University of Washington
Econ 201: Introduction to Macroeconomics

Bryson Uhrig-Fox
brysonuf@uw.edu

Office Hours: TBD
Savery Hall 319F

Course Materials

- Course homepage: catalyst.uw.edu

Grading

- Homework (10%): You will have weekly written homework assignments. Late homework will not be accepted. All problem sets will be posted on the class website.
- Quizzes (30%): We will have 4 short quizzes during the quarter. You will get to drop your lowest quiz score. The quiz dates are: January 15, January 27, February 19, and March 5.
- We will have two in-class exams. The final will not be cumulative.
- Midterm (30%): The midterm is scheduled for Wednesday February 5.
- Final Exam (30%): The final exam is scheduled for Tuesday March 18.
- I reserve the right to take class participation into account in determining final grades.
- I will be using a set scale for assigning final grades. This scale will be available on the course website. The class may be curved to allow for a median grade of 2.8-3.

Learning Goals

- Understand how prices inform the decisions about which goods and services to produce, how to produce them, and who gets them.
- Appreciate the usefulness of economic reasoning in personal decision-making.
- Understand and be able to use basic macroeconomic terminology.
- Understand how the economy works in the aggregate form.
- Understand the sources of long-term economic growth.
- Understand and be able to analyze the causes of short-term economic fluctuations, economic downturns and recoveries.
- Learn how macroeconomic variables are related.
- Understand how macroeconomic policy attempts to prevent recessions (and unemployment) as well as inflationary spirals in an economy.
- Be able to interpret the empirical information in macroeconomic data, graphical displays, and tables.
Make-up Exams:

Except for serious illnesses or other unexpected happenings, there will not be any make-up exams offered. If you are not able to make it to an exam due to a serious reason, you need to contact me on the same day and explain what happened. In any case you will have to show proper valid documentation as soon as possible after the missed exam, such as a doctor’s note.

Academic Honesty:

I have posted the Economics’ Departments policy on academic honesty on the course website. It is your responsibility to read and understand these rules, especially the rules surrounding examinations.

Miscellaneous Rules:

Calculators: There will be numerical questions on the exams. You will want to use a scientific calculator on the exams, but you may only use ones that are non-programmable. This rule excludes the use of most graphing calculators the graphing functions will never be useful, and the incentive to use them to cheat is too great. You may NOT use your cell phones, iPhones, tablets, or any other multi-purpose electronic devices for their calculator functions. Get a simple calculator from the bookstore!

Course Schedule:

Week 1: January 6 - 10
- Review of microeconomic principles: Ch. 4-8
- Homework #1 assigned

Week 2: January 13 - 17
- Chapter 10: Measuring a Nation’s Income
- Chapter 11: Measuring the Cost of Living
- Wednesday January 15: Homework #1 due.
- Wednesday January 15: Quiz #1.
- Homework #2 assigned

Week 3: January 20 - 24
- Chapter 12: Production and Growth
- Reminder: no class on Monday January 20 for MLK day.
- Wednesday January 22: Homework #2 due.
- Homework #3 assigned
Week 4: January 27 – 31
- Chapter 13: Saving, Investment, and the Financial System
- Chapter 14: The Basic Tools of Finance
- Wednesday January 29: Homework #3 due.

Week 5: February 3 - 7
- Chapter 15: Unemployment
- Wednesday February 5: Midterm exam.

Week 6: February 10 – 14
- Chapter 16: The Monetary System
- Chapter 17: Money Growth and Inflation
- Homework #4 assigned

Week 7: February 17 - 21
- Chapter 18: Open-Economy Macroeconomics: Basic Concepts
- Homework #5 assigned
- Wednesday February 19: Homework #4 due.
- Wednesday February 19: Quiz #3.
- Reminder: no class on Monday February 17 for Presidents Day.

Week 8: February 24 - 28
- Chapter 19: A Macroeconomic Theory of the Open Economy
- Chapter 20: Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply
- Homework #6 assigned.
- Wednesday February 26: Homework #5 due.

Week 9: March 3 - 7
- Chapter 21: The Influence of Monetary and Fiscal Policy on Aggregate Demand
- Chapter 22: The Short-Run Trade-off between Inflation and Unemployment
- Homework #7 assigned.
- Wednesday March 5: Homework #6 due.
- Wednesday March 5: Quiz #4.

Week 10: March 10 - 14
- Review and other loose ends
- Wednesday March 12: Homework #7 due.
- Tuesday, March 18 from 8:30 - 10:20AM: Final exam.