

Intermediate Macroeconomics

Instructor: Dillon Tauzin

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Office Hours: Tues 11am-12pm; Wed 11am-12pm

(or by appointment)

Office location: Buchanan Hall D101

T: 7:20pm-10pm

Classroom: R B222

Fall 2019

Macroeconomics is concerned with the “big” questions in economics. Adam Smith’s seminal question was a macroeconomic question: Why are some nations rich and others poor?

Macroeconomics is a conversation with little consensus. Unlike microeconomics, which enjoys general agreement about its fundamental concepts, macroeconomics is diverse in approach. What is agreed upon is that macroeconomic phenomena like growth, inflation, and employment are based in human decision-making. The complexity of macroeconomic phenomena has led economists to use simplified models. These models are useful and necessary for making sense of an entangled world.

The first half of this course will establish the major aggregate concepts in macroeconomics and their foundations in human decision-making. The second half will use these concepts to explore alternative explanations of growth and business cycles. Throughout, the art of using models in economic science will be emphasized. You should understand the assumptions underlying each model, and the limitations of alternative explanations. At the end of the course, you should be capable of comprehending and participating in the grand macroeconomic conversation, which traces back to Adam Smith (1776).

In this course, you will develop an understanding of (1) the major concepts of macroeconomics and their microeconomic foundations; (2) the importance and limitations of various models in analyzing macroeconomic phenomena; (3) the major existing explanations for two of the most important macroeconomic phenomena: growth and business cycles; and (4) the development of the macroeconomic conversation over the course of its intellectual history.

Texts

Required:

Mankiw, N. G. (2015) *Macroeconomics* 9th edition. New York: Worth Publishers.

Suggested:

Snowden and Vane, *Modern Macroeconomics*.

Other readings will be made available through Blackboard.

Assessment

Tests will be based primarily on lecture material, but the student is responsible for any assigned reading. The participation grade will be based on a combination of attendance, class engagement, and short assignments given in class. If circumstances requiring missing a lesson, I strongly recommend making use of office hours to keep up with the material. Finally, the student is required to read a book on some macroeconomic topic and turn in a short review. Details about this assignment will be given in class.

The grade distribution is as follows.

25% Book Review
25% Participation
25% Midterm
25% Final

Grades are assigned according to the following scale.

A	90-100
B	80-89.9
C	70-79.9
D	60-69.9
F	< 60

Schedule

Units	Date	Topics	Readings
1	29-Aug	Syllabus, Macroeconomics	
2	5-Sep	Stylized Facts of Macroeconomics	MCh1, MCh2
3	12-Sep	Consumer Theory & Investment	MCh16, MCh17
4	19-Sep	Money & Inflation	MCh4, MCh5, Menger "On the Origins of Money"
5	26-Sep	International Trade & Unemployment	MCh6, MCh7
6	3-Oct	Review	Review
7	10-Oct	Midterm	
8	17-Oct	Growth: Classical	MCh3, Smith WoN Bk1 Ch3
9	24-Oct	Growth: Solow	MCh8 MCh9
10	31-Oct	Growth: Endogenous, Institutions	-MCh9, -Acemoglu et al "The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development," -Sala-i-Martin "I Just Ran Two Million Regressions"
11	7-Nov	BC: IS/LM	MCh10, MCh11, MCh12
12	14-Nov	BC: M-F, Monetarist	-MCh13, -Yeager "A Cash-Balance Interpretation"
13	21-Nov	BC: Austrian	-Garrison "Time and Money," -Boettke "Austrian School of Economics"
	28-Nov	No Class	Review
14	6-Dec	Review	Review

*This schedule is a road map for our class, and is subject to revision as the class progresses.

Policies

- Last day to add classes: September 3
- Last day to drop with no tuition penalty: September 9
- Final drop deadline w/ 50% tuition penalty: September 17
- Student Self-Withdrawal Period: September 18 to September 30

Students are responsible for regularly checking their GMU email accounts. Any announcements not made in class will be delivered here.

The final exam will take place on Thursday 12/12 at 7:30pm in accordance with the university calendar. No make-up exams will be given except under extreme circumstances. In accordance with university policy, if you have three or more exams on the date of the final examination, you may reschedule it. To do so, you must contact me no less than one week prior to the final exam date.

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Resources at 703.993.2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. *Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee.*

George Mason University is committed to providing a learning, living and working environment that is free from discrimination and a campus that is free of sexual misconduct and other acts of interpersonal violence in order to promote community well-being and student success. We encourage students who believe that they have been sexually harassed, assaulted or subjected to sexual misconduct to seek assistance and support. [University Policy 1202: Sexual Harassment and Misconduct](#) speaks to the specifics of Mason's process, the resources, and the options available to students.

As a faculty member and designated "Responsible Employee," I am required to report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason's [Title IX Coordinator](#) per [university policy 1412](#). If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact the [Student Support and Advocacy Center](#) (703-380-1434) or [Counseling and Psychological Services](#) (703-993-2380). You may also seek assistance from [Mason's Title IX Coordinator](#) (703-993-8730; titleix@gmu.edu).