



Macroeconomics

ECON 201 D

Instructor Info



Aochun (Aurelia) Di



Office Hrs: 8:30-9:30pm, T & Th



Savery 319C; Zoom via Canvas.



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Course Info



Prereq: ECON 200



TTh, Jan. 4 - Mar. 12



6:30pm-8:20pm



Via Zoom

TA Info



No TA for this class

Overview

Economists in general agree with the following proposition: economics is not a field of study of something particular. Rather, it is a set of tools and concepts that can be applied to understand a great number of phenomena in the economic and social sphere. We use the tools of the science of economics to study why things are and how they change when a relevant factor or force — that shapes the phenomenon under study—changes. As you read the assigned textbook for this course and attend the lectures, you will find the application of a set of thinking tools to a great number of interesting and important issues. Many of these issues—part of the “conventional wisdom” believed by many—are re-examined from an in-depth and insightful perspective. As the meaning and purpose of higher education goes, this should be truly a higher education experience!

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 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.

Materials

Required Textbook (Two formats, choose one)

Our main textbook is *Principles of Macroeconomics (5th ed.)*, by Paul Krugman and Robin Wells (published by Macmillan) with Sapling Learning. If you like to purchase an earlier edition of the textbook or an e-book, that is fine too. The only drawback of an earlier edition is that it may exclude some of the additional problems at the end of chapters that have been added to the latest edition. Also you would still have to purchase the access to Sapling separately.

Course Website

Our course website is at canvas.uw.edu.

CLUE

Econ 201 is part of Center for Undergraduate Learning and Enrichment (CLUE) Program on campus. The CLUE evening study sessions provide extra educational support for students. The CLUE dates and times for Econ 201 will be announced on CLUE website. For more information about CLUE, please visit: <http://depts.washington.edu/clue/index.php>.

Others

Lectures, practice question sheets, review notes, etc, will be posted on Canvas around one week ahead of time.

Learning Objectives: Fundamentals and Applications

- Understand and be able to use macroeconomic terminology;
- Explain how the highest-valued alternative foregone is the opportunity cost of what is chosen;
- Explain who determines the growth of production and prices in the economy;
- Analyze the causes of growth and recession;
- Analyze how government policies and different institutional arrangements affect the allocation of resources in an economy.
- 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.

Grading Policy

15%	Sapling Assignments
15%	Article Responses
70%	Midterm Exams, Midterm 1 - 10%, midterm 2 and 3 - 30%

- **Homework from Sapling:** There will be a set of questions titled “problem sets” (HWs) assigned in Sapling. These will be assigned approximately weekly and will be automatically graded in Sapling. 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 15% of your course grade. The grade for the first HW, chapters 1,2 and 6, will not count as part of your course grade. **This first HW will act as a practice run.**
- **Midterms:** There will be three exams (midterms). Midterm one will count for 10% towards your grades and midterm two and three will count for 30% each. **Exams are non cumulative.** All tests will be conducted via Zoom, starting from the normal class time (6:30pm-7:30pm). You will need a calculator for some of the questions on your quizzes/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. You will be required to log into a Zoom conference and complete your exam on video during class time. After completing the exam, you must scan your answer sheet (loose leaf paper) with a PDF scanner app such as Adobe Scan and upload your answer to canvas.
- **Article Response:** You will submit three article responses over the quarter. 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 only acceptable sources for this article response are The Wall Street Journal, The Financial Times, and the New York 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, the PPF). The graph must be drawn and included in your response. You must submit your response on Canvas indicated 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. The Article Responses are collectively worth 15% of your grade.

Grading Scale

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 3.1. We will maintain a median grade for this course in the 2.8-3.1 range. If the median grade for the course happens to be outside of 2.8-3.1 range on the preliminary grade scale, I will adjust the grade scale accordingly. I expect the median in the course to be around 80% - usually a bit higher when the classes are online, and for score to correspond to the range 2.8-3.1.

The grading weights described in the previous section may be adjusted if it seems proper to do so; I will aim to be as flexible as possible this quarter.

Make-up Policy

I will require both the phone number and address of the doctor/clinic in order to verify the authenticity of the documentation you provide. For the first and second midterms, I will write a make-up again with documentation from a clinic or a doctor. **There is no make-up exam for the last midterm.**

Class Rules

- **Lectures:** Lectures will be delivered via Zoom during 6:30pm-8:20pm every Tuesday and Thursday. The Zoom recordings will be available and can be accessed through Canvas soon after every class. You may watch these videos at any time. *On exam days, however, you MUST be present, live, to take the exams.*
- **Please check your UW email regularly to see the updates and announcements of our class:** I prefer to send out announcements and notifications via our email list: econ201d_wi21@uw.edu. I strongly encourage you to check your UW emails to make sure you won't miss any important information. Moreover, emails should also be the most efficient way for you to get in touch with me. *Please email me with an email address that will not be blocked by gmail.*
- **All the midterms are closed-book:** (1) 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; (2) 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; (3) 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. (4) Baseball caps and any other kinds of headgear that conceal your eyes are not permitted.
- **Attendance and special accommodation:** (1) It is not required that you view them live. However, regular attendance is essential and expected; (2) Keeping your video on is not required but is strongly preferred; (3) During exams, it is your responsibility to keep your camera on and be sure that I can see you in the screen. You are not allowed to leave the Zoom Camera. This includes restroom use; be sure to use the restroom before the beginning of the exam; (4) If you start late on an exam, you cannot expect to get extra time after the official end of the exam to make up for the missing time at the beginning; (5) 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; (6) *It is not your instructor's responsibility to check the documents you upload for you. It means that you need to double-check if you have successfully upload your work and open the file uploaded to see if that is exactly the file you want me to grade;* (7) If circumstances beyond your choice and control materialize (such as a sudden illness, an accident, etc.) that derail you from studying or taking a test on time, you have the responsibility of informing me as soon as possible. I will then try to help you to the best of my ability.

Academic Honesty

- Exams are individual work and cheating will not be tolerated. 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.

Class Schedule

WEEK 1: Syllabus and Introduction

Class 1	Syllabus and Clarifications	Syllabus; How to use Canvas and how to get access to Sapling HW.
Class 1-2	Chapter 1,2,6,3,5	Introduction; PPF; Demand & Supply; trade. Refer to file "Lecture 1" on Canvas.
Class 2	Practice 1	Refer to file "Practice 1" on Canvas.

WEEK 2: GDP, CPI & Inflation

Class 1-2	Chapter 7,8	GDP, output, income, the price level and inflation. Refer to file "Lecture 2" on Canvas.
Class 2	Practice 2	Refer to file "Practice 2" on Canvas.

WEEK 3: Unemployment & Long-Run Growth

Class 1	Chapter 8-9	Unemployment, Role of capital, human capital, infrastructure and institutions. Refer to file "Lecture 3" on Canvas.
Class 2	Practice 3 and Review 1: Chapter 1,2,3,6,7,8,9.	Refer to file "Practice 3 and Review 1" on Canvas. <i>Due for Article Response 1 at midnight on this Friday 1/22.</i>

WEEK 4: Savings & Investment

Class 1	Midterm 1	6:30pm-7:30pm; download the exam on Canvas. Exam will be available by the class starts.
Class 2	Chapter 10-11	Savings, investments and loanable funds market. Refer to file "Lecture 4" on Canvas.

WEEK 5: Income & Expenditure

Class 1-2	Practice 4 Chapter 11-12	Refer to file "Practice 4" on Canvas. Keynesian cross; multiplier process; AD-AS model. Refer to file "Lecture 5" on Canvas.
Class 2	Practice 5	Refer to file "Practice 5" on Canvas.

WEEK 6: AD-AS Model

Class 1 Chapter 12 AD-AS Model, continued.
Refer to file "Lecture 6" on Canvas.

Class 2 Practice 6 and Review 2: Chapter 10,11,12. Refer to file "Practice 6" on Canvas.
Due for Article Response 2 at midnight this Friday 2/12.

WEEK 7: Fiscal Policy

Class 1 Midterm 2 6:30pm-7:30pm; download the exam on Canvas.
Exam will be available by the class starts.

Class 2 Chapter 13 Fiscal Policy; taxes, government spending.
Refer to file "Lecture 7" on Canvas.

WEEK 8: Money & Banking

Class 1-2 Practice 7 Refer to file "Practice 7" on Canvas.
Chapter 14 Money, banking.
Refer to file "Lecture 8" on Canvas.

Class 2 Practice 8 Refer to file "Practice 8" on Canvas.

WEEK 9: Monetary Policy

Class 1-2 Chapter 15 Monetary policy.
Refer to file "Lecture 9" on Canvas.

Class 2 Practice 9 and Review 3: Chapter 13;14;15. Refer to file "Practice 9 and Review 3" on Canvas.
Due for Article Response 3 at midnight on this Friday, 3/5.

WEEK 10: Review and Midterm 3

Class 1 or 2 Midterm 3 6:30pm-7:30pm; download the exam on Canvas.
Exam will be available by the class starts.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

- Your experience in this class is important to me. If you have already established accommodations with **Disability Resources for Students (DRS)**, please talk to me at your earliest convenience so we can discuss your needs in this course.
- If you have not yet established services through DRS, but have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations (conditions include but not limited to; mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), you are welcome to contact DRS at 206-543-8924 or uwdrs@uw.edu. Or visit <http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrs/>.
- DRS offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities and/or temporary health conditions. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor and DRS. It is the policy and practice of the University of Washington to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law.

Religious Accommodations

Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at Religious Accommodations Policy (<https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/>).

Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the Religious Accommodations Request form (<https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/>).

Other Access and Accommodations

The following message is available from UW Human Resources.

- UW Safe Campus: Preventing violence is everyone's responsibility. If you're concerned, tell someone.
- Always call 911 if you or others may be in danger.
- Call 206-685-SAFE (7233) to report non-urgent threats of violence and for referrals to UW counseling and/or safety resources. TTY or VP callers, please call through your preferred relay service.
- Don't walk alone. Campus safety guards can walk with you on campus after dark. Call Husky Night Walk 206-685-WALK (9255).
- Stay connected in an emergency with UW Alert. Register your mobile number to receive instant notification of campus emergencies via text and voice messaging. Sign up online at www.washington.edu/alert.
- For more information visit the Safe Campus website at www.washington.edu/safecampus.