

Econ 420: Intermediate Macroeconomics

UNC at Chapel Hill, Department of Economics
Summer Session I 2020

Instructor Information:

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Office Hours: M, W,F 11:30am to 12:30pm and Tu, Th 8am to 9am (Zoom Meeting ID: 152-217-765)

Class Schedule:

Lecture Section 002: M,Tu, W, Th,F 9:45am to 11:15pm (Zoom Meeting ID: 924-0629-8157)
Recitation: There are no recitations for this class. Dates and times of voluntary help sessions will be announced via sakai.

Course Materials:

Recommended Text: *Macroeconomics* by Richard Froyen.

Recommended Periodicals: The Wall Street Journal; The Economist.

Software: Please activate your Zoom account, which you can get for free (and through UNC you have access to a premium version). You can sign up for Zoom here (unc.zoom.us). If you have any issues with Zoom (or Sakai), you can contact ITS (<http://its.unc.edu/>). Refer to the meet ID given above for our regular classes.

Assignments, announcements, grades, class notes, exams and other information will be posted at sakai.unc.edu. Sakai will be the primary method of communication for this course, so please check it frequently.

Gradescope will be used to submit essay questions and other written material.

Course Credit:

Students can not receive credit for both Econ 320 and Econ 420.
Econ 101 and Econ 410 are pre-requisites for this course.

Course Goals: The main goal of this course is to provide students with the tools to analyze current events using theory from various schools of macroeconomic thought. Using economic models, students are expected to provide responses to questions such as: should the government lower tax rates? How can the Fed's actions affect the interest rates and the output? Moreover, students will be able to analyze the current state of the economy using major macroeconomic indicators. By the end of the course, students should be able to connect arguments reported in the press regarding economic events to evidence from major schools of economic thought.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify and understand various types of major macroeconomic data series.
- Explore the structure and assumptions underlying major economic models.
- Evaluate the economy's response to exogenous shocks under different economic models.
- Provide quantitative and graphical explanations to evaluate changes to economic models.
- Compare and contrast different economic models.
- Combine data and theory to analyze current economic conditions.
- Understand the difference between long run and short run effects of shocks and policy.

Code of Conduct: The University Honor Code is in effect. Students are allowed to study in groups but all work submitted must be your own. Moreover, non-academic use of personal electronic devices is prohibited.

Online Classes: We will make use of Zoom and Sakai as the primary tools to facilitate your learning.

- Lectures: We will hold Zoom meetings during our regularly scheduled class meeting time (9:05am - 9:55am on MWF). You can access each lecture by using this Zoom link (<https://unc.zoom.us/j/92406298157>). This session will be recorded and posted on Sakai as soon as it is processed.
- Remote Learning: Participation in an online learning environment is different than in-class participation. I will demonstrate how to solve in-class problems and then pause to ask if there are any questions. Zoom has a feature that permits you to raise your hand to ask a question or to submit a question via a chat room.
- Help Sessions/Office Hours: You can access office hours by using this link (<https://unc.zoom.us/j/152217765>). I will hold help sessions before the due date of a homework or an exam.
- Exams, Assignments: I will go over the instructions for submitting exams and homework. We will most likely use Sakai for multiple-choice questions and MacroJournals. Essay questions on Homework and Exams will be submitted to Gradescope.

Grading	% of Course Grade	Date	Details & Policy
Final Exam	(30%)		The final is a comprehensive exam. Missing the Final Exam without a valid excuse from the Dean will result in a zero exam score. The instructor will provide more information and guidelines about exams at least a week prior to the exam date.
Midterm	(25%)	05/29/20	Midterm will cover material up to the Keynesian Theory. Missing the Midterm without an excused absence results in a zero score for that Test. If you miss the Midterm with an excused absence, I will arrange another midterm for you. The instructor will provide more information and guidelines about exams at least a week prior to the exam date.
Homework	(35%)	TBD	There will be several homework assignments throughout the semester. If you miss an assignment due to an excused absence, your Homework grade will be reweighted among the remaining homework assignments. However, you can only miss one homework assignment. Late assignments will not be accepted.
MacroJournal	(10%)	Weekly by 8am	Each week you must provide an assessment of three aspects of the U.S. economy: overall activity, prices, and employment. A logical and coherent argument based on the principles learned in class is critical. This is due at 8am on Tuesdays (5/19, 5/26, 6/2, 6/10). You may drop the journal entry with the lowest score. If you miss an assignment due to an "excused" absence, your MacroJournal grade will be reweighted among the remaining MacroJournal assignments.
Extra Credit	(2.0pts towards exams)	TBD	Students will get the opportunity to solve in-class practice problems. The students can submit their work on a selected practice problem. The instructor will pick one practice problem per day and it will receive either 0, 1, 2. Your extra credit towards the exam will be the average score of practice problems.

Students associated with Disability Services must contact me one week prior to each Test.

Excused Absences: Illness or participation in University sanctioned activities. Documentation from coach or doctor must be provided. You must fill out the "Excused Absence" form found on the Sakai site, and submit via sakai as soon as possible.

Students that miss a graded assignment due to an excused absence such as an illness or university related activity may have the assignment dropped from consideration by filling out the excused absence form. The form is available on Sakai under MJ & HW and can be submitted the same way an assignment would be.

A	$x \geq 95\%$
A-	$90 \leq x < 95$
B+	$85 \leq x < 90$
B	$80 \leq x < 85$
B-	$75 \leq x < 80$
C+	$70 \leq x < 75$
C	$65 \leq x < 70$
C-	$60 \leq x < 65$
D+	$50 \leq x < 60$
D	$40 \leq x < 50$
F	$x < 40$

Syllabus Changes: The instructor reserves to right to make changes to the syllabus, including homework and test dates. These changes will be announced as early as possible.

Tentative Course Outline

- Week 1 *Introduction and Macroeconomic Data*
 What is macroeconomics? What is the current state of the macroeconomy? How do we measure macroeconomic activity with GDP, CPI, UR?
- Weeks 1 *Classical Theory*
 Detail the Supply, Demand, and Equilibrium conditions that constitute a Classical framework. Discuss open and closed systems.
- Weeks 2-3 *Keynesian Theory*
 Detail the Supply, Demand, and Equilibrium conditions that constitute a Keynesian framework. Discuss open and closed systems.
- Week 4 *Macro Theory After Keynes*
 Provide an overview of macroeconomic thinking after Keynes, including New Classical, Real Business Cycle Theory, Dynamic AS/AD, and others.
- Week 5 *Open Economy Macroeconomics*
 Introduce exchange rates and the international monetary system and explore an open economy version of the IS-LM model.
- Week 5 *Macroeconomic Policy*
 Detail the workings of Fiscal, Monetary, and to a lesser extent, Trade Policy.