

# **ECON304: Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory**

## **Section 03 & 04: Online, Asynchronous**

### **Contact Information:**

**Instructor:** Prof. Zhao Han; [zhan03@wm.edu](mailto:zhan03@wm.edu)

Office: Tyler Hall 247

Office Hours: Live Q&A sessions on Zoom; Additional office hours are by Appointment.

### **Textbook**

We use *Macroeconomics*, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, by Olivier Blanchard and David H. Johnson (ISBN: 0133061639) as a reference. The textbook is recommended but not mandatory.

### **Prerequisite**

ECON102 (Principles of Macroeconomics). More generally, students should be familiar with the concepts of supply and demand, the basics of monetary and fiscal policy, and have some experience using equations, graphs, and tables to analyze economic situations. Students are also expected to be familiar with functions, their graphical representation, and the solution of simultaneous equations. Consistent study habits coupled with an eagerness to learn and ask questions will help to achieve the learning objectives.

### **Course Description**

This course takes an intermediate level approach to macroeconomic theory and its applications, building on the foundations developed in the introduction to macroeconomics. It will provide analytical tools and formal models to explain the behavior of output, inflation, employment, interest rates, exchange rates, and other aggregate economic quantities. This set of tools is used to understand current economic issues, forecast the behavior of the economy, and assess the impact of policy choices. This course is meant to train students to think in a structured, analytically rigorous way about macroeconomic questions. This training will allow students to use macroeconomics as an analytical tool rather than a set of assorted theories. Finally, it will help prepare students entering graduate education or starting careers in management, finance, or economic policy-making.

### **Course Lectures**

This class is designated as a **Remote, Asynchronous** class, which means all lectures will be prerecorded and posted on Blackboard. Please see the class calendar for a tentative schedule of the dates on which these lectures will be delivered. The lecture videos will be posted in the early morning on the scheduled

date. It is your responsibility to download/view them in a timely manner. In each lecture video, you will see presentation slides with my voice over them. I will typically annotate and/or write down calculations by hand on these slides, so you can follow along discussions on important concepts and derivation of model results.

Panopto on Blackboard provides me a way to monitor your progress in studying the lectures. It allows the instructor to view individual students' "minutes delivered" and "percent completed" for each segment of the lecture. I will send you a warning email if you have fallen behind in your lecture viewings.

### **Q&A Sessions and Zoom Recording Policy**

Besides prerecorded lectures, we will have live Q&A sessions held online using the Zoom software. The Q&A sessions replaces the traditional office hours. I will send you a link to the meeting and please do NOT share this link with anyone outside the class. In addition, due to privacy concerns, **please do not record our Q&A Zoom sessions**. Since the class is designed as asynchronous, attendances of the Q&A sessions are not mandatory. However, I highly recommend you participate the Q&A sessions, during which we will discuss recent Macroeconomic news, homework assignment, and sample exam questions.

### **Online Discussion Forum**

If you find any parts of the lecture confusing or you need to ask a quick question regarding the class, you can use the lecture discussion forum on Blackboard. You can create a new thread to ask questions on any class topics, and everyone can share their comments and discuss the same topic. I will get notification on any new threads/comments posted and join in the discussion as soon as I can. This forum is designed to mimic a classroom like environment, where everyone can raise a hand and ask professor questions and share the responses with everyone else.

I highly recommend this way of discussion. Due to the asynchronous nature of the class, this is a great way of fostering a sense of community and encourage class interaction and engagements. Also feel free to use the forum to share any economics related comments/discussions, for example, some news items that you can relate to the class.

### **Examinations**

The examinations will be either multiple choice, or graphical/numerical problems, or short essay questions, or any combination of these three. There is a midterm exam and a **comprehensive** final exam. The midterm exam is worth 30% or 150 points of the course grade. The final exam is worth 40% of the course grade or 200 points of the course grade. The final exam is cumulative.

The midterm exams will be administered during a regular class day, please see the class calendar for the scheduled dates of the exams. The final exam will be administered on the official College scheduled final exam date. Your schedule must permit you to be free to take both exams. If you miss the midterm exam and you have a documented excuse from the Dean's office, the exam's weight will shift to the final exam. Excuses should be documented as far in advance as possible. If you miss an exam without a valid excuse, you will receive a zero and there will be no chance to earn those course points

Both exams are \*open booked\*, and you may use your notes if you would like. However, you will have \*limited time\* to complete the exam, so studying on the fly will not be a viable option. Please download and print the exam booklet, and neatly hand write your answers in the booklet just like in an actual exam. Once you are done, please scan/photograph the exam and upload it to blackboard. Questions will be similar in format to those on homework assignments and practice exams. No cooperation is allowed during the tests, and any attempts of dishonesty will be punished with as much severity as the College permits.

There will be no make-up exams for the midterm exam. If you are in a different time zone, and need to take the exam at a different time, you need to contact me in the beginning of the semester so necessary arrangements can be made. If you need to miss a midterm exam, you must notify me with a written/email request at least 24 hours before the exam. Any reason for missing a midterm is accepted, as long as the request is submitted to me before the deadline. Please note that I do NOT cancel or drop grades after the deadline. In the case of a dropped exam, the points from that exam will then be automatically moved to your final exam, so you don't lose the opportunity to gain those points.

It is the policy of The College of William & Mary to accommodate students with disabilities and qualifying diagnosed conditions in accordance with federal and state laws. Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a learning, psychiatric, physical or chronic health diagnosis should be referred to Student Accessibility Services (SAS) staff at 757- 221-2509 or at sas@wm.edu. SAS staff will work with you to determine if accommodations are warranted, and if so, to help you obtain an official letter of accommodation. For more information please see [www.wm.edu/sas](http://www.wm.edu/sas).

### **Assignments**

**There will be 5 homework assignments.** The graded assignment will be counted 30% or 150 points of your course grade. Each assignment \*must\* be submitted on Blackboard by a specified due date/time. Please see all the submission deadlines on the course calendar. No late assignments will be accepted. You are allowed or even encouraged to work with other students on assignments. However, you must submit your own solution.

Due to the nature of electronic submissions, typed solutions are preferred. However, if you must hand-write your assignments, please make sure all the words and equations are neatly written, and all the graphs are clearly labeled. In the case of hand-written assignments, please carefully scan or photograph your written assignments, and upload them online. Messy or low resolution homework will NOT be accepted and will be given zero points for that assignment.

All the assignments are self-graded. This means you will need to submit each assignment twice on Blackboard. On the first submission, any reasonable effort will be assessed 50% of the total homework grade. “Reasonable” means you must have worked on every problem on a particular assignment. After the first submission deadline, an answer sheet will be posted online, along with grading guidelines. For this reason, *\*no\** late homeworks will be accepted! For the additional 50%, you must grade your own homework following the grading guidelines. Please score and comment on your *\*original\** homework. The graded homework will be submitted on a second specified deadline, usually 3-5 days after the first submission. I will compare the two submissions to make sure no cheating has occurred. In most cases, if you followed the grading guideline closely, I would agree with your gradings. In the cases I disagree with you, appropriate grade adjustments would be made, and I will give you feedbacks and comments on why specific adjustments are made. Allowing self-grading would give you a chance to learn from the homework a second time, and deepen your understanding of the course materials. You are permitted and even encouraged to work with other students on assignments, as long as proper social distancing rules are followed. However, each student must write up his or her own version of a solution, and everyone who collaborated must be *\*acknowledged\** in the homework. When you solve a problem jointly, I expect you to then be able to look away from the group notes and reproduce the solution on your own. If not, you have learned nothing from the exercise, and are giving yourself a false sense of security about your understanding of the material. Moreover, **identical assignments will receive a score of zero.**

### **Academic Integrity**

I expect everyone to follow the Honor Code. Please see your student handbook for details. “As a member of the William and Mary community, I pledge on my honor not to lie, cheat, or steal, either in my academic or personal life. I understand that such acts violate the Honor Code and undermine the community of trust, of which we are all stewards.” A minimum penalty for any breach of academic integrity is the grade of “F” for the course.

### **Grading Policy**

It is your responsibility to keep track of your grades by regularly checking your Blackboard grade books. If you have a discrepancy, you will need to alert me in order to see if there is a mistake. The final grade for the course is based on the percentage of the number of adjusted total points earned. Use the below chart to determine your final course grade.

	<u>Possible Points</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Assignments	150	30	A	500-460	100-92
Midterm Exam	150	30	A-	459-440	91-88
Final	200	40	B+	439-425	87-85
Total	500	100%	B	424-405	84-81
			B-	404-385	80-77
			C+	384-370	76-74
			C	369-350	73-70
			C-	349-335	69-67
			D+	334-320	66-64
			D	319-300	63-60
			D-	299-275	59-55
			F	274-0	Below 55%

Modification of policies may be required during the semester. I will make explicit announcements pertaining to any such changes.

#### Tentative Econ 304 Schedule

(There are no classes on Spring Break Days, which are 02/12, 03/17, 04/07, and 04/26.)

01/27-01/29	Introduction and Overview
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02/01-02/05	Measuring GDP, Unemployment and Inflation (Chapter 2); <b>Last day to add/drop classes: 02/05</b>
02/08-02/19	The Goods Market (Chapter 3), <b>Homework 1 Due on 02/19</b>
02/22-02/26	Goods and Financial Markets: The IS-LM Model (Chapter 5 and Chapter 6),
03/01-03/05	The IS-LM Model continued (Chapter 5 and Chapter 6), <b>Homework 2 Due on 03/05</b>
03/08-03/12	The Labor Market (Chapter 7)
03/15-03/19	The Phillips Curve, the National Rate of Unemployment, and Inflation (Chapter 8)
03/22-03/26	<b>Midterm Exam Week, Review sessions, Midterm exam will be posted on 03/26</b>
03/29-04/02	Moving from Short Run to the Medium Run: The AS-AD Model (Chapter 9)
04/05-04/09	The AS-AD Model (Chapter 9): Applications, <b>Homework 3 Due on 04/09</b>
04/12-04/16	Saving, Capital Accumulation, and Output (Chapter 11)
04/19-04/23	Technological Process and Growth (Chapter 12), <b>Homework 4 Due on 04/23</b>
04/26-04/30	Financial Markets and Expectations (Chapter 14)
05-03-05/07	<b>Catch up and Review Sessions, Homework 5 Due on 05/07</b>
<b>Live Q&amp;A sessions</b>	<b>TBD</b>