

Econ 20a
Introduction to Macroeconomics
Summer 2021
(Draft Syllabus in Progress)

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1 Course Meeting Times

Three lectures per week on [Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8.30am-10.20am](#), except for Week 1 and Week 5 (see **Section 6. Course Timeline and Key Dates** for more detail).

Zoom link for lectures: TBA

Instructor's office hours on [Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 10.20am – 11am](#).

Zoom link for instructor's office hour: TBA

2 Course Objectives

This course teaches students the intuition behind the macroeconomic theories. At the completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Understand the basic intuition behind the determination of output, employment, unemployment, interest rates and inflation.
2. Comprehend further discussion in the next sequence of macroeconomics course on the topics below:
 - Monetary and fiscal policies
 - International economic issues.

3 Assessments

Course letter grades in the course will be determined by the instructor.

3.1 Problem sets (20% of the total grade for the course)

There will be **five problem sets** each worth 4% of the total grade for the course. Parts of each problem set for a particular week will be announced at the end of each lecture on that week, and the complete problem set will be due on the **Wednesday of that week at 5pm EST the latest, except for Problem Set 1 for Week 1, which is to be due via LATTE on Friday, July 9th 2021 at 5pm the latest. A grade of zero will be awarded for any late submission past 5pm on the due days.**

3.2 In-class Quizzes(80% of the total grade for the course)

There will be **two in-class quizzes** each worth 40% of the total grade for the course. The first quiz will be held in the time slot of the last lecture on the second week of the course (**8.30-10.20am on Thursday the 15th of July 2021**). The second and last quiz will be held in the time slot of the last lecture of the last week of the course (**8.30-10.20am on Thursday the 5th of August 2021**).

3.3 Optional: IMF Online Financial Programming Course (Extra 4% of the total grade for the course)

Extra 4% (ie. optional) for completing each section of the IMF online course: **"Financial Programming and Policies Part I: Macroeconomic Accounts & Analysis"**. This is a 4-6 weeks online course, and I recommend this for students who have interest in macroeconomic policy. Please choose the course version that is **without certification (it is free of charge)**. The material in this online IMF course are not part of the study material for the in-class quizzes.

The snapshots of your webpages which serve as evidence of the full completion of the IMF online course should be sent to my e-mail address asoed@brandeis.edu **by 5pm EST on the 5th of August 2021** if you wish to obtain the extra 4% grade for the course. **The subject of your e-mail to me should be: Econ 20a - IMF Online Course.**

Please see the next section for further detail on how to register for the course.

4 Reading Material and Resources

1. **Lecture notes:** posted in the afternoon the day before each lecture. Closely based on the required textbook for this course.
2. **Required Textbook:** Principles of Macroeconomics (at least 6th Edition, the newer the better), Gregory N. Mankiw.
3. **IMF Financial Programming Course (Online)**, see instruction below:

Step 1. Go to <https://www.edx.org>, and register for a free account there.

Step 2. Type [IMF Financial Programming](#) on search box, or click
<https://www.edx.org/search?q=IMF%20Financial%20programming>

Step 3. Click on [Financial Programming and Policies, Part 1: Macroeconomic Accounts & Analysis](#).

Step 4. Enroll for the course. Please choose the version that is free of charge, ie. the version without certification.

Step 5. Start the course, complete each section.

NOTE: The second part of the financial programming course, [Financial Programming and Policies, Part 2: Program Design](#) is beyond the scope of this course. You may enroll in the second part of the financial programming course after finishing ECON 20A during Summer 2021 out of your own interest.

5 Academic Integrity

5.1 Academic Honesty

A student shall not submit work that is falsified or is not the result of the student's own effort. Infringement of academic integrity by a student subjects that student to serious penalties, which may include failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension from the University or other sanctions. Please consult Brandeis University Rights and Responsibilities for all policies and procedures related to academic integrity:

<https://www.brandeis.edu/student-rights-community-standards/academic-integrity/index.html>.

Students may be required to submit work via TurnItIn.com or similar software to verify originality. A student who is in doubt regarding standards of academic integrity as they apply to a specific course or assignment should consult the faculty member responsible for that course or assignment before submitting the work. Allegations of alleged academic dishonesty will be forwarded to the Department of Student Rights and Community Standards. Sanctions for academic dishonesty can include failing grades and/or suspension from the university. Citation and research assistance can be found at Brandeis Library Guides - Citing Sources.

5.2 Disability

If you are a student with disability and require special accommodation throughout the course, please contact me immediately. Special accommodations for disability cannot be provided retroactively.

6 Course Timeline and Key Dates

Please note that the sequence of material in the table below is **tentative, and subject to change depending on progress**. Textbook reading material are chapters from **Principles of Macroeconomics** by Gregory N. Mankiw, at least **6th Edition**. We will cover topics and concepts from Chapter 10-22 from this required textbook, with additional material to be presented in the lecture notes.

Week	Date	Activity	Textbook Reading Material
Week 1 (Intro I)	July 6	Lecture 1: Macroeconomics Variables	Chapter 10,11
	July 8th	Lecture 2: Production and Growth, Unemployment	Chapter 12,15
	July 9th	Problem Set 1 due at 5pm EST on LATTE	Chapter 10,11,12,15
Week 2 (Intro II)	July 12th	Lecture 3: Saving and Investment, Basic Tools of Finance	Chapter 13,14
	July 13th	Lecture 4: Monetary System	Chapter 16
	July 14th	Problem Set 2 due at 5pm EST on LATTE	Chapter 13,14,16
	July 15th	In-class Quiz 1	Chapter 10-16
Week 3 (Inflation and Introduction to Open Economy Macroeconomics)	July 19th	Lecture 5: Money Growth and Inflation	Chapter 17
	July 20th	Lecture 6: Intro to Open-Economy Macroeconomics	Chapter 18
	July 21st	Problem Set 3 due at 5pm EST on LATTE	Chapter 17,18
	July 22nd	Lecture 7: Intro to Open-Economy Macroeconomics (Cont.)	Chapter 19
Week 4 (AD-AS Model)	July 26th	Lecture 8: Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply Curve	Chapter 20
	July 27th	Lecture 9: Monetary Policy, Fiscal Policy and Aggregate Demand	Chapter 21
	July 28th	Problem Set 4 due at 5pm EST on LATTE	Chapter 19-21
	July 29th	Lecture 10: Short-Run Trade-off between Inflation and Unemployment	Chapter 22
Week 5 (Microeconomics Behind Macroeconomics)	August 2nd	Lecture 11: Additional Material - TBA	
	August 3rd	Lecture 12: Additional Material - TBA	
	August 4th	Problem Set 5 due at 5pm EST on LATTE	Chapter 22 and Additional Material (TBA)
	August 5th	In-class Quiz 2, AND Evidence of the Completion IMF Online Course to be sent personally via e-mail to instructor by 5pm EST.	For In-class Quiz 2: All Chapters.