

Course Syllabus

Econ 4353: Intermediate Macroeconomics

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| Prerequisites | Econ 1015 or Econ 1051 and Math 1400 Note, this course will rely on math taught in Calc 1. Please be familiar with this material. |
| Times and Location | Tuesday and Thursday 2-3:15 Lefevre Hall, Room 112 <i>Final Exam:</i> given at the University assigned time (found here) |
| Professor Contact Information | Prof. Rebecca Whitworth (office) (573) 882-9925 (texting) (573) 238-8226 whitworthr@missouri.edu Professional Building Room 333 Office Hours: <i>Tuesday and Wednesday from 12pm-2pm and by appointment</i> |
| Teaching Assistants | See Canvas |
| Canvas | courses.missouri.edu |

Course Catalog Description:

The study of the structure and performance of national economies. Topics include: long-term economic growth, aggregate economic fluctuations, unemployment, and inflation; consequences for national economies of being part of the global economic system; government policies and macroeconomic performance.

Course Objectives

It is my hope that you will learn the theory of macroeconomics and be able to apply this theory to current events and concerns. This course will take you deeper into the methods and lessons of modern macroeconomic theory. We will analyze the basics of household and firm decision-making, dynamic optimization, and general equilibrium. These tools are mathematical, but we will build up this architecture gradually. With our toolkit, we will cover a mix of traditional macroeconomic questions, including:

- What drives economic growth?

- What causes business cycle fluctuations?
- What is the impact of fiscal and monetary policy?

We will also discuss more timely questions, including asset bubbles and crises, sovereign default, drivers and consequences of inequality, trade, and labor market issues.

Building this toolkit takes both effort and time. I will provide the resources and instruction for you, but there is no substitute for hands on trial of these methods. Economics is learned best by doing it. As such, I will also provide an environment for you to work with the theories in order to deepen your technical skills and intuition.

At the end of the course, I hope that

- (1) You are able to engage in informed discussions about macroeconomics and make informed judgements about causes, implications, and policy responses to various macroeconomic phenomena
- (2) You further develop your technical skills and intuition used in macroeconomic analysis
- (3) You discover areas of study that interest you and provide a basis for future paths

Textbook, Materials, and Resources

Textbook: The textbook for this is made available in PDF form by the book authors. These files will appear on Canvas. In return for free access to the text, it is understood that this book is in draft form. This means that the graphs and tables may not be in-line with the text. Additionally, passages may not be clear. You are expected to ask me about these passages.

iClicker/REEF: We will utilize REEF for polling, interactive games, and random attendance checks throughout the semester.

How to register for REEF: You must use REEF on your phone, tablet, or laptop. Clickers will not support all question types used during the course.

1. Download the iClicker Mobile REEF app from the App Store (iOS) Google Play (Android) or by visiting iclicker.com
2. Create an account (or sign in) using your university email address. *You must use your University email and PawPrint for your Reef account to sync to Canvas. As a note: you do not need to purchase an iClicker subscription.*
3. Connect your iClicker account to our Canvas course.
 - Navigate to iClicker Sync registration link on our Canvas course page, click the link, then sign into your iClicker account from the window that opens.
 - At the end of the process, you will see a message “Your iClicker REEF account is linked!”
 - To check, click “Launch the iClicker REEF” button where you should see Econ 4353

A couple notes: (1) You do not need to pay for a subscription to REEF for this course. (2) You must enter your Mizzou PawPrint accurately in the Student ID field of your iClicker profile. Do **not** enter your student ID as the system will not recognize this.

REEF Support: Online: <https://www.iclicker.com/students>

Email: support@iclicker.com

Phone: 1-866-209-5698

Live REEF support is available Monday-Thursday from 8AM-10PM and Friday from 8AM-9PM.

Canvas: This course uses Canvas. You must be able to log into Canvas. Please be sure that Canvas announcements are automatically sent to your email so you have the latest information. Additionally, Canvas contains course notes, resources, assignments, and our course calendar.

Email: Please reach out via email if you have questions, comments, or concerns. *In order for us to respond, email needs to be sent from your university address (@mail.missouri.edu) with your question, problem, or difficulty clearly outlined. We cannot discuss grades via email, but am happy to discuss them in person. Be sure to include your course in the subject of the email. For example "Econ 1000: Question about consumer theory". Do not use Canvas to send messages as those are not always delivered.*

University Technical Support (email and Canvas): If you are having technical difficulty with Canvas, please contact MU Tech Support at (573) 882-5000 or email techsupport@missouri.edu. I cannot help with substantive issues with Canvas.

Tech Support Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 7:30 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Friday: 7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Saturday: 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Sunday: 12 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Want Extra Help? If you find a topic challenging or come across a roadblock, reach out. Below are some of the many resources available to you;

- Office Hours for Prof. Whitworth
- Instructor email
- Ask a question in class
- Classmates
- Review the Panopto recording for the lecture in question
- Canvas Resources
- Economics Department Tutor List

A word about time management. The Learning Center offers assistance in setting up study plans for your classes. If you find that you struggle with time management, I would strongly recommend taking advantage of this early in the semester.

Course Set-Up, Deliverables, and Grading Scheme

The structure of this course revolves around 3 in-class exams. Below is the schedule of work:

| <i>Exam</i> | <i>Homework Due Dates</i> |
|-------------|---------------------------|
|-------------|---------------------------|

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|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Exam 1: Tuesday, 2/18 | 2/2 |
| Exam 2: Tuesday, 3/31 | 2/23, and 3/8 |
| Exam 3: Tuesday, 5/5 | 4/5, 4/19, and 5/3 |

Note: Due dates are subject to change. Check Canvas for the latest information.

Deliverables:

| Deliverable | Percent of Grade |
|--|------------------|
| <i>In-Class Participation (REEF)</i> | 10% |
| <i>Homework</i> 6 Homeworks, the highest 5 count towards your final grade (each homework counts for roughly 3.3% of your final course grade) | 40% |
| <i>Exams</i> 4 Exams, the highest 3 count towards your final grade (each exam counts for 15% of your final course grade). Note, the final exam is cumulative but does not count for more points than an in-class exam. | 50% |
| Total | 100% |

Course Policies and Procedures

In-Class Participation: You are expected to attend all lectures.

Participation points: Work assigned, completed, and handed in during lecture, including REEF polls, REEF check-ins, worksheets, and paper sign-in sheets. No makeup work for “in lecture” participation is accepted (work that is due by the end of the lecture section in which it is assigned). If you have a valid university function, medical documentation, or extraordinary personal event, you will be excused from the participation work for the relevant lecture times. Some participation activities may be assigned during lecture but due later in the week to Canvas. You do not need to attend the lecture to hand in these participation assignments.

Homework: The class includes 6 homework assignments. Your top 5 scores will count towards your final course grade. This means that you will drop your lowest homework grade (whether it is a low score or an assignment you did not submit). **No late homeworks will be accepted.** Homeworks are available a week before they are due, no exemptions will be granted for weekly homework.

Homework Due Dates: Homework is on Sunday to Canvas by 11:59pm. Exact due dates are posted on Canvas. Your upload must be timestamped prior to 11:59pm.

Homework Submissions: You must submit your homework via a PDF file upload to Canvas. See Canvas for instructions on converting your work to a PDF.

Make-up Classes: Rarely (due to illness, weather event, or other emergency) class may be cancelled. If class is cancelled, a note will be distributed using the “Announcements” feature on Canvas. Cancelled classes will be accompanied by a current event analysis or video. These assignments will count either towards your homework or participation grade. If the assignment counts towards homework, you cannot drop that assignment at the end of the semester.

Exams: This course consists of three in-class exams during the semester and one final exam given at the predetermined time assigned by the University.

Exam Dates and Times: Exams during the semester are scheduled for the following class periods:

Exam 1 (Weeks 1-4): Tuesday, February 18th from 2-3:15

Exam 2 (Weeks 5-9): Tuesday, March 31st from 2-3:15

Exam 3 (Weeks 10-14): Tuesday, May 5th from 2-3:15

These exams are non-cumulative and cover the information from lecture and the assigned readings.

Make-Up Exams: No makeup exams will be offered for this course. If you miss a scheduled exam for medical or extraordinary personal reasons, the exam will be your dropped score. In the unlikely event you miss more than one exam, you will be exempt from one missed exam and drop the other missed exam. This means that your other two exams will count for 22.5% of your grade (rather than 15%). In either circumstance, if you miss an exam you must take the final. You must notify Prof. Whitworth immediately upon learning that you will miss the exam, but no later than the Wednesday following the exam (2/19, 4/1, and 5/6). If you are unable to submit all three in-class exams, your final will count for the full 45% of your grade.

Final Exam: If you have submitted exams 1, 2, and 3, the final exam for the course is optional. If you decide not to attend the final, it will be dropped as your lowest exam score. If you attend the final, your lowest score from all 4 exams (Exams 1, 2, and 3, and the final) will be dropped. This exam is cumulative. The final exam for this class is given at the University Assigned Final time (Spring 2020 final times:

<https://registrar.missouri.edu/academic-calendar/final-exam-schedule/spring-2020.php>)

Exam Materials: For in-class exam, you may prepare a single sided 8.5”x11” (standard letter size) “cheat sheet” that include any information you deem helpful on the exam. Make a copy or take a picture of the cheat sheet, they will be collected at the exam and not returned. For the final, you are allowed to use a double sided 8.5”x11” cheat sheet. You may also opt to use 2 single-sided sheets (the single sided property of these sheets will be verified at the exam)

A word about accommodations: I am happy to do what I can to help you succeed in this course. If you have academic accommodations through the Office of Disability Services, you must (a) submit your letter of accommodations to me as soon as possible, and (b) schedule your exam with the Office of Disability Services at least one week prior to the scheduled exam.

Extra Credit: At the discretion of Prof. Whitworth, extra credit may be offered at the end of the semester. This is at the sole discretion of the instructor.

Course Grading Scheme: The standard undergraduate grading scheme will be used for this course. This has been entered into Canvas so you know your course grade at all times. For reference:

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|----|-------------------------|
| A+ | 97%-100% |
| A | 93%-96.99% |
| A- | 90%-92.99% |
| B+ | 87%-89.99% |
| B | 83%-86.99% |
| B- | 80%-82.99% and so on... |

University Policies and Procedures

Accommodation of Disabilities: If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible.

If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please register with the Disability Center, S5 Memorial Union, (573) 882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For other MU resources for students with disabilities, click on "Disability Resources" on the MU homepage.

Intellectual Pluralism: The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact the Departmental Chair or Divisional Director; the Director of the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities (<http://osrr.missouri.edu/>); or the MU Equity Office (<http://equity.missouri.edu/>), or by email at equity@missouri.edu. All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor(s) at the end of the course.

Academic Inquiry, Course Discussion, and Privacy: University of Missouri System Executive Order No. 38 lays out principles regarding the sanctity of classroom discussions at the university. The policy is described fully in Section 200.015 of the Collected Rules and Regulations. In this class, students may make audio or video recordings of course activity unless specifically prohibited by the faculty member. However, the redistribution of audio or video recordings of statements or comments from the course to individuals who are not students in the course is prohibited without the express permission of the faculty member and of any students who are recorded. Students found to have violated this policy are subject to discipline in accordance with provisions of section 200.020 of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri pertaining to student conduct matters.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is essential to our institutional values of respect, responsibility, discovery, and excellence. These values are fundamental to the everyday function of our academic community, as well as to the goals and vision we have for the University of Missouri.

Each member of our community - faculty, staff, and students alike - must be committed to the principles of honesty and fairness. Faculty and staff are expected to model appropriate behavior and demonstrate their commitment to our community. Students also bear responsibility for upholding the culture of integrity in our community. Maintaining this culture, and our institutional values, requires that students do not tolerate the actions of those community members who engage in inappropriate behavior.

Academic integrity ensures that all students have a fair and equal opportunity to succeed. Any behavior that provides an unfair advantage to one student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Each piece of work completed by a student must be solely a reflection of that student's own work or his or her contribution to a collaborative effort.

Title IX: University of Missouri policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, pregnancy, age, genetic information, disability, and protected veteran status. Discrimination includes any form of unequal treatment such as denial of opportunities, harassment, and violence. Sex-based violence includes rape, sexual assault, unwanted touching, stalking, dating/interpersonal violence, and sexual exploitation.

If you experience discrimination, you are encouraged (but not required) to report the incident to the MU Office for Civil Rights & Title IX. Learn more about your rights and options at civilrights.missouri.edu or call 573-882-3880. You also may make an anonymous report online.

Students may also contact the Relationship & Sexual Violence Prevention (RSVP) Center, a confidential resource, for advocacy and other support related to rape or power-based personal violence at rsvp@missouri.edu or 573-882-6638, or go torsvp.missouri.edu. Both the Office for Civil Rights & Title IX and the RSVP Center can provide assistance to students who need help with academics, housing, or other issues.

Syllabus: This syllabus can change, at the discretion of the instructor, without notice. Changes will be announced in lecture and posted via the "Announcements" function on Canvas.