

John Jay College
City University of New York
Economics 220 - Intermediate Macroeconomics
Spring 2022

“Economists set themselves too easy, too useless a task
if in tempestuous seasons they can only tell us that
when the storm is long past the ocean is flat again”

-John Maynard Keynes

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Office Hours: 1:30pm-3pm Tuesdays and Thursdays

Section: 220.01 (10:50am-12:05pm, T/Th), 220.02 (5:55pm-7:10pm, T/Th)

Prerequisites: ENG 101 and ECO 101 or 120

Course Description

Macroeconomics is the study of the economy as a whole. Macroeconomics is particularly concerned with the sources of instability and conflict in the economy. Why are some countries rich, while others are poor? Why does economic growth so often involve booms, crises, and depressions rather than a steady rise in living standards? Why do people with the capacity and willingness to work remain unemployed? Why is the distribution of income so unequal, and how has it changed over time? Why are prices subject to periods of inflation and deflation? Why are manias, panics, bubbles, and crashes so common in financial markets? Why do some countries consistently sell more than they buy from the rest of the world, while other countries buy more than they sell and must borrow abroad? And what, if anything, can government do to improve the functioning of the macro-economy?

This course will give an overview of the core macroeconomic terminology, data, and concepts used by scholars and policymakers, and the most important debates over macroeconomic policy. The goal is to give the students both the tools for further study of economics, and for more informed participation in current economic debates. The focus is on current and historical developments and on the tools and language used in policy discussions, rather than on formal models.

Learning Objectives

The primary goal of this course is to help students become critical readers of business and economic news and policy debates. Students who successfully complete this course will learn: concepts and vocabulary required to talk about the economy as a whole; to access and make use of macroeconomic data; to think logically and systematically about the relationships between parts of a complex system; to critically evaluate macroeconomic news stories; and the main divisions and sources of controversy in macroeconomic policy.

Throughout the semester we will work to link macroeconomic concepts and theories to current policy debates. In classroom lectures and discussions, assignments, and grading, approximately equal eight will be given to mastery of the core concepts of macroeconomics, and to using those concepts to understand current events.

Student Learning Outcomes (LOs) can be found at the end of this syllabus.

Course Workload

- **Homework (LO1, LO2):** There will be eight homework assignments occurring approximately every 2 weeks. For full credit, homework must be completed by the start of the class they are due. You may email them or hand them in physically. **You must put your name, the date, and course section at the top of every homework assignment. Failure to do so will result in a lower grade. (35% of final grade)**
- **Exams (LO3, LO4, LO5):** Exams will be a mixture of multiple choice, problem solving, and short answer. The midterm is on April 5th and will be in-class. The date for the final has not been set yet. **(midterm: 25%; final: 35%)**
- **Participation (LO3, LO6):** each student is expected to attend every session, on time, and engage with their classmates in class discussions. A few absences over the semester will not reduce your grade, however, it is your responsibility to be informed of the material we cover for the classes you miss. More than 3 absences will result in a reduction of your final grade. Questions, comments, and responses to discussion improve the experience for everyone. **Do not hesitate! (5%)**
- **Extra Credit:** You may earn extra credit by emailing me a link to an economics-related news article, along with a few sentences explaining what it's about, why you found it interesting, and how it is relevant to the class. You can send me one article any time before the midterm, and a second time between the midterm and the final. Each is worth 5 points.

Grading Scale

The grading scale will be the following (grades rounded to the nearest whole number):

A 100-93 %	A- 92-90 %	B+ 89-87 %	B 86-83 %	B- 82-80 %
C+ 79-77 %	C 76-73 %	C- 72-70 %	D+ 69-67 %	D 66-63 %
D- 63-60 %	F Less than 60 %			

Students should be cognizant of John Jay's policy on academic integrity. It may be perused at <https://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/legal-affairs/policies-resources/academic-integrity-policy/>

Textbook

Macroeconomics in Context, 3rd edition, by Goodwin, Harris, Nelson, Rajkarnikar, Roach, and Torras. (referred to from now on as **MIC**)

All readings are required. Other required readings outside the textbook will be announced and put on Blackboard for you to access. All readings should be completed prior to the class for which they are assigned. Exams and assignments will only include material discussed in our reading and class lectures. **You should bring all assigned reading to class, either printed out on paper or on a laptop or tablet.**

Course Outline

The following outline may be changed as the semester progresses. Any changes will be announced in class and on the Blackboard site. This outline only includes textbook readings (if there is no textbook reading listed, there will be a different required reading). Additional readings will be announced over the course of the semester.

2-1	Introduction	
2-3	Overview: What is Macroeconomics?	
2-10	Output: Concepts and Measurement	MIC ch 1
2-15	National Income Identity	MIC ch 5.1-5.3
2-17	Sectoral Balances	MIC ch 5.4
2-22	Consumption and the Multiplier	MIC ch 9.3
2-24	Theories of Employment and Labor Productivity	MIC ch 8.1-8.2
3-1	Aggregate Supply	MIC ch 9.1, 13.2
3-3	Wages, Productivity, and Employment	TBA
3-8	Fiscal Policy	MIC ch 10.1-10.3
3-10	Business Cycles	TBA
3-15	Money and Credit	MIC ch 11.2-11.4
3-17	Liquidity	TBA
3-22	Monetary Policy	MIC ch 12.1-12.4
3-24	Investment	MIC ch 15
3-29	Potential Output	MIC ch 13.3
3-31	REVIEW	
4-5	MIDTERM	
4-7	Balance of Payments	MIC ch 14.1-14.4
4-12	Balance of Payments Policy	TBA
4-14	Exchange Rates	MIC ch 14.3
4-26	Exchange Rate Determination	TBA
4-28	Macroeconomic Crises	TBA
5-3	Stabilizing An Unstable Economy	TBA
5-5	Alternative Theories of Finance	TBA
5-10	What is a “Green New Deal?”	TBA
5-12	TBA	
5-17	REVIEW	

Student Learning Outcomes (LOs):

LO1: “Information”

Gather, interpret, and assess information from a variety of sources and points of view. Students achieve this learning outcome by analyzing current and historical events by gathering, interpreting and assessing newspapers articles, empirical data, and textual evidence.

LO2: “Evaluate”

Evaluate evidence and arguments critically or analytically. Students achieve this learning outcome by critically analyzing current and historical events from multiple perspectives.

LO3: “Communicate”

Produce well-reasoned written or oral arguments using evidence to support conclusions. Students achieve this learning outcome through written assignments and exams that require well-reasoned arguments. Additional Learning Outcomes for Individual & Society chosen for this course:

LO4: “Methods”

Identify and apply the fundamental concepts and methods of a discipline or interdisciplinary field exploring the relationship between the individual and society, including, but not limited to, anthropology, communications, cultural studies, history, journalism, philosophy, political science, psychology, public affairs, religion, and sociology. Students achieve this learning outcome by using both neoclassical and alternative economic theories to explain current and historical events.

LO5: “Examine”

Examine how an individual's place in society affects experiences, values, or choices. Students achieve this learning outcome by examining important events in economics and the impacts of economic growth from the perspective of individuals and social institutions. Attention will be given to the economic factors that mediate the interaction between the individual and society.

LO6: “Engage”

Identify and engage with local, national, or global trends or ideologies, and analyze their impact on individual or collective decision-making. Students achieve this learning outcome by analyzing current economic phenomena in the context of contemporary society and their individual lives. Policy debates and social issues will be explored through the lens of economic concepts and methods.