

Intermediate Macroeconomics¹
ECON 4020/6020 – 090 Spring 2017

Online Section

Instructor: Tanadej ‘Pete’ Vecksuruck
Office: Economic Department Building 72
Office Hours: Only by appointment
Email: tanadejv@gmail.com (Message on Canvas preferred)

Overview

This course will introduce you to the main Macroeconomic models and theories. Historically, Macroeconomics has been an attempt to understand the determination of employment, inflation, the business cycle and economic growth. The discussion emphasizes on the interaction between the three main markets in the economy: the goods market, the financial market, and the labor market. My goal is to form you economic logic, which hopefully allows you to critically assess every current economic conundrum. Thus, we will employ economic history as well as algebra and graphs. However, in order to understand contemporary debates related to the way economies and economic policies working in the real world, the course will also analyze the application of these concepts to real world situations through articles from journals and newspapers. All students are required to read the textbook and suggested articles carefully. It is the student’s responsibility to follow Canvas regularly. Every announcement and extra material will be posted through the Canvas system.

Credits: 3 semester credit hours

Prerequisites: ECON 2010, ECON 2020 and College Algebra

Required Books: *Macroeconomics*, 6th ed., by Olivier Blanchard and David B. Johnson, Prentice Hall. The textbook can be purchased from the university’s bookstore.

^{1 1} This is the shortened version of the syllabus. See the full version on Canvas.

Supplementary readings: All will be posted in weekly Modules on Canvas.

Grading Policy:

Reflection (5%)

To understand your feeling and perspective towards the course are important for me to improve and adjust this course to meet our mutual goals. You will be asked to write a Reflection paper at the beginning, in the middle, and at the end of course.

Learning Plan (5%)

You will be assigned to draft a Learning Plan for this course at the beginning and review/adjust it in the middle of the course. The purpose of this assignment is to encourage you to take the ownership of your learning and think about how you are planning to work through the course. You will not be graded on what strategies you will be using. The Plan should supposedly guide you what activity you need to perform on each day in the week. This is because, I believe, work discipline is by all means the crucial element to succeed in any job including studying in the college.

General Discussions (5%)

There will be three discussions that you are expected to discuss with your colleagues regarding the feeling towards the course, the learning plan and the learning result at the end of the course. The rubric will be provided.

Economics Discussions (10%) (drop the lowest one)

You are expected to participate in approximately 5-7 discussions throughout the semester. Some discussions will be randomly picked for the exams. Active participation and responses are highly encouraged. All comments must be related to the topic and showing respect to your classmates. I want this Discussion board to be the place that you freely exchange opinions, questions, and logical answers to prepare for the exams.

Weekly Quiz (15%) (drop three lowest ones)

You are required to work on weekly multiple-choice quiz on Canvas. Time is unlimited, but only one attempt allowed. The quiz is aimed to make sure that you consistently work on the materials.

Mathematical Problems (15%) (drop three lowest ones)

You will be provided the set of quantitative analysis questions almost every week. It can be in forms of diagrams or mathematical derivation. Those questions are the guide for the Midterm and Final Exams. You will be asked to work on some of them and submit in the pdf form in Canvas.

Midterm + Final Exams (20+25 = 45%)

These three in-class exams will be constructed by three elements: randomly selected quiz questions, selected diagrams and selected discussions. There might be also some additional Math solving/graph

questions, which will be discussed in details later. Make-up exam is not allowed. The exams are closed books and notes and only simple calculator is permitted.

Tentative Grading Scale:

93-100 = A	90-92.99 = A-	
87-89.99= B+	83-86.99= B	80-82.99= B-
77-79.99= C+	73-76.99= C	70-72.99= C-
67-69.99= D+	63-66.99= D	60-62.99= D-
Below 60= F		

Disclaimers

“The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.”

(www.hr.utah.edu/oeo/ada/guide/faculty/)

It is your responsibility to maintain your computer and related equipment in order to participate in the online portion of the course. Equipment failures will not be an acceptable excuse for late or absent assignments.

Tentative Schedule:

Week	Date	Topic	Textbook Chapter
1st	1/9-1/15	Principle of Macroeconomics Review	Chapter 1 and 2
2nd	1/16-1/22	The Goods Market	Chapter 3
3rd	1/23-1/29	Financial Markets	Chapter 4
4th	1/30-2/5	The IS-LM Model	Chapter 5
5th	2/6-2/12	The Labor Market	Chapter 6
6th	2/13-2/19	Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply	Chapter 7
7th	2/20-2/26	The Phillips Curve, Natural rate of Unemployment and Inflation	Chapter 8
8th	2/27-3/5	Midterm Exam	Tue 2/28-Sat3/4
8th	3/6-3/12	Openness in Goods and Financial Markets	Chapter 18
<i>9th</i>	<i>3/13-3/19</i>	<i>Spring Break</i>	
10th	3/20-3/26	The Goods Market in an Open Economy	Chapter 19
11th	3/27-4/2	IS-LM in Open Economy	Chapter 20
12th	4/3-4/9	AS-AD in Open Economy	Chapter 21
13th	4/10-4/16	Growth in the Long Run; Saving, Capital Accumulation, and Output	Chapter 10
14th	4/17-4/23	Solow Growth Model	Chapter 11
15th	4/24-4/26	The History of Macroeconomics and Final Review	
16th		Final Exam	Th 4/27-Wed 5/3