what you need to know about i>clicker is posted on Moodle (see "iClicker Reef instruction"). You will need to have your device set up and bring it to class with you each day starting **February 2nd**.

OPTIONAL COURSE MATERIALS

If you come to class regularly and take detailed notes, you can rely on those notes to prepare for exams and assignments. However, if you miss a class, you will have to read the textbook to catch up on the material. I will follow "*Macroeconomics: Canada in the Global Environment*" by Michael

Parkin and Robin Bade (Pearson Education). Follow [this link](#) to purchase the ebook or the print edition from the publisher website. You can also buy a used copy from the bookstore/other sellers.

FINAL GRADES

	<u>Weight</u>
Moodle assignments (best 4 out of 6)	10%
i>clicker questions	5%
Test 1	25%
Test 2	25%
Final exam	35%

- Assignments:** Deadlines are posted at the end of this course outline and on Moodle. Assignments will become available on Moodle 7-10 days before the deadline. The best 4 out of 6 assignments will count towards your final grade. Since solutions become available immediately after the deadline, deadline extensions cannot be provided even if you experience technical problems. If you encounter technical problems related to Moodle, please let me know before the deadline and I will help you solve the problem.
- iClicker questions:** During lectures, you will be asked to answer questions or solve problems using the i>clicker response system (on your smartphone, tablet or laptop). You must create an account to get credit, see the instructions posted on Moodle or talk to me. It is your responsibility to bring your clicker to class. To calculate your final grade, I will drop your three lowest clicker scores (that is, three lectures). Thus, you can miss three clicker sessions without penalty.
- Tests**
There will be two tests in class on **February 18th and March 23rd**. In the event of a winter closure on a test day, the test will be moved to the next scheduled lecture. Students should be prepared for this eventuality. Should you miss the test due to extenuating circumstances, you can either write a make-up test or transfer the weight of the test (25% in this case) to the final exam. Please note that requests to alter the test date for travel plans will not be accommodated.
- Cumulative final exam:** The examination schedule will be available within 4 weeks after the beginning of classes each term. If you are unable to attend the final exam due to illness or due to a serious unexpected circumstance you must notify the appropriate Dean (i.e. Dean of Business if you are enrolled in a Business program, Dean of Arts if you are enrolled in an Arts program, etc.).

OTHER POLICIES:

- **Classroom conduct:**

I need your cooperation to ensure orderly conduct of lectures.

- Please arrive on time. If you have to leave early on a particular day for a valid reason, please let me know in advance and try to find a seat near the aisle to minimize class disruption. You may not come and go as you please.
- Discussions among students are very disruptive. If you have a question, please share it with all of us.

- **Taking pictures or videos during lectures is not allowed.** Please note that the materials in this course are the property of the instructor. Online posting or selling this material to third parties for distribution without permission is subject to Canadian Copyright law and is strictly prohibited.

- **Accommodations through the center for accessible learning:**

Students who would like to request accommodations are asked to contact the Tramble Centre for Accessible Learning:

Phone 902.867.5349

Email: tramble@stfx.ca

<http://www2.mystfx.ca/accessible-learning/>

The Tramble Center welcomes students with documented permanent disabilities and offers them a student-centered program of support. Located in Room 108 of the Angus L MacDonald Library, new and returning students meet with program staff to discuss options for support. Deadline for registering with the Center is two weeks prior to the end of classes each semester and 3 business days' notice is required for booking all accommodated tests and exams. To book an appointment please use the following link: <https://stfxcal.mywconline.com/>

- **Equitable learning:**

Everyone learns more effectively in a respectful, safe and equitable learning environment, free from discrimination and harassment. I invite you to work with me to create a classroom space – both real and virtual – that fosters and promotes values of human dignity, equity, non-discrimination and respect for diversity.

- **Academic Integrity Policy:** <http://www2.mystfx.ca/registrars-office/academic-integrity>

Please note that simply having an unauthorized device (cell phone or smart watch for example) with you during an exam (even if not used during the exam) is a violation of the academic integrity policy.

- **Important dates:**

March 22nd is the last day to drop the course. If you decide to drop the course, you must do so online through Banner. Permission to drop or change a course after the deadline can only be granted by the Dean's office. In addition, following the Academic Calendar, no classes will be held on **January 28th** and **February 21st-27th**.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THE COURSE:

To succeed in the course you should come to all classes, take detailed lecture notes and solve as many exercises as you can. **Solving the assignments and practice exercises posted on Moodle is necessary to do well in the course.** I suggest that you solve the practice exercises on a weekly basis.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

Week	Dates	Topics	Assignments
1	19-Jan	Syllabus + introduction	
	21-Jan	GDP	
2	26-Jan	GDP	
	28-Jan	No classes scheduled	
3	2-Feb	GDP	
	4-Feb	Labor markets	Assignment 1 due Feb 4 at 5PM
4	9-Feb	Labor markets + Inflation	
	11-Feb	Inflation	Assignment 2 due Feb 11 at 5PM
5	16-Feb	Review	
	18-Feb	TEST 1	
6	23-Feb	Winter Study Break	
	25-Feb	Winter Study Break	
7	2-March	Financial markets	
	4-March	Financial markets	
8	9-March	Aggregate demand and supply	
	11-March	Aggregate demand and supply	Assignment 3 due March 11 at 5 PM
9	16-March	Aggregate demand and supply	
	18-March	Review	Assignment 4 due March 18 at 5 PM
10	23-March	TEST 2	
	25-March	Money	
11	30-March	Money	
	1-April	Monetary policy	Assignment 5 due April 1 at 5 PM
12	6-April	Monetary policy	
	8-April	Fiscal policy	Assignment 6 due April 8 at 5 PM
13	13-April	Review	