Economics 201 – Introduction to Macroeconomics

ECON 201 K
Spring 2013
Daily 9:30-10:20
Smith Hall 105

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Office hours: Tue 1:30-2:30
Thur 11-12

Course Description

Economics is the social science that analyzes the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. Economics provides a highly analytical and scientific framework to study the world. Hopefully your microeconomics class gave you a taste of this approach. In Introduction to Macroeconomics, we will continue to develop your economic understanding and way of thinking, now growing your tool box and vocabulary by investigating topics such as a nation’s income and cost of living, long run growth, finance, unemployment, international trade, fiscal and monetary policy, and aggregate supply and demand.

Student Learning Goals

- Understand and be able to use macroeconomic terminology.
- Understand the basics of how the economy works in the aggregate level.
- Learn how the macroeconomic variables are related.
- Learn to read and interpret the empirical information in macroeconomic data, graphical displays, and tables.

Grading

The grade of this course will be computed by the following items.

- **Exams: 70%**
  20% for Exam 1 (Apr 23), 20% for Exam 2 (May 14) and 30% for Exam 3 (June 12, 8:30-10:20).

- **Online Homework & Surveys: 20%**
  After we finish a chapter in class, you will be given a period of time to finish the homework for that chapter on the online tool, Aplia (http://login.cengagebrain.com/, course key: LSQF-TBV3-MM8K). There will also be a few other online homework and surveys.

- **Participation: 10%**
  You need to submit your self-evaluated participation online at the end of every week. The full point you can receive each week is 10, i.e. 2 points per day.

There will be no extra credit given so I recommend you prepare to be involved from day one and do well in all assignments and exams. The class will be curved to make the median grade be between 2.9 and 3.1. This rule is set by the department of economics and thus nonnegotiable.
Textbook


**Topics** (*may not cover*)

I. Introduction
   1. Ten Principles of Economics
   2* Thinking Like an Economist
   3* Interdependence and the Gains from Trade

II. How Markets Work
   4. The Market Forces of Supply and Demand

III. The Data of Macroeconomics
   5. Measuring a Nation’s Income
   6. Measuring the Cost of Living

IV. The Real Economy in the Long Run
   7. Production and Growth
   8. Saving, Investment, and the Financial System
   9. The Basic Tools of Finance
   10. Unemployment

V. Money and Prices in the Long Run
   11. The Monetary System
   12. Money Growth and Inflation

VI. The Macroeconomics of Open Economies
   13. Open-Economy Macroeconomics: Basic Concepts
   14. A Macroeconomic Theory of the Open Economy

VII. Short-Run Economic Fluctuations
   15. Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply
   16. The Influence of Monetary and Fiscal Policy on Aggregate Demand
   17. The Short-Run Trade-off between Inflation and Unemployment

VIII. Final Thoughts (may not cover)
   18* Six Debates over Macroeconomic Policy

**Tentative Schedule** (Chapter numbers follow *Brief Principles of Macroeconomics*)

| Week 1 (Apr 1-5) | Intro, Ch 1, Ch 4, Ch 5 |
| Week 2 (Apr 8-12) | Ch 5-7 |
| Week 3 (Apr 15-19) | Ch 8-9 |
| Week 4 (Apr 22-26) | Exam 1, Ch 10 |
| Week 5 (Apr 19-May 3) | Ch 10-11 |
| Week 6 (May 6-10) | Ch 12-13 |
| Week 7 (May 13-17) | Exam 2, Ch 14 |
| Week 8 (May 20-24) | Ch 14-15 |
| Week 9 (May 27-31) | Ch 15-16 |
| Week 10 (Jun 3-7) | Ch 17-18 |

**Course Websites**

- UW catalyst – [https://catalyst.uw.edu/workspace/yuhsu/37005/](https://catalyst.uw.edu/workspace/yuhsu/37005/) or through Catalyst for grades, online surveys, lecture slides, answer keys to practice problems and exams

Classroom Rules

- **Attendance**
  Classroom participation is expected in this class. This means that you should attend every class and take your own notes. If you miss any portion of any class, you should ask your classmates what information you missed before talking to me. If you encounter any difficulty, you are welcome to make an appointment with me anytime, but you should seek for help.

- **Talking**
  When one person is talking in our class, be it myself or one of your classmates, no one else should be talking. This is essential for good question asking and answering.

- **Technology**
  If you use a computer in class, it should only for taking notes or solving problems. Other uses such as chatting, emailing, web browsing, etc. are disrespectful to me and distracting to your classmates. Cell phones should not be seen in the classroom and should be silenced or turned off during class.

- **Academic Integrity**
  Exams are individual work and are a time to show what you, as an individual, have learned. Looking at someone else’s paper, working together, sharing answers, changing answers after the exam is passed back, will not be tolerated and will result in, at best, a zero on the given exam.

Additional Help

When class is not sufficient time for you to understand the materials, I suggest the following things.

- **Econ-Buddies**
  In this class you will be each assigned two “econ-buddies.” The job of your econ-buddies is to answer your questions. Working with a buddy will, increase the understanding of both the question-asker and question-answerer. You are required to find your econ buddies and fill out their names & e-mail on the Catalyst online survey.

- **Office Hours**
  You are always welcome to talk to me during my regular office hours. If those times do not work for you, please talk to me right after the class to set up an appointment. If you have to make the appointment by e-mail, please give me at least three time options. I will confirm with you as soon as possible. Requests made within 24 hours or drop-ins are not guaranteed. E-mail communication is only for administrative use. I will only explain concepts through face-to-face discussion.

- **Free Tutoring Services**

Accommodations

If you have a documented disability I encourage you to work with the staff at Office of Disability Resources for Students. If you have a notification of a disability from that office and feel comfortable sharing that with me please do so, so that I can help making any necessary accommodations.