

Economics 301B: Intermediate Macroeconomics

University of Washington: Winter 2016

Instructor: Yang Fan

Class Time and Location: MW 8:30-10:20AM, Sieg Hall (SIG) 224

Office: Art 343

Office Hours: Suzzallo Cafe, Mon/Tues 11:00AM-12:00PM

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Course Description

Intermediate macroeconomics covers four key topics that are extensions to the principles macroeconomics course.

- Short-run fluctuations in output and policy implications of the short-run.
- Medium-run output determination in which output is subject to supply constraints.
- Long-run output determination and growth in a cross-country perspective.
- Output decisions in an open-economy framework.

In many ways, the material in this course is a deeper understanding of the material that was presented to you in Econ 201, but from a much more rigorous mathematical perspective. Therefore, calculus *will* be used.

Course Textbook:

Macroeconomics by Olivier Blanchard 6th edition (regular edition or UW customized)

Feel free to purchase an *older* edition.

Wall Street Journal Subscription (\$10 for 10 weeks)

<https://buy.wsj.com/offers/html/JIEofferWPP101.html?trackCode=aaqb9wc7>

You will be assigned reading out of the Wall Street Journal that includes relevant current news material as well as be asked to *summarize* articles of your choosing that are relevant to the course and current weekly topics.

Grading

- Participation = 5%
- Problem Sets = 15%
- Four Quizzes = 30%
- Two Exams = 50% (25% and 25%)

The grading policy of the Department of Economics determines the range for the median grade in all economics courses; therefore the **upper median of 3.1 will be enforced for this class**. A distribution of the grades on a 4.0 scale will be determined from the raw scores out of 100 to maintain this policy.

Quizzes

Four announced quizzes will be given throughout the quarter. Each quiz will take between 20-25 minutes to complete. Your lowest score will be dropped and the remaining three quizzes will comprise 30% of your course score. Since a quiz is dropped, ***no makeup quizzes will be given***, so it is your responsibility to make sure you know when these quiz dates are. ***Tentative*** quiz dates are outlined in the weekly schedule but quiz dates may change. If they do, they will be announced ahead of time.

Exams

Two exams will be worth 25% *each*, making up half of your total course grade. The second exam will be cumulative due to the nature of the course material. There are no make-up exams. In the rare circumstance of a student being hospitalized just prior to or during the exam due to an accident or other ailment, you can come speak to me individually. There is no make up for the final. If you happen to miss the final, you will receive an “incomplete” for a grade in the course.

Homework

Homework is posted on Catalyst roughly each week. **Print out my PDF. Complete and submit the printed PDF.** Assignments are due every Tuesday except when exams are upcoming. Expect 7-8 assignments throughout the quarter. Assignments are due generally when quizzes also occur.

This is designed to keep you on top of the current material and to discourage you from falling behind. Since completing the homework ahead of quizzes/exams will greatly help you study, feel free to submit scans (PDFs) of your homework before the due date and I will in turn send you solutions with the obvious stipulation that you do not share the solution with other students.

Participation

Participation is how you learn in the class. It helps me gauge the level of understanding of the material in the classroom setting. Your participation in the class will be graded and worth 5% of your overall grade. Participation includes answering questions in class, participating in classroom discussions and asking questions in class.

Disability Accommodation

If you have a documented disability and feel comfortable sharing that with me, please do so at the earliest time possible so that I can help make any necessary accommodations. I also encourage you to work with staff at the Office of Disability Resources.

Academic Conduct Policy

The Economics Department supports the University policies regarding academic honesty and classroom behavior. Please see the Academic Conduct Policy which is uploaded to Catalyst for more information.

Additional Resources:

The Economics Department offers several additional services to assist students in their Econ courses.

- EUB Tutoring Center - <http://depts.washington.edu/ecnboard/eub-tutoring/>
- English Language Learner Comprehension & Writing Center

Personal Tutors for hire – email econadv@u.washington.edu for additional information