

ECON 102: INTERMEDIATE MACROECONOMICS

Summer 2017 : Jul 10 - Aug 11

Instructor: Gaurav Bagwe	Time: MTWR, 1PM-3PM
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Objectives: The primary goal of this course is to help you develop a consistent way of thinking about key macroeconomic concepts such as national output, economic growth, business-cycle fluctuations, fiscal and monetary policy, unemployment, inflation, and exchange rates. In doing so, we will encounter the following questions:

- What are the key determinants of economic growth? What explains differing growth in different countries across time?
- What are the drivers of unemployment? What should or can the government do about unemployment?
- Why does macroeconomic activity fluctuate in the form of business cycles? Can or should the government stabilize the economy through its policies?
- What is the role of financial markets in the economy? What explains financial crises?

Course Page: <http://canvas.georgetown.edu>

Office Hours: After class, or by appointment.

Textbook: The class does *not* have a required textbook. However, the primary reference for most material covered in lectures is the following manuscript:

- Badel, A. & Huggett M. Macroeconomics: A Growth Theory Approach

The manuscript has been made available as a free e-book [here](#).

Optional References: You are *not* required to purchase these books. I will put up specific references to sections as needed and upload all the relevant material to the Canvas page.

- Abel, A., Bernanke, B., & Croushore, D. (2013). Macroeconomics (8 ed.). Prentice Hall
- Barro, Robert. Intermediate Macroeconomics (5 ed.). Cengage Learning
- Blanchard, O., & Johnson, D. R. (2012). Macroeconomics (6 ed.). Pearson.
- Mankiw, G. N. Macroeconomics (8 ed.). Worth publishers

Prerequisites: The prerequisites for this course are *Principles of Economics* and a first course in *Calculus*. I shall cover additional math concepts from multivariable calculus in class as the need arises.

Tentative Course Outline:

- Measurement of Output and Prices
- Economic Growth
- Elements of the Life-Cycle Model
- Business-Cycle Fluctuations
- Fiscal Policy: Taxation, Public Debt, and Redistribution
- Monetary Policy: Stabilization Policies and Rules vs. Discretion
- Financial Crises and Coordination Failures

Evaluation:

- **Homework and quizzes (50%):** A total of five homeworks will be assigned - one each week. The homeworks will be challenging and will test the depth of your understanding of concepts covered in class. You are encouraged to discuss your work in small groups but each student is required to turn in their own homework.
- **Final (50%):** This will test your understanding of material covered through the entire course.

Grading Policy: Letter grades will be assigned at the end of the course. Grading will follow the Grading Guidelines of the Economics Department. This means grades might be assigned on a curve, if necessary.

Lectures: Lectures will be based on a combination of material from the primary manuscript, reference books, academic papers, often supplemented by my own notes and slides. Therefore, attendance is *highly encouraged* but not mandatory.

Academic Honesty: Suspected violations of the Georgetown Honor Code (www.georgetown.edu/honor) will be reported to the Honor Council. Students found guilty will receive a grade F for the course.

Note: This syllabus is subject to revision. I shall make the final version available on Canvas before the first day of class.