

**Department of Economics**  
**McGill University**  
**Current Economic Problems: Topics ECON 219 002**  
**Winter 2024 - 01/04-04/12**

**Friday - 02:35 pm-05:25 pm**  
**Adams Auditorium**

**Instructor:**    **Professor Hervé Robert Horner**

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**TAs:**

- 1) Charles Guay-Boutet:** [charles.guay-boutet@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:charles.guay-boutet@mail.mcgill.ca)
- 2) Chloe Aboud:** [chloe.aboud@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:chloe.aboud@mail.mcgill.ca)
- 3) Yookyung Julia Koh:** [yookyung.julia.koh@mcgill.ca](mailto:yookyung.julia.koh@mcgill.ca)

*Important: When contacting your professor by email, please be sure to include the TAs in your email as well in order to receive a response.*

### **Course Overview**

This course is designed to provide a comprehensive coverage of current international economic topics, including - but not limited to - purchasing power parity, inflation, economic inequality, the economic impact of environmental pollution, ESG investing, CSR (corporate social responsibility), speculative attacks, and international financial crises.

### **Textbook**

There is no required textbook for this course. All notes and readings will be posted onto myCourses. There will be a balance of current event articles, case studies, and macroeconomic theory. For example, there will also be a technical macroeconomic theory workshop almost every week (typically Thursdays).

Out of courtesy to students facing an emergency and therefore unable to attend class, pre-recorded lectures will also be available throughout the course. Please note that the sound may not be of top production studio quality, since they were recorded using auditorium equipment. They may not also

necessarily contain the introduction and conclusion of lectures or the question and answer sessions:  
These are rather posted as a courtesy.

### **Course Evaluation**

Participation.....	15%
Article analysis .....	15%
Group Case Study Analysis 1.....	15%
Group Case Study Analysis 2.....	15%
Final Research Project .....	40%

*All due dates will be posted in the **Course Calendar** under the **Content** tab in myCourses. Be sure to check this regularly. All assignments are due by 11:59PM on their listed due dates.*

### **Where to Find Project Instructions**

The detailed instructions for all assignments will be posted on my Courses. These will also be explained in detail in class. Feel free to reach out to the professor and to the TAs if you have any questions about this.

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

In accord 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.

### **Course Topics**

A Review of Macroeconomic Theory

Corporate Social Responsibility

ESG Investing (with examples of Scotiabank mutual funds)

The Canadian Financial System

Consumption and Sustainability

Global Economic Inequality

Economic Sociology

Canada's current account deficits in the past 10 years.

The foreign exchange market

Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) and the PPP Puzzle

The Big mac index and the World Bank's ICP

The Balassa-Samuelson Model

International Monetary system

- Gold standard, revisited

- Bretton Woods system

- Collapse of the Bretton Woods system

- International Monetary Fund

Speculative Attacks

International Financial Crises