University of Washington
Econ 201N: Introduction to Macroeconomics

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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: April 10, April 24, May 15, and May 29.
- We will have two in-class exams. The final will not be cumulative.
- Midterm (30%): The midterm is scheduled for Thursday May 1.
- Final Exam (30%): The final exam is scheduled for Tuesday June 10.
- 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: March 31 – April 4
- Review of microeconomic principles: Ch. 4-6
- Homework #1 assigned

Week 2: April 7 - 11
- More Review: Chapters 7 and 8
- Chapter 10: Measuring a Nation’s Income
- Thursday April 10: Homework #1 due.
- Thursday April 10: Quiz #1.
- Homework #2 assigned

Week 3: April 14 - 18
- Chapter 11: Measuring the Cost of Living
- Chapter 12: Production and Growth
- Thursday April 17: Homework #2 due.
- Homework #3 assigned
Week 4: April 21 – 25
- Chapter 13: Saving, Investment, and the Financial System
- Chapter 14: The Basic Tools of Finance
- Thursday April 24: Quiz #2.
- Thursday April 24: Homework #3 due.

Week 5: April 28 – May 2
- Chapter 15: Unemployment
- Thursday May 1: Midterm exam.

Week 6: May 5 – 9
- Chapter 16: The Monetary System
- Chapter 17: Money Growth and Inflation
- Homework #4 assigned

Week 7: May 12 - 16
- Chapter 18: Open-Economy Macroeconomics: Basic Concepts
- Chapter 19: A Macroeconomic Theory of the Open Economy
- Homework #5 assigned
- Thursday May 13: Homework #4 due.
- Thursday May 15: Quiz #3.

Week 8: May 19 - 23
- Chapter 20: Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply
- Homework #6 assigned.
- Thursday May 22: Homework #5 due.

Week 9: May 26 - 30
- 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.
- Thursday May 27: Homework #6 due.
- Thursday May 29: Quiz #4.

Week 10: June 2 - 6
- Review and other loose ends
- Thursday June 5: Homework #7 due.
- Tuesday, June 10 from 10:30 – 12:20: Final exam.