

ECON 201K SPRING 2016
PRINCIPLES OF MACROECONOMICS

Instructor: Ziran (Josh) Ding (Please call me Josh)

Lecture: Monday through Friday 1:30pm-2:20pm, LOW 201

Webpage: <https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1039786>

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Office Hours: TBA at SAV 319E

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Economics 201 is the introductory course in macroeconomic analysis. Classes meet on Monday through Friday from 1:30 pm-2:20 pm in LOW 201. Economics 200 is a strict pre-requisite for this course; if you have not taken Economics 200 at UW, you may not take the course without my explicit written permission. The course is designed to introduce you to macroeconomics, the study of the overall economy. The topics discussed in this class fall into two categories: issues related to the growth of the economy and issues related to periodic fluctuations in the size of the economy. The course will also examine what role, if any, there is for economic policy in helping the economy grow faster and in keeping economic fluctuations relatively smooth. By the end of this quarter, you should be well-prepared to take 300-level courses in Economics, continue onto a more rigorous study of intermediate macroeconomic theory, and to intelligently assess articles on current economic issues in publications like the Wall Street Journal and the Economist.

TEXTBOOK

The required textbook is *Principles of Macroeconomics, 7th edition* by John B. Taylor and Akila Weerapana. The textbook is a reference tool and a supplement to lectures, which are the primary learning tool in this class. Even though we will cover technical material in class, the subject matter is extremely useful for understanding real world economic issues. I will try to develop real world applications in class whenever possible. For your part, you should be inquisitive about the world: read a newspaper like the Wall Street Journal or the New York Times every day and read a periodical like the Economist every week to keep abreast of economic developments in the United States and internationally.

GRADING

- **Homework:** We will have upto five homework assignments throughout the quarter. These will be graded on a 10 point scale based on how completely questions have been attempted. These will be posted on canvas and you will get a week to work on them. Your average score on the homework accounts for **10 percent** of your total grade.
- **Quizzes:** There will be two quizzes and together they will account for **20 percent** of your overall score i.e. each will account for 10 percent. The quizzes will comprise mainly multiple choice questions.
- **Exams:** There will be a Midterm and a Final Exam. The Midterm exam will constitute **30 percent** and the Final exam will constitute **35 percent** of your overall grade. So together the exams will account for 65 percent of your grade. The Midterm and Final will be non-cumulative.
- **Article Response:** You need to submit one article response which is due on or before the last day of class. For this, you need to find a news article from a major daily like the Wall Street Journal or New York Times. The article should have been published any time after March 6, 2016. The article must be related to a macroeconomic concept we covered in class. You are required to explain in a page how the article relates to a topic we covered in class and how you can use a concept/model studied in class to analyze the article (using graphs).

This will count towards **5 percent** of your overall grade and will be graded according to the choice of the article and your ability to apply concepts we learnt to the real world.

Please Note: According to the grade policy dictated by the Department of Economics at UW, the median grade will be somewhere between 2.8 and 3.1. So the grades will be curved based on the overall median scores.

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE:

Chapter 5	Introduction
Chapter 6,8	National Income Accounts, Labor Markets
First Quiz	Apr, 13th
Chapter 10,16	Money Markets,Financial Markets
Midterm Exam	Apr, 29th
Chapter 9.....	Long Run Macro Concepts
Chapter 11	Economic Fluctuations I
Second Quiz	May, 17th
Chapter 12	Economic Fluctuations III
Chapter 13	Macroeconomic Policy I-II
Final Exam	June, 6th

MAKE-UP EXAM RULE: Make-up quizzes and exams will be arranged only in case of serious emergencies and **verifiable** reasons. You have to show me appropriate documents (doctors note for medical reasons) to be eligible for make-up exams. Student athletes should talk to me in advance. There will be no makeup final exam.

STUDENT ATHLETES: If you are a student athlete, inform me a.s.a.p. of interferences with your commitments as an athlete. You will be expected to bring in a letter from the athletics department. The sooner you notify me, the better that I will be able to accommodate you.

EXTRA HELP: Do not hesitate to come to my office during office hours to discuss a homework problem or any aspect of the course. You also may want to consider the UW free tutoring. Information is available at: <http://depts.washington.edu/ecnboard/eub-tutoring/>.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: Exams are individual work and cheating will not be tolerated. Students must not glance at their neighbors exams. Students must not change their answers after they have turned their exam in. Check the student handbook for further information about cheating, plagiarism etc. Cheating of any kind may result in expulsion from the university. The Department of Economics will follow university policy in case of academic dishonesty. These rules complement/supplement the university rules, which can be found online. Academic integrity is the cornerstone of the Departments 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 by the instructor for the course.

IMPORTANT DATES:

First Quiz	Apr, 13th
Midterm Exam	Apr, 29th
Second Quiz	May, 17th
Article Response Deadline	June, 3rd
Final Exam	June, 6th