

ECON 241.002 Syllabus

Introduction to Macroeconomics

Instructor: Mahatab Kabir Khandaker
Spring 2026

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Student Engagement Hours – Fridays 11am to 1pm
Or by appointment - send an email for appointment/quick help

Text: Foundation of Macroeconomics by Bade/Parkin, 9th Edition

Meeting Times: MWF 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM in Lawson Hall Room 0141

Course Goals:

This course will be your introduction to macroeconomics, which is one of the main branches of economics. The course will be divided into two sections. The first part will focus on the basic principles of economics and economic thinking. We will start with understanding basic economic problems and gradually move onto how different economic agents, systems, theories, and institutions function. This part of the course is crucial in beginning to think like an economist.

The second part of the course will take what we learn from the first part, and expand it into the macro space. This will help us inspect the world from a bird's eye view, and see how everything aggregates into the macro-economy. By the end, we will have insights into how modern economies function, and why and how big government policies are undertaken. We will be able to rationalize concepts such as inflation, unemployment, GDP, business cycles, money, and fiscal and monetary policies.

The goals of this course are not only to familiarize yourself with economic jargon but also to give you a better understanding of interactions between different economic variables and to identify the costs and benefits of various government policies. Although not required, keeping up with current economic news through the Wall Street Journal, The Economist, or any other source will be beneficial in seeing how the material applies to the real world.

Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)

- Understand how markets work and predict how prices – including interest rates – and quantities change in response to changes to supply and demand
- Solve macroeconomic problems using graphs and analysis
- Draw inferences about the economy from measures such as GDP, the unemployment rate, and the inflation rate
- Understand the tools of fiscal policy to stabilize economic fluctuations
- Understand the tools of monetary policy to stabilize economic fluctuations

Grading:

There will be two midterms exams, each worth 20% of your grades. If you miss one of the midterms, the other one will be automatically weighted at 40%. There will also be a final exam, which will be worth 30% of your grades.

20% of your grades will come from weekly homework. The nature of these homeworks will vary depending on what we learn in class the week before. There will be a homework due every Monday before class. The remaining 10% of your grades will be allocated for attendance. If you miss more than five classes, your attendance grade will be zero.

Grading Scheme

Assessment	Weight
Weekly HW	20%
Attendance	10%
Midterm Exam 1	20%
Midterm Exam 2	20%
Final Exam	30%

Course Outline

Note: This schedule is tentative. Throughout the semester we will also discuss the latest economic data and controversies behind currently debated economic policies. However, I cannot predict before the semester when such news will present itself, making it difficult to plan weeks in advance what topic I will cover on a particular day or even week. We might certainly delay a planned lecture to discuss a current economic news story. So please be aware that this outline could be modified as necessary. I will certainly announce each week where we are in this outline, and what we will be doing in upcoming weeks. But if you are still not sure then please ask! Regarding the textbook, I would advise you to go through the textbook chapters whenever possible. However, attending the classes regularly and reading through the Lecture materials I provide in D2L should be sufficient in earning top grades in exams. I will hold review sessions during midterm weeks and before the final exam, where we will refresh difficult concepts and practice questions. I will upload the practice questions a week before every exam.

Chapters from Macro Text

Time	Topic	Chapters/Syllabus
Week 1	Introduction to Economics	1 & 3
Week 2	Demand	4
Week 3	Supply	4
Week 4	Equilibrium and Prices	4
Week 5	GDP, Aggregate Demand and Supply	5 & 13
Week 6	Review and Midterm 1	Lectures 1-7
Week 7	Economic Fluctuations	13
Week 8	Economic Growth	9
Week 9	Unemployment and Inflation	6 & 7
Week 10	Money and the Monetary System	11
Week 11	Fiscal Policy	16
Week 12	Review and Midterm 2	Lectures 8-16
Week 13	Monetary Policy	17
Week 14	International Trade	18
Week 15	Review for Finals	Lectures 17-28