

Intermediate Macroeconomics

Fall 2015 (12546) Econ 4020 090 (Online, QI)

Preliminary syllabus July 2015. This is an online course, which does not meet in-class. Please write for additional information, and visit the department's page on [online classes](#) as well as [U Online](#).

Instructor – **Rudi von Arnim** ([Email](#), [Website](#)). Office: Orson Spencer Hall (OSH) #339, Phone (801) 587 8327. Office hours: My door is usually open – so stop by anytime! If you drop me a line, we can arrange when to meet.

Please see requirements & grading below, and read it carefully!

Course description

From the catalog – Prerequisite: ECON 2010 and 2020 and College Algebra (or 1010 and instructor's consent). Fulfills Quantitative Intensive BS. Macroeconomic theories, models, and analysis focused on national income determination, unemployment, inflation, and public policy.

Further information – Intermediate macroeconomics introduces you to (1) a few standard models of the macroeconomy and (2) the resulting policy recommendations and controversies. During the first part of the semester, we will focus on the short and medium run (IS/LM and AS-AD model), followed in the second part by the long run (growth model) and a closer look at issues related to open economies.

Learning outcomes – At the end of the course, students will be able to use standard macroeconomic models to delineate ongoing policy controversies and to discuss current economic events; will be prepared for more advanced macroeconomic courses; will have learned to reason analytically within the framework of economic models. More specifically, students will be familiar with standard intermediate macroeconomic models (a) of the business cycle (IS/LM model), including monetary and fiscal policy, (b) the labor market, as well as (c) of growth and technological change (Solow model).

Teaching and learning methods – This is an online class. All requirements (with the exception of the final exam) can be fulfilled online; we will use [Instructure/Canvas](#). Multiple choice, essay and discussion assignments facilitate learning. Interaction between students and with the instructor will be fostered, in order to create a dynamic learning experience.

Textbook – [Macroeconomics](#), 6th ed., by Olivier Blanchard, Prentice Hall. You can use other editions of this textbook, at your own risk. All other materials will be posted on Canvas. (If you haven't received your textbook, you can download the [table of contents](#) and chapter 1 and 2. If you use an older version, you will need [chapter 9](#), which has been completely rewritten.)

Requirements and grading – It is your responsibility to follow emails and announcements sent through Canvas, and to stay up to date with readings (textbook chapters, discussions, assigned articles, etc). See the grade breakdown on the right hand side:

1. Six projects (short essays, data assignments, discussions) make up 40% of your final grade.
2. Chapter quizzes make up 20% of your final grade.
3. A final exam held in the testing center on campus at the University of Utah contributes another 20% of your final grade.
4. Other assignments add the remaining 20%. Importantly, some of these assignments are for participation credit (such as some discussion threads and selected exercises), but nevertheless are crucial contributions to your final grade.

The final grade will be curved such that at least 25% of the class achieve an A. (This means that your current standing in "Grades" will be only an indication. You will receive curved current standing grades after midterm project and before final exam; note as well that you will not be curved *down*). Absolutely no late submissions will be accepted. **To pass the class successfully, be on top of these due dates, all of which will be posted in your class calendar. Active, regular participation is crucial for success in the course!** Please note as well that all due dates are on a Sunday. The final exam is the only exception to this rule. This does not mean that you should work on Sundays! Please feel free to submit work on Friday or earlier. However, students in the past clearly preferred to have the option to work on the weekend.

Disclaimers

ADA – 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.

Rights and responsibilities – All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code, spelled out in the [Student Handbook](#). Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.