

ECON 399: Intermediate Macroeconomics

Fall 2018, Sec 2

Class hours: Tu/Th 2:30 - 3:45 PM, Anderson Room 231
Class webpage on Blackboard: <https://blackboard.olemiss.edu/>
Instructor: Jaevin Park
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Office hours: Wed. 3:00 – 5:00 PM and/or by appointment
TA: Joey White(jswhite@go.olemiss.edu)

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

The objective of the course is to develop some tools that can be used to “think” about macroeconomic issues. The emphasis will be in the development of formal models of individual behavior consistent with the view that macroeconomic phenomena are just the sum of “microeconomic phenomena.” The course assumes familiarity with basic demand and production theory as well as optimization subject to constraints. This course is not intended to be a long discussion session about current macroeconomic issues, since it seems difficult to see how one can go beyond the journalistic level without the necessary theory.

Prerequisites:

Econ 399 requires that you have taken the equivalent of Econ 203(Principles of Macroeconomics) because this course requires to know basic algebra, functional relations, and to interpret graphs. If you do not have this background, please contact me immediately.

Course Materials:

(Textbook, Required) **Macroeconomics**, 6th ed., by Stephen D. Williamson, Pearson Education (2016), ISBN-13: 978-0134472119. You can buy or rent this book. You may also purchase the previous editions of the book as long as you take responsibility for updating any material that may be missing from 6th edition. You can find used books online, and there is a paperback “international” edition that is identical but costs much less than the US hardcover book.



(Readings, Required) All the reading materials will be uploaded on the class Blackboard website. The readings are pulled from various books, newspapers, periodicals, and academic journals. You are not responsible for memorizing every little details, but you are accountable for understanding the main idea, arguments and evidence.

Course Requirements:

(Assignments) An assignment will be posted after I have covered each chapter. I’ll take them in class. If you do not submit an assignment before the deadline, you will receive a score of zero and there will be no opportunities to make up an assignment. You should look at an assignment as a learning tool (not a testing tool like an exam). Therefore, you can cooperate as much as you like on the assignments, but you must hand in your own material. It will not matter to me if your answers are similar, or in fact identical, to someone else’s.

(Exams) You will be offered TWO midterm exams and ONE cumulative final exam. The exams will have a combination of multiple choice type and free-response type questions. The two midterm exams will be held during the class hours(tentatively, Sep. 27th and Nov. 1st) and one final exam will be held at 4-6pm, Dec. 4th. All exams are mandatory. If you miss an exam you will receive a score of zero on it. The few exceptions to this rule are if you have a documented medical excuse, or a documented family emergency. If you are unavailable for an exam due to official Ole Miss business (such as a game, etc.), you need to contact me at least a week before and to provide any documentation that missing the exam is necessary in the greater interests of the University community. If you need to be officially excused from two or more exams, you will not be allowed to complete the semester. Therefore, you need to take a make-up exam. There is no make-up of the final exam.

(Attendance) Attendance is necessary for mastering the material in this course. In fact, it is not enough just to come to class. Students are strongly encouraged to ask questions and participate constructively in class discussions. Anyway, low participation will likely affect how well you do on assignments and exams. In order to provide incentives, I may ask you fill in your Student ID and signature on a sign-in sheet in class to record your attendance. You have three free excuses, but after that each one absence will take off 1%. This is by no means a perfect way to provide credit for attendance, but the best I can come up with in a large lecture environment.

Grades will be determined by Assignments(10%), Two Midterm Exams(each 25%), One Final Exam(30%), and Attendance(10%). Percentages are tentative.

Announcements for assignments, exams, and attendance will be made through e-mails and/or Blackboard. Please make sure that you are responsible for reading these emails and checking Blackboard announcements on a regular basis.

Academic Integrity: Assignments will be done by your own effort or by participating actively in the group study to solve problems. Similarly, exams will be taken without any assistance of another student or any materials such as notes, textbook, and cell phones, etc. Evidence to the contrary will result, initially, in a failing grade on the assignment or the exam, and immediate academic disciplinary action. If you ever feel that these standards of academic integrity are not being met, please notify me or an undergraduate advisor immediately.

Disabilities: Students with disabilities who may need disability-related classroom or exam accommodations for this course are encouraged to set up an appointment to meet with me as soon as possible to better insure that accommodations are provided in a timely manner.