

## Course Syllabus

Course Name		TERM/YEAR:
Intermediate Macroeconomics		Spring 2025
Class Schedule		
Tue. & Thu., 2:30 p.m. - 4:20 p.m., Room: CDH 139 (No live-streaming or recording of the class!)		
Instructor:		Contact Information:
Ali Karimirad		<a href="mailto:akarimir@uw.edu">akarimir@uw.edu</a>
Office Hours:		
Tuesdays, 11:00 a.m. - noon., or by appointment, Room: SAV 336		
Teaching Assistant:	Office Hour:	Contact Information:
Alice Qi	Tuesdays 6 p.m.- 7 p.m., <a href="#">Zoom</a>	<a href="mailto:ayqi@uw.edu">ayqi@uw.edu</a>

### Welcome:

Hello and welcome to the course! I'm Ali Karimirad, and I'll guide you through the fascinating world of intermediate 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 intermediate macroeconomics course comprehensively explores the determinants shaping aggregate economic activity. Students will examine the intricate relationships between employment, output, prices, and income at the national level. The course is structured to provide a solid foundation in macroeconomic theory and its real-world applications, with a special emphasis on current monetary and fiscal policies.

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. **Analyze and interpret key macroeconomic data** by accurately calculating real GDP, price indexes, and inflation rates, and distinguishing between real and nominal variables in economic analyses.
2. **Evaluate long-term economic performance** by quantitatively assessing how productivity, saving, investment, and technological change affect economic growth using growth accounting frameworks and the Solow growth model.
3. **Apply labor market models** to predict unemployment rates, wage dynamics, and employment levels based on specific economic conditions, including analyzing labor demand and supply elasticities.
4. **Construct and analyze AD-AS and IS-LM models** to predict the effects of economic shocks and policy interventions on output, employment, and price levels, demonstrating the ability to graphically illustrate equilibrium changes.

5. **Examine the Phillips curve relationship** between inflation and unemployment, including developing and testing hypotheses about expectations formation and evaluating the policy implications of different Phillips curve specifications.
6. **Critically evaluate current macroeconomic policies** by applying theoretical frameworks to real-world scenarios, analyzing policy tradeoffs, and constructing evidence-based arguments for or against specific monetary and fiscal approaches.

### Course Pre-requisite(s):

A minimum grade of 2.0 is required in both ECON 201 and ECON 300.

### Required Texts and Resources:

Macroeconomics, 11th edition, authored by Andrew B. Abel, Ben S. Bernanke, and Dean Croushore. It is published by Pearson, with a publication date of March 31, 2023, and an edition year of © 2024. ISBN-13: 9780137876037.

### Grade Policy:

In accordance with departmental policy, the median grade for this course will range from 3.1 to 3.3. Final grades may be adjusted to comply with this requirement. The grading schema for the course is as follows:

Assessment Component	Weight	Details
Assignments	20%	Ongoing throughout the semester
Quizzes	20%	Regular assessments of course material
Mini Exams	30%	40 minutes, at Quiz sessions in April 16, May 7, May 28
Final Exam	30%	1.5 hours, cumulative, Jun. 10, 4:30 p.m. – 6:20 p.m., CDH 139
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	

### 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.

*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. Your TA, Alice Qi, will go over a few of these questions in the quiz sessions. Your participation in quiz sessions are highly recommended.

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.

You can find data related questions in homework. These questions help you to see real data and familiarize yourself with real data and sources of these data. It is great to have these questions in your homework to expose you to a different aspect of macroeconomics.

### MyLab:

Course Name: Intermediate Macroeconomics

Course ID: karimirad32380

Access code: will be shared in the class

You can find your assignments and quizzes on MyLab. To register in MyLab, you can find its instruction on Canvas. Your access to MyLab is *free* if you use the access code.

### Exams:

The course includes four closed-book exams: 3 mini exams and a final.

- **Mini-Exam 1:** April 16 - Covers Weeks 1-2
- **Mini-Exam 2:** May 7 - Covers Weeks 3-5
- **Mini-Exam 3:** May 28 - Covers Weeks 6-8
- **Final:** June 10, 4:30 p.m. – 6:20 p.m., CDH 139, Cumulative, covers all topics

All exams will consist of multiple-choice questions (MCQs) and short essay questions. cheat sheets is allowed **only** for the final exam(one-sided page). Simple 4-function calculators permitted (no graphing calculators). Sharing of calculators is not permitted.

### Missed Final Exam and Make-up Policy:

- Notify the instructor **the same day** if you cannot take an exam.
- Valid reasons for missing the final exam:
  - Illness
  - 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 final exam only with valid documentation
- Must be taken as soon as possible after the original exam date

Invalid reasons (e.g., travel, weddings, technical issues) will not be accepted for make-ups.

### Assesment Accomodation Policy:

#### **Dropped Assessments**

To accommodate occasional emergencies, technical difficulties, or university-approved activities, the following policy will be implemented:

- The lowest score from weekly quizzes will be dropped
- The lowest score from weekly homework assignments will be dropped
- The lowest score from mini-exams will be dropped

**Important Note:** This policy is designed as a built-in accommodation for *unexpected* circumstances. These dropped assessments represent the full extent of routine accommodations. No additional assessments will be dropped or excused except in extreme circumstances that meet university criteria for formal accommodations.

### Deadlines and Time Management

All deadlines in this course are firm and represent the *latest* possible submission time. Students should note:

1. **Plan ahead:** Assignments are designed to be completed over multiple sessions, not in a single sitting immediately before the deadline.
2. **Technical issues:** MyLab platform outages, internet connectivity problems, or computer issues that occur close to deadlines will not warrant additional extensions beyond the dropped assessment policy.
3. **Start early:** The educational value of homework assignments comes from engaging with the material over time, allowing concepts to develop fully. Last-minute completion defeats this purpose and often leads to poor performance.
4. **Student responsibility:** Effective time management is an essential skill that this course helps develop. Planning your work schedule to avoid deadline pressure is your responsibility as a student.

Remember that the dropped assessment policy is already factored into your grade calculation as a courtesy. It is not meant to encourage skipping assignments but rather to provide flexibility when truly needed.

### Communication Policy:

For course-related questions, please follow these guidelines:

- First, contact your 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 301" in the subject line
- Check Canvas announcements and syllabus before emailing

### 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

Your active engagement enhances the learning experience for everyone. Thank you for your cooperation.

## Course Schedule:

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

Week	Date(s)	Course Content	Readings & Assessments
1	April 1-3	Introduction	Ch. 1 & 2
2	April 8-10	Productivity, Output, and Employment	Ch. 3
3	April 15-17	Consumption, Saving, and Investment	Ch. 4 <b>Mini Exam 1</b>
4	April 22-24	Saving and Investment in the Open Economy	Ch. 5
5	April 29-May 1	Long-Run Economic Growth	Ch. 6
6	May 6-8	The Asset Market, Money, and Prices	Ch.7 <b>Mini Exam 2</b>
7	May 13-15	Business Cycles(in Quiz session) The IS–LM/AD–AS Model(in class)	Ch.8 Ch.9
8	May 20-22	Classical Business Cycle Analysis	Ch.10
9	May 27-29	Keynesianism: The Macroeconomics of Wage and Price Rigidity	Ch.11 <b>Mini Exam 3</b>
10	June 3-5	Unemployment and Inflation	Ch.12

## How Do You Study For This Course:

In Econ 301, 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.

## Preparation and Engagement:

- Embrace the challenge of previewing next week's topics before class. This practice will enhance your ability to engage with new concepts.
- 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.

### **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.