



# INTRODUCTION TO MACROECONOMICS

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

## Course Syllabus

Course Name		TERM/YEAR:
Introduction to Macroeconomics		Winter 2025
Class Schedule		
Tue. & Thu., 10:00 a.m. - 11:20 a.m., Room: Kane Hall 130 (No live-streaming or recording of the class!)		
Instructor:		Contact Information:
Ali Karimirad		akarimir@uw.edu
Office Hours:		
Thursdays, noon - 1:00 p.m., or by appointment, Room: SAV 336		
Teaching Assistants:	Office Hourse:	Contact Information:
Sangwoo Park	Wednesdays 4 p.m.- 5 p.m. SAV 319B	sngwpark@uw.edu
Dhongkyu Yoon	Fridays 2 p.m.-3 p.m. SAV 319B	dhongkyu@uw.edu
Jiyoung Lee	Wednesdays 4 p.m.- 5 p.m. SAV 319A	Via Canvas
Tyson Ramirez	Mondays from 3:30p-4:30p. SAV 319F	tramir33@uw.edu
Jacob Tasto	Wednesdays 11 a.m.- noon SAV 319F	jtasto@uw.edu
Linda Yang	Wednesdays 10 a.m.- 11 a.m. SAV 403	xyang58@uw.edu
Camille Bergeron	Tuesdays 10 a.m.-11a.m SAV 403	cghb@uw.edu
Manya Malik	Mondays 3:30 p.m- 4:30 p.m. SAV 319G	mmalik16@uw.edu
Khashayar Pourtaheri	Wednesday: noon-1 p.m. SAV 319H	Pk1373@uw.edu

### Welcome:

Hello and welcome to the course! I'm Ali Karimirad, and I'll guide you through the fascinating world of macroeconomics this term. Feel free to call me Ali, though if you're more comfortable with formalities, Professor Karimirad works too. If you'd like to learn more about my background and research interests, you can check out [my faculty page](#) on the university website.

### Course Description and Learning Objectives:

This introductory macroeconomics course explores the fundamental forces that shape national economic activity. Students will learn the basic relationships between employment, output, prices, and income at the national level. The course provides an essential foundation in macroeconomic concepts and their real-world applications, with emphasis on understanding monetary and fiscal policies. Special attention is given to the basics of financial markets and exchange rate determination in the global economy. By the end of this introductory macroeconomics course, students will be able to:

1. Calculate and interpret key macroeconomic indicators including GDP, inflation rates, and unemployment rates, demonstrating understanding through problem sets and quantitative assessments.
2. Explain the basic functions and structure of the banking system, money creation process, and the role of the Federal Reserve in implementing monetary policy through multiple-choice and short-answer questions.
3. Construct and interpret basic graphs showing aggregate demand and aggregate supply to analyze how external shocks and policy changes affect price levels and real GDP.
4. Differentiate between fiscal and monetary policy tools and evaluate their effectiveness in addressing unemployment and inflation through case studies and scenario-based problems.
5. Apply basic macroeconomic principles to real-world scenarios, such as analyzing news articles about current economic events and explaining the potential consequences of policy decisions through written assignments.

### Course Pre-requisite(s):

A minimum grade of 2.0 is required in ECON 200.

### Required Texts and Resources:

Macroeconomics, 14th edition, authored by Michael Parkin. It is published by Pearson, with a publication date of January 31, 2022, and an edition year of © 2023.

Print ISBN: 9780137470822. eText ISBN: 9780135449578

### Grade Policy:

The grading schema for the course is as follows:

Assessment Component	Weight	Details
Assignments	20%	Weekly multiple-choice format on MyLab
Quizzes	15%	Weekly multiple-choice format on MyLab
Class Engagement	5%	submission of problem sets completed during TA classes
Midterm Exam	25%	February 11, in class, 75 minutes, Closed book/notes
Final Exam	35%	1.5 hours, cumulative, Closed book/notes, time and location TBD
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	

The median grade for this course is 3.2 per department policy and final grades may be rescaled to obey this rule.

### Assignment and Quizzes:

To satisfy the requirements of this course, students will have **weekly** assignments. The late submission has a 5% penalty per day. You must take one assignment and quiz for each chapter on MyLab. You can find their

due dates on MyLab. You have **two** chances(attempts) for each question in assignments and can finish it at your convenience. You only have **one** attempt for the quiz and 60 minutes.

Online homework and quizzes, completed through MyEconLab, are designed to check your *basic* understanding of the lectures and readings. These assignments form a crucial part of your learning process. To accommodate occasional difficulties (including technical issues such as internet connectivity problems or website maintenance), your **lowest** score will be automatically dropped from your final grade calculation. This dropped score policy serves as your built-in accommodation - no deadline extensions will be granted for technical difficulties or any other reasons. It is strongly recommended that you complete assignments well before the deadline to avoid any last-minute technical issues.

The assignments in this class have been designed to challenge you to develop creativity, critical-thinking, and problem-solving skills. Using AI technology will limit your capacity to develop these skills and to meet the learning goals of this course.

To fully prepare for exams and deepen your understanding, you will also work on short essay questions. These questions will be posted after we finish each chapter, with answers released one week later. You are encouraged to challenge yourself with these questions, as they are instrumental in developing a more profound grasp of the subject matter.

Consistent engagement with all course materials is key to your success. It is recommended that you complete online assignments promptly to reinforce lecture material and attempt short essay questions before reviewing the provided solutions. If you find that the solutions need more explanation or clarification, please don't hesitate to visit during office hours for personalized assistance.

Remember, the goal of these assignments is not just to assess your knowledge, but to enhance your learning experience. Forming study groups to discuss complex topics and essay questions can be an effective way to reinforce your understanding. By actively engaging with the course material through various means – online assignments, essay questions, and collaborative study – you will be well-prepared for exams and gain a comprehensive understanding of the subject.

### MyLab:

Course Name: Introduction to Macroeconomics

Your assignments and quizzes are available on MyLab. You can find the registration instructions for MyLab under the "Syllabus" module on Canvas. After reading the instructions, look for "Access Pearson" on the left navigation bar of Canvas to begin the registration process.

### Class Engagement:

Your participation in Friday discussion sessions is essential for practicing concepts from lectures. Short essay questions will be uploaded on Canvas before Friday. TAs will distribute blank papers in class (you may bring your own). During the session, TAs will review and solve the questions with you. At the end of class, TAs will collect your answer sheets. You will receive full credit for the day if you submit your work. The **lowest** engagement grade will be dropped at the end of the term.

### Exams:

The course includes two closed-book exams: a midterm and a final.

- **Midterm:** Covers Chapters 4-8
- **Final:** Cumulative with emphasis on post-midterm material

Both exams will consist of multiple-choice questions (MCQs) and short essay questions. No cheat sheets allowed. Simple 4-function or scientific calculators permitted (no graphing calculators). Sharing of calculators is not permitted.

### Missed Exams and Make-up Policy:

- Notify the instructor **the same day** if you cannot take an exam.
- Valid reasons for missing an exam:
  - Illness (requires a doctor's note)
  - Serious emergency (requires a proper valid documentation)
  - University-sponsored activities (e.g. sport, debate): let me know well in advance and present a proper valid documentation.
- Make-up exams:
  - Available for the midterm only with valid documentation
  - Must be taken as soon as possible after the original exam date
  - No make-up available for the final exam
- Invalid reasons (e.g., travel, weddings, technical issues) will not be accepted for make-ups.

### Course Policies:

#### **Academic Honesty:**

- Exams are individual work. Cheating, including but not limited to consulting unauthorized sources during exams, will not be tolerated.
- The Department follows University policy on academic misconduct. Review the policy at: <https://econ.washington.edu/policy-academic-conduct>
- Violations may result in sanctions ranging from warnings to expulsion, and a grade of zero for the course.

#### **Accessibility and Accommodations:**

- Students with disabilities should contact Disability Resources for Students (DRS) at 206-543-8924, [uwdrs@uw.edu](mailto:uwdrs@uw.edu), or [disability.uw.edu](http://disability.uw.edu) to establish reasonable accommodations.
- Inform the instructor of DRS-approved accommodations as early as possible.

#### **Religious Accommodations:**

- UW's policy is available at: <https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/>
- Accommodations for religious reasons must be requested within the first two weeks of the course using the [Religious Accommodations Request form](#).
- 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.

### **Non-Discrimination:**

- Respect for diversity is expected from all participants in this course, in accordance with the [UW Student Conduct Code](#).
- This includes respect for: age, cultural background, disability, ethnicity, family status, gender identity, citizenship, national origin, race, religious and political beliefs, sex, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and veteran status.

### **Participation and Attendance:**

#### **Participation:**

Students are expected to:

- Actively engage with course materials, discussions, and assessments
- Complete assigned readings and exercises
- Contribute to an interactive learning environment
- Respect diverse perspectives of peers

#### **Attendance:**

- No formal attendance requirement
- Regular participation strongly correlates with academic success
- Students are responsible for catching up on missed material

#### **Technology Use:**

- Handwritten notes are encouraged for better retention
- If using laptops or tablets, please be mindful of distractions
- Silence and stow phones during class

Active participation in class activities is strongly encouraged. It's an opportunity to deepen your understanding and develop your economic reasoning skills. The studies show that the students regularly participating in class-activities do much better in the exams than the students who do not. Power point presentations containing a limited amount of information will be posted on Canvas, but most of the important issues will be discussed in the class. Remember, every question you ask is a step towards mastery. There are no "dumb questions" - only opportunities to learn and grow. Thank you for your cooperation.

### Communication Policy:

For course-related questions, please follow these guidelines:

- First, contact your section's TA and allow **2 business** days for response
- If no response after 2 business days, send a reminder to your TA and CC the professor
- Direct all questions to TAs except for exam-related absences, which should be sent to the professor

When emailing, please:

- Use your UW email address or Canvas email
- Include "ECON 201" in the subject line
- Check Canvas announcements and syllabus before emailing

### Course Schedule:

The following schedule may be altered according to the instructor's judgment.

Week	Date(s)	Course Content	Readings
1	Jan. 7-9	Monitoring the Value of Production: GDP	Ch. 4
2	Jan. 14-16	Monitoring Jobs and Inflation	Ch. 5
3	Jan. 21-23	Economic Growth	Ch. 6
4	Jan. 28-30	Finance, Saving, and Investment	Ch. 7
5	Feb. 4-6	Money, the Price Level, and Inflation	Ch. 8
6	Feb. 11-13	<b>Midterm Exam</b> The Exchange Rate and the Balance of Payments	Ch.9
7	Feb. 18-20	Aggregate Supply and Aggregate Demand	Ch.10
8	Feb. 25-27	Expenditure Multipliers	Ch.11
9	Mar. 4-6	The Business Cycle, Inflation, and Deflation	Ch.12
10	Mar. 11-13	Monetary Policy	Ch.14

### How Do You Study For This Course:

In Econ 201, we build our understanding progressively, starting with foundational concepts and advancing to more complex models. This journey of learning is an opportunity for growth and development of your economic thinking skills.

### **Time Management and Study Strategies:**

- Dedicate at least ten hours a week outside of class time to this course. Consistent effort is key to developing strong problem-solving skills in economics.

- Approach each day as a chance to apply and reinforce your growing economic knowledge. Small, regular study sessions are more effective than cramming.
- When reading assignments, actively engage with the material. Try explaining concepts in your own words, redraw graphs, and connect new ideas to what you already know.
- Experiment with different study techniques to find what works best for you. Self-quizzing, group discussions, and teaching concepts to others are powerful learning tools.
- Some part of your studying is better to be done in small groups of two or three students. Students who study on their own then discuss their work in groups of no more than three understand the material better and feel more engaged with their classes.
- Do not fall behind; keep up with the material on a daily basis; you need to apply your new economics skills every day.
- Read the assignments carefully by keeping pen and paper at your side to work out the various points being made (this is a good idea for any course you take). Redraw every graph to make sure you understand how the graph works and what it shows.
- Highlighting and rereading chapters provide minimal improvements to learning. Instead of rereading use self or group quizzes.

### **Seeking Support and Collaboration:**

- View office hours as an opportunity to deepen your understanding and clarify doubts. Regular attendance can significantly enhance your learning experience.
- Come to office hours to ask questions on a regular basis. Do not put off attending office hours until the day before the exam – it gets too crowded at those times.
- Embrace collaborative learning. Studying in small groups allows you to explain concepts, hear different perspectives, and reinforce your understanding.

### **Mindset and Approach:**

- Remember, economic thinking is a skill that can be developed with practice and persistence. Your abilities are not fixed; they grow with effort and learning.
- Treat challenges and mistakes as valuable learning opportunities. They are not reflections of your capabilities, but stepping stones to deeper understanding.
- Focus on the process of learning and improvement rather than just grades. Your growth in understanding and applying economic concepts is the true measure of success.

By adopting these approaches, you're not just studying for a course; you're developing lifelong learning skills and a mindset that will serve you well beyond this class. Embrace the journey of learning economics with curiosity, persistence, and confidence in your ability to grow and improve.

### **Recommendation Letters:**

If you are considering requesting a letter of recommendation, please note the following requirements:

- You should have taken at least two courses with me.
- Your grades in these courses should be 3.5 or above.
- Active participation in class is expected.
- Provide at least two weeks' notice before the letter is due.

Writing a strong recommendation letter requires substantial time and material. Meeting these criteria ensures that I can write a detailed and effective letter on your behalf. If you meet these requirements and wish to request a letter, please email me with details about the opportunity you're applying for and any relevant deadlines.