

ECONOMICS 301: INTERMEDIATE MACROECONOMIC ANALYSIS

Economics 301 is the intermediate course in macroeconomic theory. The economics prerequisites for this course are Economics 200 and Economics 201 (or the equivalent). The course is designed to be a rigorous, model based study of intermediate macroeconomic theory. While some of the basic concepts may be familiar to you from Economics 201, this course will explore issues in greater depth and in a more technically sophisticated manner. A solid mathematical background is essential for your success in this course. Accordingly, Math 136 is also a strict prerequisite.

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. We will address these two broad topics using two macroeconomic models: the Solow growth model and the AD-IA model. The final section of the course addresses open economy macroeconomic issues and takes a closer look at the role of expectations in macroeconomic models.

BASIC INFORMATION

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

Lecture : Classes meet on MTWTF from 10:50am-11:50am in CDH 109.

Course Webpage : TBA

E-Mail : econjosh@uw.edu

Office Hours : Mon/Wed 1pm-2pm @ SAV 319E.

TEXTBOOK

The required textbooks are Charles I. Jones's Macroeconomics, 3rd edition. The textbook is a reference tools 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 stay abreast of economic developments in the United States and internationally.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Homework [20%]: This class will be work intensive. I will assign 8 problem sets over the course of the quarter: your best 7 scores on these problem sets will constitute 20% of your grade. Problem sets will be announced through class webpage and should be completed and handed in at the BEGINNING of class on the due date. If you do not do so, you will not get any credit for that problem set. Solutions will be posted on the due date in class. Grading of homework will be effort-based. Show all your work. There will be no extensions granted for ANY reason. If you run into a nightmare week during the semester feel free to skip a problem set. Only the best 7 scores will count. You are encouraged, to work on problem sets with classmates but you MUST hand in your own uniquely written up assignment. Problem sets are representative of exams; you will hurt yourself by over-relying on others.

Exams [80%]: There will be one midterm for this class; closed-book examinations on Wednesday, July 20th. Midterm will constitute 40% of your grade. The final exam will be a closed-book examination on Friday, Aug 20th. Final will constitute 40% of your grade. Please take these exam dates into account when booking travel for any activities or interviews etc. because there will not be any makeup exams.

GRADING

Your course grade will depend on two factors: i) the total number of points you have at the end of the semester and ii) how well your total score compares to the class as a whole. There is no rationing of A grades (nor of C grades!). 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.

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 home- work 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. 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. A grade of zero can be assigned by the instructor for the course.

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

DATE	READINGS	TOPICS
Before Midterm	Jones Ch. 1	1.Introduction
Before Midterm	Jones Ch. 3	2.Mathematical Preliminary
Before Midterm	Jones Ch. 5	3.Economic Growth Model
July, 20th	Jones Ch.1, Ch.3, Ch. 5	MIDTERM EXAM I
After Midterm	Jones Ch.10	4. Economic Fluctuation Model 1
After Midterm	Jones Ch.11	5. Economic Fluctuation Model 2
After Midterm	Jones Ch.12	6. Economic Fluctuation Model 3
Aug, 20th	Jones Ch.10, Ch.11, Ch. 12	MIDTERM EXAM I