
MACROECONOMIC THEORY: ECON 82B-1

SUMMER 2021

1 General Course Information

Instructor: Mah Ebrahimi mebrahimi@brandeis.edu

Virtual office hours: Tuesdays 5:30-6:30 PM, Zoom link will be listed on Latte. Please email at least one day in advance if you plan to attend office hours and let me know when you plan to join Zoom.

Class Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 6:30 PM–9:00 PM

2 Course Description and Objectives

This course will cover the principles of macroeconomic theory, the measurement of economic aggregates and the role of policy interventions. Topics covered include determinants of economic growth, business cycles, money, and the international economy. Using introductory macro models you will learn the relationships between variables such as the unemployment rate, national income, and price levels. We will also analyze how changes in decision variables, such as interest rates, taxes, and government spending, affect the economy as a whole. We will broadly explore both the short-run in order to examine business cycles and the long-run to analyze the determinants of economic growth.

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Interpret macroeconomic data and review current and past economic events.
2. Recognize different schools of macroeconomic thought to critically read data and theory.
3. Manage models that allow them to assess how capital, labor and technology affect a country's standard of living.
4. Compare approaches to assess the key determinants of unemployment.
5. Explain the relationship between money and inflation.
6. Identify long run and short run models.
7. Develop tools to understand the functioning of the international economy.
8. Familiarize with government policies and their effect on macroeconomic outcomes.

3 Reading and Assignments

Textbook: Macroeconomics, Mankiw, 10th edition (Macmillan Learning)

You must subscribe to the Achieve to get access to the Mankiw Macroeconomics ebook and course assignments. (Course ID on Macmillan's Achieve: 6p37fj)

Please click on the link below for instructions on how to subscribe to Achieve and join the course:

[Link to Achieve Getting Started Guide for Students](#)

You will find that your understanding of both current economic events and economic analysis will be bolstered by regularly following the specialized news in periodicals such as The Wall Street Journal or The Financial Times. Brandeis University students can gain access to these through the University subscriptions. You may also enjoy listening to podcasts like NPR Planet Money, following blogs such as Money, Banking and Financial Markets, or watching specialized YouTube videos like those available through The Economist channel.

4 Applications, Equipment, and Resources

PC and Internet: This is an online class, you will need to have access to a computer and have internet connection. You will also need to watch and listen to recorded classes and record yourself in video/audio if required.

LATTE is the Brandeis learning management system: <http://latte.brandeis.edu> Login to LATTE using your UNET ID and password.

Library: The Brandeis Library collections and staff offer resources and services to support Brandeis students, faculty and staff. These include workshops, consultations, collaboration, materials and instruction on emerging trends in technologies such as machine learning, emerging trends in research such as data visualization, and emerging trends in scholarship such as open access. Librarians at the Circulation Desk, Research Help Desk, Archives Special Collections, Sound & Image Media Studios, MakerLab, AutomationLab, and Digital Scholarship Lab are available to help you.

<https://www.brandeis.edu/library/about/index.html>

Student Support: Brandeis University is committed to supporting all our students so they can thrive. The following resources are available to help with the many academic and non-academic factors that contribute to student success (finances, health, food supply, housing, mental health counseling, academic advising, physical and social activities, etc.). Please explore the many links on this "Support at Brandeis" page (<https://www.brandeis.edu/support/undergraduate-students/browse.html>) to find out more about the

resources that Brandeis provides to help you and your classmates to achieve success.

Accommodations: Brandeis seeks to welcome and include all students. If you are a student who needs accommodations as outlined in an accommodations letter, I want to support you. In order to provide test accommodations, I need the letter more than 48 hours in advance. If you have questions about documenting a disability of requesting accommodations, please contact “Student Accessibility Support” (SAS <https://www.brandeis.edu/accessibility/>), call 781.736.3470 or email access@brandeis.edu.

5 Prerequisites

- Econ 20 (Intro to Macro)
- Completion of calculus through AP credits, a C- or above in MATH 10A, or passed the economics calculus exemption exam given at the beginning of each semester.
- Please note that the math prerequisite is not just a formality: we will be using basic calculus in this class.

6 Evaluation

Attendance is required in this class. Your grade in the course will be determined by your performance on midterm and final exams as well as problem sets, presentations, and participation during “in-class” discussions.

- (1) Class Participation 10%
- (2) Problem Sets. 30%
- (3) Class Presentation. 10%
- (4) Midterm Exam. 20%
- (5) Final Exam. 30%

Class Presentation: Analyze and discuss a News article related to one of the topics you learned in this class. You can choose to present your article either on June 15th or on June 29th. I will share a Google spreadsheet where you can choose when you will be presenting based on the time slots available on June 15th or June 29th. You should choose your date by the end of the first week of the course.

7 Disabilities

If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.

8 Academic Integrity

You are expected to be honest in all of your academic work. Please consult Brandeis University Rights and Responsibilities for all policies and procedures related to academic integrity. Students may be required to submit work to TurnItIn.com software to verify originality. Allegations of alleged academic dishonesty will be forwarded to the Director of Academic Integrity. Sanctions for academic dishonesty can include failing grades and/or suspension from the university. Citation and research assistance can be found at LTS - Library guides.

9 Communications

Please check your email for class announcements.

10 Course Plan

Class 1 (June 1): Mankiw Chapters 1 and 2

Course Introduction, Measuring the Economy

Class 2 (June 3): Mankiw Chapter 3

National Income and the Economy in the Long-Run

Class 3 (June 7): Mankiw Chapter 4

The Monetary System

Class 4 (June 8): Mankiw Chapter 5

Inflation

Class 5 (June 10): Mankiw Chapter 6

The Open Economy in the Long-Run

Class 6 (June 14): Mankiw Chapter 8

Determinants of Economic Growth: Capital Accumulation and Population Growth

Class 7 (June 15): Mankiw Chapter 9

Determinants of Economic Growth: Technology, Empirics, and Policy

Class Presentations

Class 8 (June 17): Mankiw Chapter 7

Unemployment and the Labor Market

Class 9 (June 21): Midterm Exam**Class 10 (June 22):** Mankiw Chapter 10

The Short-Run Economy and Business Cycles

Class 11 (June 24): Mankiw Chapters 11 and 12

Aggregate Demand: IS-LM Model

Class 12 (June 28): Mankiw Chapter 14

Tradeoff Between Inflation and Unemployment

Class 13 (June 29): Review Session

Class Presentations

Note: Additional material, provided by the instructor, may be included throughout the course as needed.