McGill University
Department of Economics

ECON 219-001
CURRENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS: TOPICS
Winter 2019

Professor: Dr. Sandra Saghir
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Course Location: ADAMS AUD
Course meeting times: Tuesdays & Thursdays 4:05pm – 5:25pm

Office: Leacock 531
Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:30pm-3:45pm

Number of Credits: 3 credits

Content
This course offers students an introduction to several economic and policy issues that regularly surface in today’s public debates. It is intended to an audience with no prior knowledge of economics and as such it has no formal prerequisites other than a level of comfort with basic mathematical definitions at a pre-calculus level. While the course focuses on the economic dimension of these issues, it also touches upon their broader sociological and political implications. The following topics will be discussed: (i) the international trade theory and policy; (ii) the economics of globalization: a) open-economy macroeconomics, b) international macroeconomic policy; (iii) development: poverty and inequality: a) the rise of income inequality and b) the gap between developed vs. developing countries; (iv) Environmental issues (global climate change) and their economic implication.
Textbook

- The e-book could be purchased online by clicking on the below URL: https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com_northamerica_&d=DwIFAw&c=0YLnzTkWOdJlub-v7qAx8Q&r=v3Qb_1vvebTEBc7VZcrBC8YmZsH4j646QuqXoV8EHj0&m=v8mzUQjiKVSpYVuEO9SDN9E9vUM1pBP4J4By5CZ2zhc&s=Fkrix4Hpv8T1AdpUBAq3JpolJjEAh0N_HI_KWhX0U&c=
- My Course ID is: saghir87369
- Readings/articles will also be assigned during lecture and will be announced on MyCourses.

TAs

Your primary contacts should be the three teaching assistants listed below. You may contact them by email. They will also hold office hours every week during which they will help you work through problems and answer questions related to the course material. The office hours of the TAs will be posted under “Announcements” on myCourses.

Erwan Jain: erwan.jain@mail.mcgill.ca
Lan Zhang: lan.zhang4@mail.mcgill.ca
Gabriel Rodriguez Rondon: gabriel.rodriguezrondon@mail.mcgill.ca

Communication: The TAs should be your primary contacts. You may come during my office hours for any issue you may have concerning the course. Any additional readings, information and important events/exam dates will be posted on myCourses. You are responsible in checking it daily.

Grading Scheme

Your grade this semester will be based on:
- A Midterm Exam (40%) (Date to be determined)
- A Final 3 hour Exam (60%)

All examinations will be closed-note, closed book. There will be no make-up midterm.
Tentative Course Outline

1. Introduction
   - Introduction to International Economics (Ch. 1)

2. International Trade Theory and Policy
   - World Trade: An Overview (Ch.2)
   - Different Trade Models (Ch.3-6)
   - Trade Policy in Developing Countries (Ch.11)
   - Controversies in Trade Policy (Ch. 12)

3. The Economics of Globalization
   A. Open-Economy Macroeconomics
      - Money, Interest Rates and Exchange Rates (ch.15)
      - Output and Growth (AD-AS Model)
      - The role of technological Improvement on Economic Growth and Macro implications
   B. International Macroeconomic Policy
      - International Monetary System: IMF(ch.19)
      - Financial Globalization: Opportunity and Crisis (ch.20)

4. Development Issues: Poverty and Inequality
   - The rise of Income Inequality
   - The Gap between developed vs. developing countries (ch.22)
   - The Role of International Organizations in fighting poverty and Inequality (UN-WB)

5. Environmental Issues and their Economic Implications
   - Global Climate Change and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
   - Carbon Tax Implementation and Consequences
**Required Official Statements**

1. McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offenses under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).

2. In accordance with McGill University’s Charter of Students Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

3. Instructors who may adopt the use of text-matching software to verify the originality of students’ written course work must register for use of the software with Educational Technologies (Email) and must inform their students before the drop/add deadline, in writing, of the use of text-matching software in a course.

4. If you have a disability please contact the instructor to arrange a time to discuss your situation. It would be helpful if you contact the Office for Students with Disabilities at 514-398-6009 before you do this.

5. Additional policies governing academic issues which affect students can be found in the McGill Charter of Students’ Rights” (Chapter One of the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook available as a PDF on http://www.mcgill.ca/study/2010-2011/).

6. McGill University shall strive to be recognized as an environmentally safe and responsible institution, and as a model of environmentally responsible living.” (see Environmental Policy for McGill University)

7. In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University’s control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.