ECONOMICS 301 A - INTERMEDIATE MACROECONOMICS

SYLLABUS

Monday & Wednesday 12:30 – 2:20
Spring 2013
Loew Hall 205
Chien-Hao Fu
Office Hour: TBA
chienhao@u.washington.edu

Class website: https://catalyst.uw.edu/workspace/chienhao/37105/

Please regularly check the class website as important announcements, problem sets, answer keys, and updated schedules will be posted there.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course, Intermediate Macroeconomics, aims to introduce solid understandings of the fundamentals of the modern economy. The course material builds on what you have learned in Econ 201 and Econ 300, but will focus on the role fiscal and monetary policy plays in solving economic issues. Upon completing this course, you should be able to

- Understand how aggregate economic activity is measured at the level of a nation
- Understand how basic models of the economy summarize and explain the interactions between these main macroeconomic measures, output, employment, and inflation
- Understand what causes economic activity to fluctuate over the years, from recessions to full employment and back
- Understand the role of government in trying to smooth out these fluctuations
- Understand the links between the domestic economy and the rest of the world
- Understand the differences between adjustment in the short run and adjustment in the long run
- Understand the insights conveyed by the various schools of thought – Keynesian economics with sticky prices, classical economics with flexible prices, and various syntheses of the two
- Understand how the economy grows in the very long run through capital accumulation and technological progress

TEXT

GRADING

Grades in this class will be a composite of three exams (each 30%), and four problem sets (10% total).

Problem Sets: They will not be graded for correctness, but I will check for completeness and effort. No late problem sets will be accepted. It is not difficult to notice a lack of organization and effort and it will affect your grade if you do not spend time on these problem sets. Practice is critical in learning economics; in addition, it will prepare you for the exams. You are encouraged to work with your classmates, but you should write your own answer for these problem sets.

Exams: They are NOT accumulative and there will be no make-up exams. If you have to miss one for a school related event or an illness, you must inform me of well in advance and provide documentation.

Your final grade will be curved based on the Economics Departments policy. The median grade will be in the range of 2.9 and 3.1.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week 1 (4/1): Introduction (Ch. 1&2) and the Goods Market (Ch. 3)
Week 2 (4/8): The Financial Market (Ch. 4) and the IS-LM Model (Ch. 5)
Week 3 (4/15): The Labor Market (Ch. 6) and Review of the Short Run Exam I on April 17th
Week 4 (4/22): The AS-AD Model (Ch. 7) and the Phillips Curve (Ch. 8)
Week 5 (4/29): Growth (Ch. 10) and Capital Accumulation (Ch. 11)
Week 6 (5/6): Technological Progress (Ch. 12) and Review of the Medium and Long Run Exam II on May 8th
Week 7 (5/13): The Open Economy (Ch. 18-19)
Week 8 (5/20): The Open Economy and the Exchange Rate (Ch. 20-21)
Week 9 (5/27): Exchange Rate Cont. [No class on 5/27, Memorial Day]
Week 10 (6/3): Review of the Open Economy Exam III on June 5th

Exams are tentatively scheduled and are subjected to changes depending on the progress of the course. Please check the class website for updated schedules.

STUDY TIPS

This class requires more independent study than a 200-level class does. You are expected to know more than what I will cover in my lectures. Reading the textbook, solving the problems, and discussing issues with your classmates are all parts of what is required to be successful in this class.

The prerequisites of this class tell you what mathematics and economics tools I expect you to have. This class should be less math-intensive than your Econ 300 but more so than your Econ 200-level classes. The EUB organizes a MATH CAMP every quarter for Econ300 and Econ301 students to polish their math skills.
ADDITIONAL HELP

When class is not sufficient time for you to ask your questions or you having a particularly difficult time understanding something, I suggest the following things. First, in this class you will be each assigned two “econ-buddies.” The job of your econ-buddies is to answer your questions. If you ever have a question or concern about class material or interpreting the book, you should start with emailing or seeking them out. A lot of economics is thinking through things yourself or with peers. Working with a buddy will, without a doubt, increase the understanding of both the question-asker and question-answerer. Your econ buddies are:

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Additionally the Economics Undergrad Board (EUB) offers tutoring. For a schedule of drop in hours go to [http://depts.washington.edu/ecnboard/](http://depts.washington.edu/ecnboard/) and click on tutoring schedule. The Center for Learning and Undergrad Enrichment (CLUE) also offers drop in tutoring. Check out: [http://depts.washington.edu/clue/dropintutor.php](http://depts.washington.edu/clue/dropintutor.php) for their schedule.

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.