Econ 304: Intermediate Macroeconomics Theory

Fall 2024

College of William & Mary

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Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 11am – 12pm & 2pm – 3pm
                    (or by appointment)
Office: Chancellors Hall 338

Section:	Day/Time	Location	Final Exam
02	Tues/Thurs 12:30 - 1:50pm	Chancellors Hall 134	Dec 13th 9a-12p

Course Description:

This course aims to provide students with a structural framework to think about macroeconomic issues. You will learn analytical tools, both mathematical and graphical, to understand and analyze macroeconomic concepts. At the end of the course, you should be able to understand- basic macroeconomic data, how macroeconomic policy impacts the economy, and the concept of macroeconomic growth. This course is relevant to all students interested in learning a framework to interpret the current economic events. It is particularly useful for students planning to pursue graduate economics degree, and careers in finance, consulting, or at economic policy institutions.

Textbook:

- Olivier Blanchard, Macroeconomics, 8th Ed (ISBN: 9780134897899).

Note: The textbook is not required but is strongly recommended. It will be especially useful to access the back of the chapter practice questions and additional reading material.

Additional Readings:

During the course, I will make available supplementary required reading material via Blackboard. Students are also encouraged to read articles from the following sources, all of which can be accessed through the W&M library.

- The Wall Street Journal
- The Economist

Prerequisites:

ECON 102 (Principles of Macroeconomics). Students should be familiar with the concepts of demand and supply, basics of monetary and fiscal policy, and more generally with linear algebra. Students are also expected to know how to solve system of equations, do simple calculus, and graph equations.

General Course Expectations:

You are responsible for attending the class and ensuring that you take proper notes. Everything covered in the slides and class may be quizzed on exams. You are strongly encouraged to participate in class and to ask questions, in class or office hours. Your success in the course will be greatly determined by being attentive in class, keeping up with the material and HW, and ensuring that your doubts are addressed earlier rather than later.

Assignments:

The class will have a total of 5 HW assignments each of which will be 30 points. Together the HWs will account for 30% of your total grades. All assignments will count towards your final grades. Homework assignments will be due on Fridays starting from Week 2. Please refer to the course outline at the end of the syllabus for HW deadlines. All submissions will be through Gradescope. No email submissions will be accepted.

Some rules to keep in mind- Late assignments will not be graded and this is non-negotiable. If you are submitting scans of handwritten HWs, please make sure that your handwriting is legible, and your scans are clear and in pdf format. Do not submit pictures of assignments. You can use iPhone notes or Camscanner app to scan your HWs. You are encouraged to work together on assignments. However, each student must submit their own work.

Bonus Points:
High-quality class participation will be awarded with (fake but valuable) bank notes. Instructions on how to earn and redeem bank notes will be provided later in class and via Blackboard.

Examinations:

There will be 2 Midterm exams in addition to the Final exam. Each midterm will be 100 points and will together account for 40% of your grade. The final exam will be cumulative and will account for 30% of your total grade. Refer to the end of the syllabus for exam dates.

Examination Absence Policy:
There is no remake available for the exams. If you miss either of the midterm exams due to a medical emergency, I will replace your score with your (adjusted) score on the final exam.

Grading Policy:

Grades will be assigned according to the following rubric-

Assignments	150	30%
Midterm I & II	200	40%
Final	150	30%

Below is the grading scale for this class.

Grade	Points	Grade	Points
A	500–460	C	369–350
A-	459–440	C-	349–335
B+	439–425	D+	334–320
B	424–405	D	319–300
B-	404–385	D-	299–275
C+	384–370	F	<275

Extra Credit Policy- There are <u>no extra credits</u> in this class.

Policy on use of AI:

All work submitted in this course, whether in draft or final form, must be your own and must be cited appropriately. The use or incorporation of any AI-generated content (from ChatGPT, Dall-e, etc.) in assignments is not allowed.

Academic Honesty:

I expect everyone to follow the Honor Code. Please see your student handbook for details. "As a member of the William and Mary community, I pledge on my honor not to lie, cheat, or steal, either in my academic or personal life. I understand that such acts violate the Honor Code and undermine the community of trust, of which we are all stewards." A minimum penalty for any breach of academic integrity is the grade of "F" for the course.

Student Accessibility Services:

William & Mary accommodates students with disabilities in accordance with federal laws and university policy. Any student who feels they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a learning, psychiatric, physical, or chronic health diagnosis should contact Student Accessibility Services staff at 757-221-2512 or at sas@wm.edu to determine if accommodations are warranted and to obtain an official letter of accommodation. For more information, please see https://www.wm.edu/sas.

Mental and Physical Well-Being:

I recognize that students juggle different responsibilities and can face challenges that make learning difficult. There are many resources available at W&M to help you navigate emotional/psychological, physical/medical, material/accessibility concerns, including:

- The W&M Counseling Center, 757-221-3620 (services are free and confidential)
- The W&M Health Center, 757-221-4386
- For additional support, contact the Dean of Students, 757-221-2510
- For additional resources, visit https://www.wm.edu/offices/wellness/resources/.

Course Outline – Econ 304:

Lecture	Date	Topics	Deadlines/Holidays
Lecture 1	Aug 29th	Introduction & Ch. 2	
Lecture 2	Sep 3rd	Chapter 2: Output, Inflation, and Unemployment	
Lecture 3	Sep 5th	Chapter 3: The Goods Market	
Lecture 4	Sep 10th	Chapter 3: The Goods Market	
Lecture 5	Sep 12th	Chapter 3: The Goods Market	Sep 13th – Assignment 1 Due
Lecture 6	Sep 17th	Chapter 4: Financial Markets	
Lecture 7	Sep 19th	Chapter 4 & 14: Financial Markets and Present Value	
Lecture 8	Sep 24th	Chapter 5: IS-LM Model	
Lecture 9	Sep 26th	Chapter 5: IS-LM Model	Sep 27th – Assignment 2 Due
Lecture 10	Oct 1st	Chapter 6 (partly): Fisher Equation	
Lecture 11	Oct 3rd	**MIDTERM I (covers Ch 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6.1)**	
Lecture 12	Oct 8th	Chapter 7: The Labor Market	
Lecture 13	Oct 10th		Fall Break – No class
Lecture 14	Oct 15th	Chapter 7: The Labor Market	
Lecture 15	Oct 17th	Chapter 8: Phillips Curve, Unemployment, & Inflation	
Lecture 16	Oct 22nd	Chapter 8: Phillips Curve, Unemployment, & Inflation	
Lecture 17	Oct 24th	Chapter 8: Phillips Curve, Unemployment, & Inflation	
Lecture 18	Oct 29th	Chapter 9: AD-AS Model	
Lecture 19	Oct 31st	Chapter 9: AD-AS Model	Nov 1st –Assignment 3 Due
Lecture 20	Nov 5th		Election Day – No class
Lecture 21	Nov 7th	Chapter 9: AD-AS Model	
Lecture 22	Nov 12th	**MIDTERM II (covers Ch 7, 8, & 9)**	
Lecture 23	Nov 14th	Chapter 10: The Facts of Growth	
Lecture 24	Nov 19th	Chapter 11: Saving, Capital Accumulation, & Output	
Lecture 25	Nov 21st	Chapter 11: Saving, Capital Accumulation, & Output	Nov 22nd –Assignment 4 Due
Lecture 26	Nov 26th	Chapter 12: Technological Progress	Remote Lecture
Lecture 27	Nov 28th		Thanksgiving Break
Lecture 28	Dec 3rd	Chapter 12: Technological Progress	
Lecture 29	Dec 5th	Chapter 12: Technological Progress	Dec 6th – Assignment 5 Due
	Dec 13th	**FINAL EXAM (cumulative)**	

*The course outline is tentative and can change depending on class performance.