

McMaster University
Department of Economics
Winter 2018
Economic Issues
ECON 2D03

Instructor: Krishnakali SenGupta
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Classes: Monday, Thursdays: 3.30pm to 4.20pm and Tuesdays: 4.30pm to 5.20pm
at MDCL 1102

Office Hours: Tuesdays 3.00p.m. – 4.00 p.m. at KTH 436 till April 3, 2018. Special office hours will be held before term tests and final examination.

Course Objectives:

This course is primarily an application oriented study of relevant economic issues. The subject matter involves application of basic economic principles to address real life economic scenarios, problems and solutions in the context of world and Canadian economy. Topics to be covered will include concepts related to environment, education, discrimination, housing, health care, social security, world poverty international trade, unemployment and inflation and government macroeconomic policies.

Prerequisite for the course: Theoretical concepts learnt in introductory level Macroeconomics and Microeconomics courses are essential for learning the course material. Basic Algebra methods with graph related knowledge will be required for solving numerical problems.

Course Material:

(1) **REQUIRED TEXT BOOK:** *Economic Issues and Policy*, Sixth Edition 2015, by Jacqueline Murray Brux (South-Western College Publication), ISBN -13: 978-1285448770.

(2) **AVENUE TO LEARN Material:** All important information related to the course including course outlines, brief sketches of lectures, assignments, practice problems, grades, and announcements will be posted on AVENUE TO LEARN (A2L) website. It is your responsibility to check your A2L account regularly (at least once a day) for announcements or other material posted on the course site. **The detailed lecture slides will not be available online.** In case you miss a class lecture please contact the instructor during her office hours.

Assessment: The main purpose of this course is to learn how to apply simple theoretical concepts in analyzing practical questions. The evaluation will be mostly problem based. The questions will be analytical types and some of those will require simple numerical calculations. The mark for the course is averaged over 3 mandatory term tests and final examination

IMPORTANT DATES:

(1) TERM TESTS:

TERM TEST 1: JANUARY 18, 2018.

TERM TEST 2: MARCH 1, 2018.

TERM TEST 3: MARCH 29, 2017.

(2) FINAL EXAMINATION: During Final examination period in April 2018.

The duration for term test is 45 minutes. Syllabus for term tests will be announced later.

Final examination will be for 2 hours duration. It will cover full syllabus.

The term tests and the final examination will feature true and false type statements and short answer type questions. Only CASIO FX 991 Calculators are permitted for midterm and final examination.

IMPORTANT:

1. **There will be no make-up term test, or final examination.** If any student misses any term test, the grade will be zero for the test or assignment unless the student submits MSAF or a note of authentication from either Office of Dean/Associate of Social Sciences or from physicians (approved by the Dean's Office) in which case the additional weight of the missed term test will be assigned to the final examination. The MSAF or the note of authentication must be submitted within 3 days of the missed term test or assignment.

For a missed term test, the weight of the assessment will be transferred to the final exam provided the student follows the above rule concerning missed term work.

In case you miss the final examination, you will be required to write the deferred exam supervised by Registrar's office.

Please refer to <http://registrar.mcmaster.ca/exams/deferred/> for regulations and policies related to deferred final examinations.

2. **Grade Distribution:**

Term Tests: 45% (each worth 15%)

Final Examination: 55%.

3. Before every examination, ample practice questions will be posted on AVENUE TO LEARN. For a better practice of solving problems, there is going to be an **"in class tutorial session"** during lecture time. During the tutorial, questions and problems from the text book will be covered in addition to other practice questions from time to time to explain the problem solving procedure step by step, in order to make the concepts easier to understand. These practice questions will provide the students with guidelines for term test/final examination questions.

4. **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY RULES:** It is your responsibility to be aware of the “Statement on Academic Ethics” and “Senate Resolutions on Academic Dishonesty” which is available at Senate office or you can check the website: <http://www.mcmaster.ca/univsec/policy/AcademicIntegrity.pdf>
For detailed information of plagiarism related issues refer to the following website: <http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity/students/typeofad/plagiarism/index.htm>.

Chapters to be covered (tentatively): Chapters 1 to 15. Please note, for some chapters only selected portions will be covered as a part of the course material.

Concluding Remarks and University Guidelines:

1. For getting the most out of this course grade wise and in terms of learning, active participation on your behalf is essential. In order to make this journey successful, each and every student’s cooperation, diligence, sincerity and above all a great deal of interest and involvement in learning the course material are important. This will ensure that we receive the maximum value added from the course.

2. The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

3. FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES E-MAIL COMMUNICATION POLICY

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student’s own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Email Forwarding in MUGSI:

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/uts/support/email/emailforward.html>

*Forwarding will take effect 24-hours after students complete the process at the above link

(Approved at the Faculty of Social Sciences meeting on Tues. May 25, 2010)

Good luck with the course.