

Economics 201M: Principles of Macroeconomics Winter 2018

Instructor: Nahyeon Bak

Office: Savery 319 G

Class Hours: Tue. and Thu. 8:30-10:20 am SMI 407

Office Hours: Mon. 3:30-4:30 pm and Thu. 10:30-11:30 am and by appointment

Email: bakn@uw.edu

Our course website is at: canvas.uw.edu

Please read the following carefully:

I'll be teaching our introductory course in macroeconomics, which builds on the concepts covered in your introductory microeconomics course. I prefer if you call me by my first name, Nahyeon or "N". 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.

Overall Description of the Course:

Macroeconomics is the study of economic behavior in aggregate – how an economy grows and changes, and perhaps most importantly, how (if at all) we can manipulate it in order to increase overall welfare. Almost by definition, macro economics is the study of generating the greatest economic benefits for the greatest number by the most efficient available means. Along the way, we will consider theories of money, trade, unemployment, business cycles and growth.

Student Learning Goals:

The goals for your learning fall into a couple of categories:

1. Fundamental Knowledge

- Understand and be able to use macroeconomic terminology
- Understand the basics of how the economy works at the aggregate level.
- Learn how the macroeconomic variables are related.

2. Application

- Use macroeconomic principles to understand and explain economic events and other social phenomena
- Critique the economic content of articles or presentations
- Appreciate the usefulness of economic reasoning in social decision making

3. Topics

- Aggregate economic variables
- Long run economic growth
- Saving & investment

- Unemployment
- Money and banking system
- Short term economic fluctuations
- Monetary policy
- Fiscal policy

Textbook and Related Reading Material: Our main textbook is Macroeconomics (5th ed. Or 4th ed.), by Paul Krugman and Robin Wells (published by Worth, 2015). Our optional textbook is Principles of Macroeconomics (7th ed.) by Gregory Mankiw.

Course Guidelines:

1. Lecture Materials

All lecture materials such as syllabus, slides, assignments, and so on will be posted on the course website (under *Files*). For best results regarding your learning process and your grade, you need to engage in effective and active studying throughout the quarter (never cram for an econ test!). The one catch to learning the economic way of thinking and doing well in this course is doing the problems carefully. This does not mean reading the problems and doing them in your head. Rather, you need to use the concepts you learn plus the reasoning process to write out the solutions in full. As we mentioned in the section on the overall description of this course above, the discipline of economics consists of a set of tools for thinking. Therefore, learning the economic way of thinking involves practicing the use of these conceptual tools and the associated reasoning process in solving problems.

2. Study Group

I recommend that you form a study group (2-4 members) among peers to discuss the material of the course or do worksheet problems together.

Evaluating student learning:

- **Attendance and Participant (5%)**
- **Long answer type Homework (5%):** The worksheets are posted on the course website (under *Files*). There will be a set of questions in “worksheet”. The due date is usually every Friday 11:59 pm. Late submissions are not accepted. You have to upload your homework on Canvas. When you need to draw graphs or ask additional space, after typing and using graphs in lecture notes in the word, upload it. It is also considered to be the practice exams. Once you submitted answers, you will get a full point. You are allowed to discuss with your cohorts, or on Canvas by using a bulletin board, but you should submit your own written answer.
- **Multiple choice Homework (5%):** You will take 8 Online problem sets on Canvas. Due date is every Friday at 11:59 pm. You can take the quiz any time between Monday 9 am- Friday 11:59 pm. In case of multiple questions, it covers several problems at the end of each chapter.
- **Two Article Response (5%):** You will submit two article responses on Canvas. For each, you will find a news article from a major newspaper or periodical (either in its physical format or online

incarnation) that 1) was written after the previous response was due, and 2) relates to a course topic taught after the previous response was due. We will not accept articles from aggregators (Google, Yahoo, AP feeds), nor from blogs or opinion pieces, even if they are hosted on news sites. The following source is acceptable: Wall Street Journal, New York times, Washington post, Financial times. You must describe, in your own words, the issues presented in the article, and then summarize how the material taught in class explains the information, events, or phenomenon in the article. This economic explanation must relate to a theoretical graph (one with some sort of equilibrium, like Supply and Demand, no time-series graph). The graph must be drawn and included in your response. You must submit your response and the article (not only link, please attach the article in the form) by the schedule. Late responses are not accepted. The written component of the response should fit on the provided form, and not longer than one additional page. Be brief! Responses will be evaluated in a very simple manner, out of 5 points. Due dates are April 20th 11:59 pm for AR1, and May 11th 11:59 pm.

Criteria: Good source and article (1point), Form (1point), Analysis (2point), Graph (1point)

Resource: Use 1. "Newspaper Source Plus" in the following link:
<http://guides.lib.uw.edu/az.php?a=n>

2. http://alliance-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo_library/libweb/action/search.do?menuItem=0&vid=UW

- Exams (80%):** There will be three Exams. Midterm1 25%, Midterm2 25%. and Final exam 30%. There is no makeup exam. 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 quizzes and exams. Graphing calculators are *not* allowed in any of the exams in this course. The schedule for the exams will be announced.

Office Hours

I encourage you to come to office hours with questions related to homework or course material, or with any general questions you might have about economics as a major. Participating in office hours is particularly important if you find yourself struggling with the material. To make planning easier, I ask that you email me one day in advance of any office hour you plan to attend. Otherwise, I may not be in my office.

Week	Topics and Reading list	Homework
Week1	Review Micro. Ch2. Supply and Demand, Ch5. International Trade. Ch6. Macroeconomics: The Big Picture	Online problem set1 Worksheet1
Week2	Ch7. GDP and the CPI: Tracking the Macroeconomy	Online problem set2 Worksheet2
Week3	Ch8. Unemployment and Inflation	Online problem set3 Worksheet3
Week4	Tue: Midterm1. Ch2,5,6,7,8 Ch9. Long-Run Economic Growth	Article Response1

Week5	Ch10. Savings, Investment Spending and the Financial System	Online problem set4 Worksheet4
Week6	Ch11. Income and Expenditure	Online problem set5 Worksheet5
Week7	Tue: Midterm2 Ch12. Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply	Article Response2
Week8	Ch13. Fiscal Policy	Online problem set6 Worksheet6
Week9	Ch14. Money, Banking and the Federal Reserve System Ch15. Monetary Policy	Online problem set7 Worksheet7
Week10	Ch16. Inflation, Disinflation and Deflation	Online problem set8 Worksheet8
	Final exam	

Exam Taking Rules:

1. Material allowed during a closed book exam.

- i. All books, papers, notebooks, etc., must be placed inside your backpack or other type of bag, which must be securely and fully closed. If you do not have a bag, you must place all your material out of your reach.
- ii. Only a basic 4-function or a scientific calculator may be used during an exam. Graphing calculators will not be allowed. Sharing of calculators is not permitted.
- iii. No other electronic devices can be accessible during the exam. Cellular phones must be turned off before entering the class and placed in your closed bag (not in your pocket). You are not allowed to use a cellular phone during an exam. Doing so will result in the termination of your exam time.
- iv. Baseball caps and any other kinds of headgear that conceal your eyes are not permitted.

2. Attendance and special accommodation

- i. You are not allowed to leave the room during the exam. This includes restroom use; be sure to use the restroom before the beginning of the exam.
- ii. If you arrive late to an exam, you cannot expect to get extra time after the official end of the exam to make up for the missing time in the beginning.
- iii. If you have a documented disability, please bring documentation from the Office of Disability Resources for Students on the first day of class, so that I can make any arrangements required for accommodations.

Academic Honesty:

1. Exams are individual work and cheating will not be tolerated. Looking at a neighbor's exam is considered cheating. If a student is seen committing this act, they will not be allowed to continue taking their exam. The neighbor sitting next to the student will also be duly punished if they are seen as facilitating this act of cheating.

2. Altering an exam before submitting it for a review of the grading, obtaining an advance copy of an examination, or arranging for a surrogate test-taker are all flagrant violations of University policy.

3. Clicker questions' points are part of the graded assignments in this course. Using more than one clicker while answering questions in the lecture is considered cheating. Students who bring their absent friend's clicker to class to record answers and earn grades for them will be duly penalized.

4. Cheating of any kind may result in expulsion from the University. The Department will follow University policy in case of academic misconduct. I strongly recommend that you review University policy at

<http://www.washington.edu/uaa/advising/help/academichonesty.php>

Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty will be subject to sanctions, which range from a disciplinary warning to permanent expulsion from the University, depending on the seriousness of the misconduct.