

**Econ 493 – Seminar: Contemporary Issues in Canadian Economic Policy**

**Course Description:**

There are many economic and social issues that are currently debated in Canadian politics. Examples are fiscal discipline and deficit reduction, reforming the Canadian public pension system or the renewal of the inflation targeting regime. Each student in the seminar will write a paper that investigates a specific economic issue where government policy is involved with the goal to discuss the implications for the Canadian economy in general. The topics thus fall in the area of monetary policy, fiscal policy and social security programs, but students can also address issues in environmental, trade or health policy as long as they take a macroeconomic perspective. A list of topics will be distributed at the start of the class.

The seminar course is designed as a natural continuation of Econ 421 – Topics in Macroeconomics. Even though registration is open to all 4th year students, it builds on the questions and theoretical material covered in Econ 421 during the fall semester. Hence, joint registration in both courses is highly recommended.

**Instructor:** Prof. Thorsten Koepl

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**Course Schedule:**

The scheduled time for the class is M 10:00 - 11:30 and W 8:30 – 10:00. For scheduled presentations, the course will meet in Dunning 213. Individual meetings take place in the instructors office.

**Course Requirements:**

The final grade in the course will be determined based on a final paper of 15 to 20 pages in length and in-class work according to the following weights:

Class Participation	25%
Presentation	25%
Final Paper	50%.

All components of this course will receive numerical percentage marks. The final grade you receive for the course will be derived by converting your numerical course average to a letter grade according to Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale. Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale can be accessed at:

[http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academics/undergraduate/current/new-grading-scheme\\*](http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academics/undergraduate/current/new-grading-scheme*)

### **Statement of Academic Integrity**

**Academic integrity** is constituted by the five core fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility (see [www.academicintegrity.org](http://www.academicintegrity.org)). These values are central to the building, nurturing and sustaining of an academic community in which all members of the community will thrive. Adherence to the values expressed through academic integrity forms a foundation for the "freedom of inquiry and exchange of ideas" essential to the intellectual life of the University (see the Senate Report on Principles and Priorities) Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the regulations concerning academic integrity and for ensuring that their assignments conform to the principles of academic integrity. Information on academic integrity is available in the Arts and Science Calendar (see Academic Regulation 1), on the Arts and Science website. Departures from academic integrity include plagiarism, use of unauthorized materials, facilitation, forgery and falsification, and are antithetical to the development of an academic community at Queen's. Given the seriousness of these matters, actions which contravene the regulation on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning or the loss of grades on an assignment to the failure of a course to a requirement to withdraw from the university.