Econ 0200, Introductory Economics: Macro
Summer 2026

Syllabus

Instructor: Kenneth Eva
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Class Zoom Schedule: MTWRF 5:15 - 7:15pm EDT
Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description

This course is an introduction to economic analysis and its applications to the macroeconomy. We begin with the definitions, measurement, and importance of gross domestic product, inflation, and unemployment – popular "headline" statistics used to summarize the state of the economy. Next, we study what determines the level and growth of these aggregates in the long-run. We then move onto elements of monetary and fiscal policy, studying what tools policymakers have at their disposal and how they affect the long-run of the economy. After that, we move onto short-run of the economy, studying what causes short run fluctuations (i.e. recessions and expansions) and how macroeconomic policy affects them. Finally, we move onto topics in open economies and international trade.

Prerequisites

The only prerequisite for the course is Econ 0100: Introduction to Microeconomics.

Textbook

We will be using Principles of Macroeconomics (9th edition, ISBN 9780357133491) by N. Gregory Mankiw. To access the textbook, you can sign up for the online learning system Mindtap/Cengage through Path@Penn. This will give you access to an electronic copy of the textbook, as well as a lot of practice questions. Otherwise, you can try to find a used copy of it.

Grading (Tentative)

Final grade in the course will be determined by:

- Participation: 10%
- Homework: 15%
- Exam 1: 25%

- Exam 2: 25%
- Exam 3: 25%

The mapping from points to letter grades will be as follows:

	A: > 93	A-: [90,93)
B+: [87, 90)	B: [83,87)	B-: [80, 83)
C+: [77, 80)	C: [73, 77)	C-: [70, 73)
D+: [67, 70)	D: [63, 67)	D-: [60, 63)
	F: < 60	

Participation

Economics is a *social* science, and learning economics is a social act. It's not enough to memorize facts and definitions, you need to conduct your own analysis of the economy and form your own opinions. Each week there will be a short written assignment (due Sunday nights), where you'll share your thoughts on the course material and current macroeconomic events. Each will count for 2 of your 10 participation points. Since only 5 are needed for full credit, you may miss one written assignment without any penalty to your grade.

Homework

There will be 4 written homework assignments due on Fridays starting week 1. These are intended to prepare you for the exam as well as deepen your understanding of the material. Only the highest 3 scores will be counted to your final grade – the lowest will be dropped. Each (counted) homework will count for 5 of your 15 homework points. Assignments will be graded for correctness and completeness: it won't be enough to have the correct final answer, but you will have to explain your reasoning behind your conclusions.

Exams

There will be three exams in this course:

- Exam 1, July 16: covering chapters 10, 11, and 15 (Measurement)
- Exam 2, July 30: covering chapters 12, 13, 14, 16, and 17 (Long-run)
- Exam 3, August 6: covering chapters 20, 21, 22 (Short-run)

Each exam will be written open response questions. They'll be during the regular lecture time, released at 6:15pm and due at 7:15pm. They are closed note/book/internet, and any collaboration with any other person or use of generative AI is forbidden. Makeup exams will only be offered to students with a valid reason, as outlined in the course policies below.

Course Policies

Except for the changes below, this course will follow the departmental course policies[1].

Late Work

Since this class is very short and we have no TA or grader, I won't be able to accept any late work in this class. To compensate for this, in both the written and homework assignments I've built in an extra assignment and will drop your lowest assignment grade when calculating your final grade for the course. That way, if there is a week where you're not able to complete the assignment in time, you can use your drop and have no penalty to your grade.

Use of Generative AI

It is plagiarism to submit work produced by generative AI as your own. For homework, you are welcome to use AI as a tool to *help* you study and understand the material. However, any writing or homework assignment that is found to be generated by AI will be given a 0. For exams, *any* use of generative AI is forbidden, and any exam submission that is found to have used AI will be graded with a 0.

One (personal) thought on this subject: using generative AI cannot be a substitute for you thinking about and understanding the material. These models are prone to making mistakes and their output requires verification from the user. If you don't have mastery over the course material and cannot understand what these models are telling you, you're just wasting your time. The primary objective of this course is for you to leave with a better understanding of the macroeconomy, and that will only come from you actively studying and doing the assignments yourself.

[1] https://economics.sas.upenn.edu/undergraduate/course-information/course-policies

Plan for the Course

This is a *tentative* plan for the course. We'll revise dates and topics as necessary throughout the summer.

We're covering a lot of material in a short amount of time. Therefore, it's important that you do the readings for each lecture *ahead* of time, so you can clear up anything you don't understand during class.

Week	Topics / Chapters Covered	Important Dates
Week 0 (July 2 - 3)	What is macroeconomics? Ch. 1, 2	July 2: First day July 3: No classes
Week 1 (July 6 - 10)	Measuring output, inflation, and unemployment Ch. 10, 11, 15	July 9: Add/drop July 10: HW 1 due
Week 2 (July 13 - 17)	The economy in the long run Ch. 12, 13, 14	July 16: Exam 1 July 17: HW 2 due
Week 3 (July 20 - 24)	Monetary and fiscal policy Ch. 16, 17, 23	July 24: HW 3 due
Week 4 (July 27 - 31)	The economy in the short run Ch. 20, 21, 22	July 30 Exam 2 July 31: HW 4 due
Week 5 (Aug. 3 - 7)	Open economies, trade Ch. 18, 19	August 6: Exam 3 August 7: Last day