

EC 102: Principles of Macroeconomics

Department of Economics
Boston University

Instructor: Julio Ortiz

Summer 2019 (Session II)

Office Hours: M/T 5:00PM-6:00PM	E-mail: jlortiz@bu.edu
Office: 514	Class Hours: M/T/W 6:00PM-8:30PM
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Course Description

Economics is fundamentally about how society manages its scarce resources. Macroeconomics studies the economy as a whole and is interested in broader questions about the aggregate economy. Must the government debt be paid for with new taxes? What can/should the government do (if anything) to support the economy? What is the purpose of central banking? Should we be concerned about rising prices? How does China affects our economy today?

This course will focus on the essential questions about functioning of most economies around the world. We will emphasize the differences between outcomes over the short term, and the path of the economy over the long term. We will learn what policymakers can and cannot to help the economy get out of a crisis. In addition, we look at issues such as the role of the banking system and the advantages and disadvantages of trading with other countries. This course will provide you with a solid understanding of the economy, help you understand different views of different political parties and allow you to evaluate the short and long-term effects of proposed and implemented policies.

Required Materials

- Textbook: N. Gregory Mankiw, *Principles of Macroeconomics*. Cengage Learning, Eighth Edition.¹

¹Each lecture will have an accompanying set of slides that are, for the most part, self-contained.

The textbook is available at the Barnes and Noble's bookstore.

Grading Policy

The course grade will be based on problem sets and exams:

- Problem Sets – 30%
- Midterm Exam – 30%
- Final Exam – 40%

Class participation will be also evaluated at the end of the semester and will help me assigning grades to the border cases.

I will not accept submissions of homework past the due date, and I will not offer make-up exams. The Midterm exam will take place on **Wednesday July 17**, during class time. The Final exam's date has not yet been announced by the College. The final is comprehensive and closed-book.

Course Policies

During Class

I understand that the electronic recording of notes will be important for class and so computers will be allowed in class. Please refrain from using computers for anything but activities related to the class.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is expected at all lectures. While I will not formally take attendance, note that skipping class will obviously affect your ability to participate. Furthermore, excessive absences are typically associated with overall underperformance in the course.

Academic Integrity and Honesty

It is your responsibility to know and understand the provisions of the CAS Academic Conduct Code. The encouragement to collaborate on homework assignments is not extended to tests. Read the CAS Academic Conduct Code, which you can pick up in room CAS B-3 or download at www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code/. Misconduct can involve more subtle acts than direct cheating: for instance, submitting the same work for several courses without the consent of instructors. I will report all cases of suspected academic misconduct to the Deans' Office.

JULY 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<p><i>Lecture 1: Introduction</i> 1 Reading: Ch 1</p> <p><i>Lecture 2: Thinking Like an Economist</i> Reading Ch 2</p>	<p><i>Lecture 3: Algebra Review</i> 2</p> <p><i>Lecture 4: Gains from Trade</i> Reading: Ch 3</p> <p>PS 1 Assigned</p>	<p><i>Lecture 5: Supply and Demand</i> 3 Reading: Ch 4</p>	4	5	6
7	<p><i>Lecture 6: Elasticities</i> 8 Reading: Ch 5</p> <p><i>Lecture 7: Supply, Demand, Taxes</i> Reading: Ch 6</p>	<p><i>Lecture 8: GDP</i> 9 Reading: Ch 10</p> <p><i>Lecture 9: Inflation</i> Reading: Ch 11</p> <p>PS 1 Due PS 2 Assigned</p>	<p><i>Lecture 10: Unemployment</i> 10 Reading: Ch 15</p>	11	12	13
14	<p><i>Lecture 11: Growth</i> 15 Reading: Ch 12</p>	<p><i>Lecture 12: Savings/Investment</i> 16 Reading: Ch 13</p> <p><i>Review for Midterm</i></p> <p>PS 2 Due PS 3 Assigned</p>	<p>Midterm Exam 17</p>	18	19	20
21	<p><i>Lecture 13: The Basics of Finance</i> 22 Reading: Ch 14</p> <p><i>Lecture 14: Monetary System</i> Reading: Ch 16</p>	<p><i>Lecture 15: Money Growth/Inflation</i> 23 Reading: Ch 17</p> <p>PS 3 Due PS 4 Assigned</p>	<p><i>Lecture 16: AD/AS</i> 24 Reading: Ch 20</p>	25	26	27
28	<p><i>Lecture 17: Policy and AD</i> 29 Reading: Ch 21</p>	<p><i>Lecture 18: Phillips Curve</i> 30 Reading: Ch 22</p> <p>PS 4 Due PS 5 Assigned</p>	<p><i>Lecture 19: Int'l Macro</i> 31 Reading: Ch 18</p>			

AUGUST 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	<i>Lecture 20: Int'l Macro</i> Reading: Ch 18	5	<i>Review for Final Exam</i> PS 5 Due	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					