

**YORK UNIVERSITY**  
**Department of Economics**

**TOPICS IN MACROECONOMICS**  
**ECON 5110**  
**Fall 2014**

Continuously updated; this version is from 9 September, 2014.

**Instructor:** Nils-Petter (Nippe) Lagerlöf

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**Office:** Vari Hall 1056

**Office hours:** Mondays 2-3 pm.

**Teaching Assistant:** None that I know of for this course.

**Teaching website:** <http://www.nippelagerlof.com/teaching/teaching.htm>

**Lecture hours:** Tuesdays 2.30–5.30 pm in R S101.

**Textbook:** There is no textbook. We will follow segments of my lecture notes for Econ 5750 (see link from teaching web site above), and some other notes and articles listed on a detailed reading list available on the course website.

**Grading scheme:** I have stopped having finals exams. A previous year it was interrupted for several hours due to a bomb threat (or whatever it might have been). If a scheduled final exam were to be completely cancelled that could cause huge problems, for me and for students alike, not least for those who have made travel plans. Sad but it is what it is.

Instead, there will be three midterm tests, about 2.5 hours long each, all held in class. There is no final exam. It turns out that this is almost the only way to avoid holding a final exam, while complying with York regulations.<sup>1</sup>

Let your mark on the first midterm be  $M_1$ , the mark on the second be  $M_2$ , and the mark on the third be  $M_3$ . All these ( $M_1$ ,  $M_2$  and  $M_3$ ) are numbers

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<sup>1</sup>Having no final exam also means that concepts like “deferred standing” have little meaning in this course, although I have not had any problems with that in this course.

between 0 and 1 (i.e., they lie on the interval  $[0, 1]$ ). The overall mark (which can be labelled the “numerical grade”) is denoted  $W$  and determined by this function:

$$W = 0.3M_1 + 0.5M_2 + 0.2M_3.$$

I know this is a weird way of weighing up the different components, but this again reflects York regulations: the last exam is not supposed to carry more than 20% of the course total (whatever that means). Then these overall marks are converted to letter grades, according to the scheme posted here (at the time this is written):

<http://gradstudies.yorku.ca/current-students/regulations/courses-grading/#grading>

All exams cover all material taught in the course up until then (i.e., not only what was taught after the most recent midterm).

**Dates for the midterm exams:** The preliminary dates for the midterm exams are as follows:

- The first midterm is held on Tuesday 7 October, 2014, in class.
- The second midterm is held on Tuesday 18 November, 2014, in class.
- The third midterm is held on Tuesday 2 December, 2014, in class.

**Note on academic integrity:** York University publishes information online about the consequences of cheating:

<http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/>