Spring 2018

ECON 2011 Syllabus Introduction to Macroeconomics

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Introduction.

I'll be teaching the introductory course in macroeconomics, which builds on the concepts covered in your introductory microeconomics course. I'd like to go by "John" or "Mr. Kim." Please read this syllabus carefully, as it may answer many questions you have about the course. If you have questions after reading, you can contact me at the email address above.

Goals for Learning. The goals for your learning fall into a couple of categories.

< Fundamental Knowledge >

- Understand and be able to use macroeconomic terminology.
- Understand the basics of how the economy works in the aggregate level.
- Learn how the macroeconomic variables are related.
- Learn to read and interpret the empirical information in macroeconomic data, graphical displays, and tables.

< Application >

- Analyze the sources of long-term prosperity and the contributing factors to long term economic growth.
- Analyze the causes of short-term economic fluctuations (business cycles) and the mechanism of "fixing" the economy to restore full employment (low unemployment) and low inflation.
- Analyze the emergence and the effects of rising national debt
- Analyze the current international macroeconomic issues and policy debates

Office Hours.

I encourage you to come to office hours with questions related to homework or course material. Participating in office hours is particularly important if you find yourself struggling with the material. If your schedule conflicts with the office hours specified above or you want to meet me during other times when you are available, please send me an e-mail in advance so that I could be able to accommodate your needs.

Evaluation.

Midterm 35%, Final 35%, Homeworks 20% and Attendance 10%,

- Attendance: Attendance is important to follow the course because we have classes only twice a week. You are going to start with 10 points, and for every missed class, 1 point will be deducted. Attendance will be checked randomly by your instructor. If you have to miss any class for inevitable reasons (ex: medical appointment), you need to submit proper evidence in a timely manner. Total 10% of your grade will be assigned according to your attendance.
- **Participation:** Active class participation is encouraged for yourself as well as for our class. So, the instructor can provide incentive to those who actively participate in class. This incentive will be applied discretionally by the instructor.
- Homeworks: There will be two sets of questions titled "Homework". These will be assigned approximately monthly and will be posted on the course website. The questions in this type of assignment check your understanding of the concepts and on a few occasions ask you to analyze a problem using the concepts you have learned. Your Homework will be collectively worth 20% of your course grade; homework 1 and 2 are worth 10%, 10% each. Late submission and submission by email is not allowed unless you prove your excuse as explained below (make-up exams part).
- Exams: There will be two exams. All tests will be conducted in the lecture hall. You will need a calculator for some of the questions on your tests. Please bring a simple 4-function or a scientific calculator to all your exams. Graphing calculators are <u>not</u> allowed in any of the exams in this course. Your exams are collectively worth 70% of your grade; the midterm exam and the final exam are worth 35%, 35% each.

<u>Make-up Exams</u>: There is no make up for exams (both midterm and final), because it is almost impossible to fairly compare students who take different sets of questions. So, if you miss either midterm or final, I will give you scores based on the scores that you get from the exam which you take. However, this policy is effective only if your case is a very serious and urgent one. I will require both the phone number and address of the doctor/clinic in order to verify the authenticity of the documentation you provide. And you must notify me as soon as possible. Too late notification will not be regarded as valid.

Tentative Reading, Teaching and Assignment Schedule.

Below is a tentative schedule to help you plan ahead and think about course readings. More than likely the dates when we cover material will shift as we get behind or ahead, so I'll update you as these things change.

Week		Schedule of Readings	Assignment (Due)
Week 1	3/26, 3/28	Introduction, Ch.5	
Week 2	4/2, 4/4	Ch.6, Ch.7	
Week 3	4/9, 4/11	Ch.8, Ch.9	
Week 4	4/16, 4/18	Ch.10, Ch.11	HW1 (4/23)
Week 5	4/23, 4/25	Ch.12	Midterm exam
Week 6	4/30, 5/2	Ch13, Ch14	
Week 7	5/7, 5/9	Ch.15, Ch.16	
Week 8	5/14, 5/16	Ch.17, Ch.18	HW2 (5/23)
Week 9	5/21, 5/23	Ch.19	
Week 10	5/28, 5/30	Memorial day (5/28)	Final exam

Grading.

The final grade will be curved. There is a (preliminary) grade scale on the basis of which we determine course grades. The grading policy of the Department of Economics sets the upper boundary for the Median grade in principles of economics courses at 3.0. We will maintain a median grade for this course in the 2.8-3.0 range.

Academic Honesty.

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 by the instructor for the course.

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.