

ECON 301 B: INTERMEDIATE MACROECONOMICS

University of Washington

Autumn 2022

Instructor:	Rajarshi Datta	Meeting Time:	Mon, Wed 11:30 – 1:20 PM (PT)
Email:	rdatta2@uw.edu	Location:	LOW 201

Course Page

Canvas: <https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1579449>. All the material regarding the course will be posted on this page, including announcements about upcoming homeworks and exams. It is your responsibility to regularly check the course website.

Office Hours: MW 1:30 - 2:30pm in person in SAV 319C or by appointment.

Main References:

The required textbook is N. Gregory Mankiw – Macroeconomics – 11th ed. – Worth Publishers Macmillan Learning NY. **You are also required to purchase the associated access to the publisher’s online homework site (Achieve).** I recommend you purchase the bundled e-book and website access called Achieve Essentials for the best price in case you don’t need the physical copy. A two-week free trial is available for those who are unsure about continuing in the class.

Perquisites:

The prerequisite for ECON 301, Intermediate Macroeconomics, is ECON 300 and the prerequisites for ECON 300, Intermediate Microeconomics, are MATH 112 or MATH 124, and both ECON 200 and ECON 201. Students must NOT take ECON 300 and ECON 301 CONCURRENTLY as some of the theory developed at the beginning of ECON 301 is based on theory taught in ECON 300.

Learning Goals:

- Understand the importance of microeconomics as a foundation for macroeconomics
- Understand how aggregate economic activity is measured at the level of a nation
- Understand how basic models of the economy summarize and explain the interactions between these main macroeconomic measures, output, employment, and inflation
- Understand what causes economic activity to fluctuate over the years, from recessions to full employment and back
- Understand the role of government in trying to smooth out these fluctuations
- Understand the links between the domestic economy and the rest of the world
- Understand the differences between adjustment in the short run and adjustment in the long run
- Understand the insights conveyed by the various schools of thought –Keynesian economics with sticky prices, classical economics with flexible prices, and various syntheses of the two
- Understand how the economy grows in the very long run through capital accumulation and technological progress
- Understand specific concepts like dynamics and expectations

Assignment	Percentage of Course Grade
Online HW (on Achieve)	20%
Midterm Exam	40%
Final Exam	40%

Course Policy:

In Econ 301 B, lectures will be offered in person at the regularly scheduled class time. In general, they will not be recorded. Students are expected to participate in class to fully benefit from course activities and meet the course's learning objectives. Students should only register for this class if they are able to attend in-person. In case of disruption, for example due to Covid, we will move to Zoom and the classes will be recorded. In any case, lecture slides will be available for viewing on Canvas. Homework assignments will be submitted remotely, whereas in person attendance is mandatory for the exams unless prior permission is obtained from the instructor. Besides the assigned readings, you are also advised to read current issues in macroeconomics from the Economist, Financial Times, etc. to better relate to the course material.

Online Homework:

- The weekly online homework will be submitted on Achieve, which is part of the digital or bundled purchase of the textbook - information on Achieve is on Canvas. It is worth 20% of your grade.
- Weekly homework will be usually due Wednesday night at 11:59 PM.
- Late submission policy: for every 24 hours past the time, an additional 25% will be taken off. For example, if you submitted on Thursday at 11:59 PM for the one due Wednesday 11:59 PM, that would be 25% off.
- The lowest grade will be dropped.
- For each question, you will have two attempts (with 15% penalty on second attempt). If you are wrong the first time, then you can get up to 85%. If you cannot get the correct answers at the second chance, then you will receive a zero for that question.
- Solutions for the HW will be shown after the due date.

Exams:

There will be two exams with equal weight. **Exams are closed-book and in person. The final is cumulative with more on the second part of the course. The midterm is Wednesday, November 2 11:20 – 1:20 PM (PT) while the final exam is on Wednesday, Dec 14 2:30 – 4:20 PM (PT). Both will be held in the designated classroom (LOW 201).** For more details see Examination Rules section.

Grading Scale:

There is a (preliminary) grading scale on the basis of which I determine course grades. The scale will be determined by class progress after the Midterm Exam and finalized post the Final Exam. The grading policy of the Department of Economics sets the upper boundary for the Median grade in principles of economics courses at 3.1. I 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, I will adjust the grade scale according to the class performance.

Examination Rules:

I. Exam Absence Policy

1. If you are unable to make it to an exam period *due to illness or another serious unexpected happening*, do the following:

- i. Contact your instructor **the same day** to notify him/her that you are not able to take the exam and why.
 - ii. If you missed the exam for *health* reasons, you need to show **as soon as possible** to your instructor a valid medical note issued by a medical professional, on the original exam date. There is no flexibility on this matter. The arrangement for making up the missing credits may vary from instructor to instructor (make-up exam etc.).
 - iii. If there was some other reason for missing the exam (car accident, meteor shower etc.) come and see your instructor to explain these reasons – you will need to show proper valid documentation. Not waking up or missing your bus/plane is **not** an acceptable excuse.
2. If you know that you are going to be away **due to an university related activity** (e.g. sport, debate), let your instructor know well in advance (preferably in the first week of the quarter) so that arrangements for make up can be made upon presentation of proper valid documentation.

II. Exam Taking Rules

1. Material allowed during a closed book exam.
 - i. All books, papers, notebooks etc. must be placed inside your bag (backpack etc.) and the bag must be securely and fully closed. If you do not have a bag, you must place all your material out of your reach (classroom window sill etc.).
 - ii. Only keep writing tools and **basic calculators** (i.e. simple 4-functions calculators). Graphing calculators or calculators with memories will not be allowed. **Sharing of calculators is not permitted.**
 - iii. **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 (your exam being taken from you at this point). Likewise **i-pads** or **i-pods** (or similar devices) are not allowed. The use of **personal computers** is not allowed during an exam.
 - iv. Baseball caps with visors and any kinds of **headgear** hiding your eyes are not permitted.
2. Attendance and special accommodation
 - i. You are expected **not to leave the room** during the exam except in case of emergency. 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 at the beginning.
 - iii. If you have a **documented disability**, please show your instructor your documentation from the Office of Disability Resources for Students on the first day of class, so that your instructor can make all the necessary arrangements if you wish to take your exam in a separate place.

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 are spelled out at in <https://econ.washington.edu/policy-academic-conduct>.

Religious Accommodations:

Information about religious accommodation is available at <https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/>.

Tentative Course Outline				
Week	Date	Topics	Reading	Notice
1	September 28	Introduction	Syllabus, Chapter 1	
2	October 3	Data and National Income	Chapters 2, 3	
	October 5	National Income	Chapter 3	
3	October 10	Monetary System	Chapter 4	
	October 12	Inflation	Chapter 5	
4	October 17	Open Economy	Chapter 6	
	October 19	Unemployment & Labor Market	Chapter 7	
5	October 24	Long Run Growth	Chapter 8	
	October 26	Long Run Growth	Chapter 8	
6	October 31	Midterm Review		
	November 2	Midterm		Midterm Exam
7	November 7	Growth & Technological Progress	Chapter 9	
	November 9	Growth & Technological Progress	Chapter 9	
8	November 14	Economic Fluctuations	Chapter 11	
	November 16	Economic Fluctuations	Chapter 11	
9	November 21	Aggregate Demand I	Chapter 12	
	November 23	Aggregate Demand I	Chapter 12	
10	November 28	Aggregate Demand II	Chapter 13	
	November 30	Aggregate Demand II	Chapter 13	
11	December 5	Aggregate Supply	Chapter 15	
	December 7	Aggregate Supply, Final Review	Chapter 15	
12	December 14	Final Exam		Final Exam