TENTATIVE SYLLABUS—SUBJECT TO CHANGE

This course is a one-(summer) session course covering macroeconomic facts, theory, and policy. It covers the determinants of economic growth, business cycles, inflation, and unemployment along with a discussion of the international economy.

Two semesters of introductory economics (Econ 2a or 10a and 20a) are prerequisites for this course. It is assumed that students know univariate calculus. Although not required, it is expected that most students have taken (or will take) the companion course in microeconomics, Economics 80a.

Goals of the Course

The learning goals of this course are for students to leave with an understanding of:

- how the availability of capital and labor affect a country’s standard of living;
- how technological progress results in economic growth and higher living standards;
- the relationship between the domestic economy and the international economic environment, as reflected in the behavior of the balance of payments; and
- how fiscal and monetary policies affect unemployment and inflation in the short run.

In general, you will learn how to use rigorous, mathematical models to appraise critically the issues underlying important contemporary policy debates in the United States and elsewhere.

Exams

There will be a mid-term exam and a final exam. The mid-term will take place in class on July 25, 2017. The final exam, which will be cumulative but mostly focused on the material not on the midterm (the second half of the course) will take place TBD, at a time that the Summer School will set. The weights are: 40% for the mid-term exam and 40% for the final exam.

Problem Sets and Class Participation

There will be ten required problem sets in this course. Problem sets are good practice for the exams; students can expect that some questions on the exams will be quite similar to those previously seen on problem sets. The problem sets will constitute 15% of your grade. Weekly quizzes and class participation will make up 5% of your grade.

Text

The text for this course is Macroeconomics (9th Edition) by N. Gregory Mankiw. The readings from Mankiw form the core material for the course, but the textbook may be supplemented by occasional
news articles relevant to class discussion. This material may also appear on exams, so please keep up with these selections.

You will find that your understanding of both current economic events and economic analysis will be bolstered by the regular perusal of periodicals such as *The Economist*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The Financial Times*. Brandeis University students can gain access to all of these through the University subscriptions.

Contact Information

My Brandeis email address is alaski@brandeis.edu. My office hours will be from 11:00-12:00pm Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays in Sachar 115.

Information Dissemination

In Economics 82b we will maintain a course website through the University's Latte system. You will be responsible for checking the website frequently as most of the problem sets, answer keys, etc. will be posted there and available for you to download. The website can be access from webct.brandeis.edu. Most documents from the course website will be found as PDF files. To read such files you will need to have Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your computer. All computers in the computer labs on campus come equipped with the Reader.

Special Accommodations

If you are a students with a documented disability at Brandeis University and if you wish to request a reasonable accommodation for this class, please see me right away. Please keep in mind that reasonable accommodations are not provided retroactively.

Academic Honesty

You are expected to be honest in your academic work. The University policy on academic honesty is distributed annually as section 4 for the Rights and Responsibilities handbook. Students may be required to submit work to TurnItIn.com software to verify originality. Instances of alleged dishonesty will be forwarded to the Director of Academic Integrity for possible referral to the Student Judicial System. Potential sanctions include failure in the course and suspension from the University. Citation and research assistance can be found at LTS-Library guides. If you have any questions about my expectations, please ask. Academic Dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be rigorously prosecuted.

While you are encouraged to discuss the problems with others, you are expected to answer problems on your own. Resist the temptation to copy someone else’s answer. This is worse than useless as it is not only a violation of Brandeis University rules but also will lull you into a false sense that you understand the material.
## Tentative Course Outline

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Monday, July 10, 2017</td>
<td>Introduction to the Course, Macroeconomics, and Macroeconomic Data</td>
<td>Chapters 1-2. PS 1 assigned.</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Tuesday, July 11, 2017</td>
<td>National Accounting, the Drivers of Equilibrium</td>
<td>Chapter 3-4. PS 1 due. PS 2 assigned.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Thursday, July 13, 2017</td>
<td>Money and Inflation</td>
<td>Chapter 4-5. PS 2 due. PS 3 assigned. Quiz 1.</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Monday, July 17, 2017</td>
<td>The Open Economy</td>
<td>Chapter 5-6. PS 3 due. PS 4 assigned.</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Tuesday, July 18, 2017</td>
<td>Unemployment and Labor</td>
<td>Chapter 7-8. PS 4 due. PS 5 assigned.</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Thursday, July 20, 2017</td>
<td>Economic Growth and Solow Model</td>
<td>Chapter 8-9 PS 5 due. PS 6 assigned. Quiz 2.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Monday, July 24, 2017</td>
<td>Economic Growth, Solow, Endogenous Growth</td>
<td>Chapter 9-10. PS 6 due. PS 7 assigned. Mid-term</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Tuesday, July 25, 2017</td>
<td>Introduction to Business Cycles</td>
<td>Chapter 10-11.</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Thursday, July 27, 2017</td>
<td>The IS-LM Model</td>
<td>Chapter 11-12. PS 7 due. PS 8 assigned.</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Tuesday, August 1, 2017</td>
<td>Aggregate Supply</td>
<td>Chapter 13-14. PS 8 due. PS 9 assigned.</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Monday August 7, 2017</td>
<td>Review PS 10 due.</td>
<td>Final</td>
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