Syllabus for ECON 201 D
Introduction to Macroeconomics
Winter Quarter 2017

Instructor:	Rory Mullen
Email:	rmmullen@uw.edu
Office Hours:	Monday and Wednesday, 1:20pm-2:20pm, ART 343
Lectures:	Monday through Friday, 12:30pm–1:20pm, SIG 225
Website:	tbd
Textbook:	Principles of Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, N. Gregory Mankiw
Homework:	Due Fridays, 12:30pm, submit via Canvas
Peer Review:	Due Mondays, 12:30pm, submit via Canvas
Midterm:	Feb 3, 2017, 12:30pm-1:20pm, SIG 225
Final:	Mar 16, 2017, 8:30am-10:20am, SIG 225

Introduction and Overview. Welcome to ECON 201. For many of you, this will be your first introduction to macroeconomics, and I view it as a privilege that I get to teach you. We're going to survey quite a bit of material over the next ten weeks, so it might be helpful, at the start, to know that almost all of macroeconomic thinking is organized into two broad areas: long-run economic growth, and short-run economic fluctuations. I hope to convince you that both areas are interesting, and that both are hugely important if we want to solve some rather large human problems. One problem is that many economies have never experienced sustained high levels of economic growth, so their living standards lag far behind those of today's wealthiest countries. A second problem is that all countries, wealthy and poor, face occasional painful periods in which incomes and employment fall temporarily, and sometimes dramatically. We want to use economic theory to explain these problems, and to evaluate policy measures in response to them.

We begin with chapter 10, which introduces the standard way to decompose a nation's output into components that lend themselves to economic analysis. Chapter 11 then discusses the price level and its measurement. We move on to a discussion of long-run economic growth in chapters 12–15. We introduce money and the monetary system in chapters 16 and 17. Finally, we turn to short-run economic fluctuations in chaters 20 and 21.

We have a few learning goals for this course. The first set of goals relates to your stock of economic knowledge. By the end of the term, you should know the standard macroeconomic terminology used in academic writing and media, and have in your head a very simple working model of the economy at the aggregate level. This requires that you learn how several key macroeconomic variables are related. You will also learn to read and interpret macroeconomic data and charts. The second set of goals relates to your ability to apply this economic knowledge. This means analyzing news stories and published economic data and forming opinions that you can support with economic theory or data. It also means evaluating economic policy measures proposed by government officials. You should be in a position to clearly explain to friends how you think specific policy measures will likely affect a nation's growth prospects or business cycle.

Policies and Procedures. I very much want you to succeed in this class. If you too want to succeed in this class, then this section is super important for you. It tells you about (not) coming to class, about what's due and when, what to do if you're confused, about the exams you'll take, about grades and how they're curved, make-ups, late work, extra credit—in short, it tells you everything you need to know to succeed in this class. Please read it carefully, and turn back to it often. I've tried to include all of the bits of information that you'll need, and I hope its a helpful resource to you. I promise that you'll do better in the course if you're familiar with these policies.

Attendance. I strongly recommend that you attend class, but your attendance is not required. In my experience, students who regularly miss class do poorly on exams, and exams make up the majority of your grade. If you do miss class, you are responsible for the material you missed and should make every effort to get notes from a fellow student.

University Holidays. We don't have class on the following university holidays: Jan 16, Martin Luther King Day; Feb 20, Presidents Day. If you have a religious observance that overlaps with scheduled classes or exams, please contact me in the first week of class and we can find a suitable solution.

Office Hours. Please come to office hours. Come if you have questions about the course, or if you're confused by a particular topic, or if you have any other questions that you think I can help with. My hope is that you'll have carefully studied the reading and lecture notes before coming, but don't worry if you haven't. You can also write me an email. Email is better than Canvas messages, which I rarely check.

Homework. Each week, you will have homework assigned from the textbook, and you will be responsible for anonymously peer-reviewing the homework submitted by another student. Your homework is due Fridays by 12:30pm, and your peer review is due the following Monday by 12:30pm. Submit your work by scanning and uploading it to Canvas. I distribute solutions *in class* on Fridays, and I strongly encourage you to check your work against them, restudying material that you get wrong. You are responsible for checking your work and should not rely soley on the peer reviews you receive.

Exams. There are two exams for this course: a midterm and a final. The final is cumulative, and both exams are closed book and closed notes, unless otherwise indicated. You may use any non-programmable calculator, and an English-English dictionary. All other aids are prohibited. I do not give makeup exams unless you have a doctor's note signed and dated the day of the exam stating that you were medically unfit to take the exam. Please do *not* provide me with details of your medical condition.

Misconduct. Academic integrity is the cornerstone of the Department's rules for student conduct and evaluation of student learning. Students accused of academic misconduct will be referred directly to the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct for disciplinary action pursuant to the Student Conduct Code and, if found guilty, will be subject to sanctions. Sanctions range from a disciplinary warning, to academic probation, to immediate dismissal for the Department and the University, depending on the seriousness of the misconduct. Dismissal can be, and has been, applied even for first offenses. Moreover, a grade of zero can be assigned for the course.

Extra Credit. I do not offer extra credit. My view is that extra credit is unfair to students who have worked hard to earn high scores on assignments and exams.

Course Evaluations. You'll have the opportunity to evaluate this course toward the end of term, and I encourage you to do so. The evaluations are anonymous, it only takes five or ten minutes, and I rely on your feedback to improve my teaching and the design of the course. To incentivize you, I will allow you to use one handwritten 3x5 note card on the final exam if the class response rate exceeds 90%.

Grading. The Department of Economics requires the median grade for this course to fall between 2.8 and 3.1 on the 4.0 grading scale. This is a department policy that I cannot influence. I use the following weights to calculate final grades: homework 10%, midterm 40%, final 50%. Here is my procedure for curving homework and exam scores: Let S be the set of student scores on an assignment or exam, and $s_i \in S$ the score of student i. Student i's curved percentage, $p_i \in [0,1]$, is then calculated as

$$p_i = \frac{s_i + \alpha(\max S - s_i)}{\max S},$$

where I choose α such that the median curved percentage lies in the interval $(67.5\%, 75\%]$, and where $\max S$ is the maximal element in S. At the end of the term, I calculate for each student i a weighted-average curved percentage according to the formula

$$\bar{p}_i = 0.1 p_{i,homework} + 0.4 p_{i,midterm} + 0.5 p_{i,final}.$$

I then use the following tables to convert weighted-average curved percentages to your final grades on the 4.0 grading scale:

Percentage Scale	4.0 Scale	Letter Grade	Percentage Scale	4.0 Scale	Letter Grade
$97.5 < \bar{p}_i \le 100.0$	4.0	A	$55.0 < \bar{p}_i \le 57.5$	2.3	C+
$95.0 < \bar{p}_i \le 97.5$	3.9	A	$52.5 < \bar{p}_i \le 55.0$	2.2	C+
$92.5 < \bar{p}_i \le 95.0$	3.8	A-	$50.0 < \bar{p}_i \le 52.5$	2.1	C
$90.0 < \bar{p}_i \le 92.5$	3.7	A-	$47.5 < \bar{p}_i \le 50.0$	2.0	C
$87.5 < \bar{p}_i \le 90.0$	3.6	A-	$45.0 < \bar{p}_i \le 47.5$	1.9	C
$85.0 < \bar{p}_i \le 87.5$	3.5	A-	$42.5 < \bar{p}_i \le 45.0$	1.8	C-
$82.5 < \bar{p}_i \le 85.0$	3.4	B+	$40.0 < \bar{p}_i \le 42.5$	1.7	C-
$80.0 < \bar{p}_i \le 82.5$	3.3	B+	$37.5 < \bar{p}_i \le 40.0$	1.6	C-
$77.5 < \bar{p}_i \le 80.0$	3.2	B+	$35.0 < \bar{p}_i \le 37.5$	1.5	C-
$75.0 < \bar{p}_i \le 77.5$	3.1	B	$32.5 < \bar{p}_i \le 35.0$	1.4	D+
$72.5 < \bar{p}_i \le 75.0$	3.0	B	$30.0 < \bar{p}_i \le 32.5$	1.3	D+
$70.0 < \bar{p}_i \le 72.5$	2.9	B	$27.5 < \bar{p}_i \le 30.0$	1.2	D+
$67.5 < \bar{p}_i \le 70.0$	2.8	B-	$25.0 < \bar{p}_i \le 27.5$	1.1	D
$65.0 < \bar{p}_i \le 67.5$	2.7	B-	$22.5 < \bar{p}_i \le 25.0$	1.0	D
$62.5 < \bar{p}_i \le 65.0$	2.6	B-	$20.0 < \bar{p}_i \le 22.5$	0.9	D
$60.0 < \bar{p}_i \le 62.5$	2.5	B-	$17.5 < \bar{p}_i \le 20.0$	0.8	D-
$57.5 < \bar{p}_i \le 60.0$	2.4	C+	$15.0 < \bar{p}_i \le 17.5$	0.7	D-

Information on interpreting grades on the 4.0 grading scale can be found at the following University of Washington website: http://depts.washington.edu/grading/practices/guidelines.html.

Schedule of Topics. This table gives you an overview of the topics we plan to cover. I hope that we can keep to this schedule, but we won't feel bad if we fall behind. It is your job to keep track of where we are, and the best way to do that is to come to class and to read the announcements I post to Canvas. I'll update the optional reading section as we go.

Week	Dates	Required Reading	Remarks and Optional Reading
1	Jan 3–Jan 6	Chapter 10 Measuring a Nation's Income	
2	Jan 9–Jan 13	Chapter 11 Measuring the Cost of Living	
3	Jan 16–Jan 20	Chapter 12 Production and Growth	NO CLASS: Jan 16, Martin Luther King Day
4	Jan 23–Jan 27	Chapter 13 Saving, Investment, and the Financial System	
5	Jan 30–Feb 3	Chapter 14 The Basic Tools of Finance	MIDTERM: Feb 3, 12:30pm–1:20pm, SIG 225
6	Feb 6–Feb 10	Chapter 15 Unemployment	
7	Feb 13–Feb 17	Chapter 16 The Monetary System	
8	Feb 20–Feb 24	Chapter 17 Money Growth and Inflation	NO CLASS: Feb 20, Presidents Day
9	Feb 27–Mar 3	Chapter 20 Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply	
10	Mar 6–Mar 10	Chapter 21 The Influence of Monetary and Fiscal Policy on Aggregate Demand	
11	Mar 13–Mar 17	FInals Week	FINAL: Mar 16, 8:30am–10:20am, SIG 225