

EC 202: Principles of Macroeconomics

Chandler Lester
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Course Description

Macroeconomics is a branch of economics dealing with the performance, structure, behavior, and decision-making of an economy as a whole. This includes regional, national, and global economies.

Lectures are designed to give you exposure to the fundamental issues of macroeconomic analysis. We will cover concepts such as growth, recessions, fiscal and monetary policy, and other economic notions that are widely used and discussed, but seldom understood. Assignments will be an opportunity for you to think through and critically engage with the material.

At the end of this class you will be able to

- Define the indicators that are used to measure the performance of the economy
- Interpret macroeconomic data that you might encounter in the media
- Apply knowledge of macroeconomic aggregates and their interaction to think about public policy issues in a more informed way
- Explain the main macroeconomic events of the last few decades
- Recognize different macroeconomic analysis frameworks and situate them in economic thought

Materials

Completely optional: *Macroeconomics* by Parkin 12th edition.

I will be basing my lectures for this class on this textbook. You are in no way required or expected to purchase this book. If you want a copy it will be available at the duckstore, and I will try to put a copy on reserve at the library.

I will periodically assign readings or ask you to listen to a podcast. All of these readings will be uploaded to canvas. I will try to always link to podcasts and (if possible) upload transcripts.

Class Structure

Grades will be based on homework assignments, quizzes, one midterm, and the final. The exams will be closed book/closed note.

Quizzes

There will be 15 quizzes (14 pre-lecture quizzes and an intro quiz). Your TEN highest scoring quizzes will be graded. All quizzes will be given online and due before lecture.

Homework

There will be 4 homeworks. All must be turned in for a grade. They will be due at 5pm on Fridays by online submission. Discussion sections will focus on helping students complete these assignments.

Grades

Grades will be based on:

- 15% Homework (Done online and in discussion)
- 15% Quizzes (Done online)
- 35% Midterm **10/30/19**
- 35% Final **12/10/19** (at 10:15am)

POSSIBLE GRADING SCHEME:

100-90% = A

89-80% = B

79-65% = C

Quizzes

There will be 15 quizzes (14 pre-lecture quizzes and an intro quiz). Your TEN highest scoring quizzes will be graded. All quizzes will be given online and due before lecture.

Homework

There will be 5 homeworks. All must be turned in for a grade. They will be due at 5pm on Fridays by online submission. Discussion sections will focus on helping students complete these assignments.

Grading Policy

Attendance is not required, but students will be responsible for any material You CANNOT reschedule the midterm or final exam.

Any grade appeals must be made within one week of the exam. To do so you must turn exam back into me along with a statement about why the question must be re-graded, there will no verbal discussion of grades and any request for re-grading leaves the entire assignment subject to re-grading. This does not apply to any small mistakes like grade calculation errors.

Homework is due 5pm on Fridays, and quizzes are due before class on the day they are due. These due dates are not flexible. Especially since everything is due online.

It is your responsibility to check canvas and make sure your grades are entered correctly. If there is a mistake you must notify me before finals week to guarantee it is corrected.

DO NOT EMAIL ME ABOUT YOUR FINAL GRADE unless you believe there has been an actual error.

Course Policies

During Class

I highly encourage students to take handwritten notes, if possible. I personally believe it helps students learn material **better**. However, I understand using laptops is most convenient for many students so they are permitted for taking notes. Cellphones should be silenced or turned off, and I should not see them being actively used during class.

In general, please respectful. If you're not going to pay attention you don't have to be here.

Academic Integrity and Honesty

The University Student Conduct Code (available at conduct.uoregon.edu) defines academic misconduct. Students are prohibited from committing or attempting to commit any act that constitutes academic misconduct. By way of example, students should not give or receive (or attempt to give or receive) unauthorized help on assignments or examinations without explicit permission from the instructor. Students should properly acknowledge and document all sources of information (e.g. quotations, paraphrases, ideas).

If there is any question about whether a particular activity constitutes academic misconduct, it is the student's obligation to clarify the matter with the instructor before engaging in or attempting to engage in the activity. Please contact me with any questions you have about academic misconduct.

Additional information about maintaining your academic integrity is available at [here](#). Information about plagiarism is available [here](#).

Any violations of the academic integrity policy will result in a failing grade for the course and a complaint will be filed with the University's Hearing Board. Cheating of any form will not be tolerated.

Accessibility

The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me if there are any aspects of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. For more information or assistance, contact the [Accessible Education Center](#): 164 Oregon Hall | 541-346-1155 |.

If you require special accommodations of any kind you will need to provide a letter from the Accessible Education Center verifying your need and detailing the appropriate accommodations. So that I can plan for any necessary accommodations please get this letter to me by the end of the first week.

If your accommodations involve any proctoring of exams at the AEC you will be responsible for scheduling those exams with sufficient anticipation with the AEC. Keep in mind that proctored midterms need to be scheduled at least seven days in advance and that proctored final exams need to be scheduled by the 5:00pm of the Friday of week 8 of the course.

Parenting

Policy on Children in Class: It is my belief that if we want women in academia, that we should also expect children to be present in some form. Currently, the university does not have a formal policy on children in the classroom. The policy described here is thus, a reflection of my own beliefs and commitments to student, staff and faculty parents.

All exclusively breastfeeding babies are welcome in class as often as is necessary to support the breastfeeding relationship. Because not all women can pump sufficient milk, and not all babies will take a bottle reliably, I never want students to feel like they have to choose between feeding their baby and continuing their education. You and your nursing baby are welcome in class anytime.

For older children and babies, I understand that minor illnesses and unforeseen disruptions in childcare often put parents in the position of having to choose between missing class to stay home with a child and leaving him or her with someone you or the child does not feel comfortable with. While this is not meant to be a long-term childcare solution, occasionally bringing a child to class in order to cover gaps in care is perfectly acceptable.

I ask that all students work with me to create a welcoming environment that is respectful of all forms of diversity, including diversity in parenting status.

In all cases where babies and children come to class, I ask that you sit close to the door so that if your little one needs special attention and is disrupting learning for other students, you may step outside until their need has been met. Non-parents in the class, please reserve seats near the door for your parenting classmates.

Finally, I understand that often the largest barrier to completing your coursework once you become a parent is the tiredness many parents feel in the evening once children have finally gone to sleep. The struggles of balancing school, childcare and often another job are exhausting! I hope that you will feel comfortable disclosing your student-parent

status to me. This is the first step in my being able to accommodate any special needs that arise. While I maintain the same high expectations for all student in my classes regardless of parenting status, I am happy to problem solve with you in a way that makes you feel supported as you strive for school-parenting balance. Thank you for the diversity you bring to our classroom!

Taken from: <https://studentlife.oregonstate.edu/childcare/family-friendly-syllabi-examples>

Tentative Course Schedule

Topics	Mondays	Wednesdays	Fridays
Introduction to Macro	09/30 - NO CLASS	10/02 - Intro Quiz	10/04 - Practice 1
Growth & Jobs	10/07 - Quiz 1	10/09 - Quiz 2	10/11 - Homework 1
Savings & Interest	10/14 - Quiz 3	10/16 - Quiz 4	10/18 - Homework 2
Money	10/21 - Quiz 5	10/23 - Quiz 6	10/25 - Review
Midterm Week	10/28 - Review	10/30 - Midterm	11/01 - CANCELED
Economic Fluctuations	11/04 - Quiz 7	11/06 - Quiz 8	11/08 - Homework 3
Fiscal Policy	11/11 - Quiz 9	11/13 - Quiz 10	11/15 - Homework 4
Monetary Policy	11/18 - Quiz 11	11/20 - Quiz 12	11/22 - Homework 5
Economic Crises	11/25 - Quiz 13	11/27 - CANCELED	11/29 - CANCELED
Inequality	12/02 - Quiz 14	12/04 - Review	12/06 - Review

****FINAL: Tuesday, December 10th at 10:15am in 123 PAC****

Discussion Sections

These sections will focus on reviewing material and helping students complete assignments. The goal of these section is to help students form study groups and give students access to aid from graduate students. Attendance at these sections is not required, but the graduate students supervising discussion section will be able to guide students to correct answers on homework. Students who attend all sections and turn in assignments on time are more likely to receive A's on homework.