

# ECON 301 B Sp 20: Intermediate Macroeconomics

**Ying-Chin Chen**

**Lecture: T Th 12:30 – 2:20PM on Zoom**

**Office Hours: By appointment**

**Email: [ycchen62@uw.edu](mailto:ycchen62@uw.edu)**

**Textbook: Macroeconomics 10e by N. Gregory Mankiw. Macmillan Learning.**

## Introduction and Overview

Welcome to ECON 301, Intermediate Macroeconomics. The syllabus outlines the topics we'll cover this term and the policies that will keep the course running smoothly. Over the next ten weeks, we'll develop a theory to explain the behavior of aggregate economic variables in both the short run and the medium run, as well as in both normal times and times of economic crisis. Our approach will be to start with the set of economic concepts that you've taken from your principles courses and develop them further by making greater use of equations. But we'll look beyond the textbook as well. We'll use the theory as a framework for understanding recent economics events and policy debates from the real world.

Our textbook is Macroeconomics 10e by N. Gregory Mankiw. Macmillan Learning. It's written by an outstanding macroeconomist, and it's easy to follow, so please take the time to read it. The book has just been updated in the tenth edition to include a timely discussion of financial systems and financial crises. After a quick review of macroeconomic variables, we begin with classical macroeconomics from chapter 3 to 7, growth in chapter 8 and introduce business cycle in chapter 10-12 and 14.

We have a few learning goals for this course. The first set of goals relates to your stock of economic knowledge. By the end of the term, you should know the standard macroeconomic terminology, and have in your mind a model of the economy at the aggregate level. This requires that you learn how several key macroeconomic variables are related. You will also learn to interpret macroeconomic data and charts. The second set of goals relates to your ability to apply this economic knowledge. This means analyzing news and current economic developments and forming opinions that you can support with theory or data. It also means evaluating economic policy measures proposed by government officials. You should be able to explain to friends how specific policy proposals will likely affect goods, financial, and labor markets.

## Schedule of Topics

This table gives you an overview of the dates we meet and the topics we plan to cover. It's a rough schedule, and I may announce occasional changes to it if we move through the material at a different pace than planned. If there are changes, I'll announce them in class or on Canvas.

Week	Date	Textbook Reading	Important Dates
1	3/31	Ch 1, 2	
	4/2	Ch3	
2	4/7	Ch 4	
	4/9		
3	4/14	Ch 5	30 mins quiz open during Apr 16-19th online
	4/16		
4	4/21	Ch 6	
	4/23		
5	4/28	Ch7	
	4/30	Midterm: Ch1-6	2 hours midterm available during Apr 30th 12:30 PM – May 4th 3:00 PM online
6	5/5	Ch 8	
	5/7		
7	5/12	Ch 10	
	5/14		
8	5/19	Ch 11	Quiz 2 open during May 21-24th online
	5/21		
9	5/26	Ch 12	
	5/28		
10	6/2	Ch 14	
	6/4		
11	6/11	Final: Ch7-8, 10-12,14	2 hours Final available during Jun 8th 9:00 AM – Jun 11th 12:20 PM online

## **Policies and Procedures**

Here you'll find all the information that you need to succeed in this course. Please read this section carefully and return to it often. Attending Lectures. I recommend that you attend lectures. Students who regularly miss lectures regularly do poorly on exams, and exams make up most of your grade. If you do miss class, you're responsible for the material you miss, and you should get notes from a fellow student.

### **Reading the Textbook**

Students typically retain less than half of material presented in lectures, so you should reinforce lecture material by reading the textbook. Read ahead of the lecture if you can. View the textbook reading as essential exam preparation.

### **Office Hours**

I hold office hours by appointment. Please email me to set up a Zoom meeting.

### **Email**

I try to answer emails within 24 hours. Please follow up if I don't. Please avoid saving your questions until the night before an exam, because my reply might come too late to be useful.

### **Workload**

At the University of Washington, 1 credit represents a time commitment of 3 hours each week in a 10-week quarter. This course has 5 credits, so expect to spend about  $3 \times 5$  hours per week on this course, including time spent in class, on reading, homework, and other study.

### **Homework**

You will have homework for every chapter that's accessible through Canvas. You get unlimited attempts for each problem with 5% penalty for each additional attempt. You should check your work against the solutions, restudy material that you get wrong, and ask questions when you don't understand. Homework can be submitted late with 20% daily penalty.

### **Quizzes and Exams**

There are two exams and two quizzes. The quizzes and midterm include material covered up to the week of the midterm, the final includes all material. Both exams and quizzes consist of multiple-choice. Each quiz is a 30 minutes short quiz and you do quizzes online within the time frame I allow. Notes are allowed but you won't have time to check the materials if you don't study well enough. Exams are taken online. You won't be able to repeat the quizzes or exams you have taken, reschedule exams you have missed, or take exams early for any reason. If you miss an exam, you'll receive zero points on that exam. You can request exceptions in writing if your circumstances are extreme, but you'll need to include documentation of your circumstances in your request. If you're ill, you'll need a letter or email from your care provider, dated the day of the exam.

### **Participation**

Our lecture is held online this quarter. This means more flexibility. But in order to keep you on track, I am requiring everyone to participate in Canvas discussion board or during lecture at least once every week. Please record your participation weekly in this google form.

## **Grading**

I post point scores on Canvas. From these point scores, I calculate final grades in two stages. In the first stage, I compute weighted percentage scores from the point scores using the following weights: participation 10%, homework 20%, quizzes 20% and exams 50%. In the second stage, I adjust weighted percentage scores to achieve a median within the Department of Economics' target range of 2.8–3.1.

## **Learning Accommodations**

My goal is to make this class as inclusive and accessible as possible. If you have a health condition that requires accommodations, please let me know during the first week of class. You should also contact Disability Resources for Students to get the testing accommodations letter.

## **Misconduct**

Please review the university and department rules for student conduct. If I suspect academic misconduct of any kind, I'm forced to refer you to the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct for disciplinary action. If guilty, you'll receive a disciplinary warning, academic probation, or immediate dismissal from the university or department, depending on your misconduct. I can also assign you a failing grade for the course.