

Course Syllabus

 Edit

ECO3203: Intermediate Macroeconomics; Section RVC

Instructor Information Table

Instructor Information



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- **Office:** DM 317
- **Office Hours:** by Appointment through **Zoom**  (<https://fiu.zoom.us/j/92304128477?pwd=MXdBY1lmdGdwa2RMQW54ZXpweHYrdz09>)
- **Website:** Class webpage on Canvas.
- **Fax:** (305) 348-1524

Course Time Zone | Eastern Standard Time (EST). Course due dates are according to this time zone.

General Information

Course Description and Purpose

This course develops the tools of modern macroeconomic theory in the context of the global economy. It explains the determination of aggregate output, of employment and prices, the tools of monetary and fiscal policy used by governments to fight inflation and unemployment in the short run, as well as the factors that affect economic growth in the long run. The purpose of this course is to explain

macroeconomic theory and to use it as a framework for discussing the current state of the US economy and for analyzing recent economic policy issues.

Course Objectives

The objective of this class is to investigate a variety of macroeconomic issues and to develop theories and models that will help you understand the potential and the limits of the economic policy.

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

- CO1. Explain how the aggregate economy operates.
- CO2. Explain the money supply determination, the role of the Federal Reserve, and how monetary policy affects output and prices in the short and medium run
- CO3. Illustrate the business cycle and the effects of demand shocks and fiscal policy on output and prices
- CO4. Articulate the role of financial intermediaries in the economy
- CO5. Illustrate the labor market and explain the concept of the natural rate of unemployment.
- CO6. Identify potential GDP versus actual, and the trade-off between unemployment and inflation.
- CO7. Articulate how capital accumulation and technological progress determine long run economic growth

Important Information

Policies

Since writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course, all writing assignments should be prepared by the student.

You are likely to use generative AI such as ChatGPT this semester. As with other any other tool or resource, remember two important things:

1. You are ultimately responsible for what you submit.
2. In order to facilitate review of your work, provide appropriate references.

For generative AI, this includes prompts used, the specific AI used, and a short description of your methodology (how you used it).

Uncited use of generative AI will be considered a violation of academic honesty and reported through appropriate channels.

You are **not** allowed to use ChatGPT for quizzes, homework assignments and exams.

Course Prerequisites

ECO 2013: Principles of Macroeconomics

Students are also assumed to be familiar with basic algebra and graph representation

Textbook and Course Materials

- **Macroeconomics**, by Oliver Blanchard, 9th Edition, 2024, Pearson.
You may purchase your textbook online.

- **MyLab** subscription for study guide and homework.

I would recommend you buy or rent **MyLab Economics** with **Pearson e-Text**.

How to purchase and access MyLab Economics? To register using Canvas:

First, open your Pearson content

1. Log in to Canvas as a student and enter your course.
2. Select Access Pearson in Course Navigation.
3. If prompted, select Open Pearson.
4. Select Open MyLab & Mastering to go to the course home page or select a link under Student Links.

Next, get access to your Pearson content

1. Link your student Canvas and Pearson accounts. In some cases, your Pearson account might be automatically created and linked for you.
2. If prompted, select an access option:
 - Enter a prepaid access code that came with your textbook or from the bookstore.
 - Buy access using a credit card or PayPal account.
 - If available, get temporary access without payment for 14 days.
3. Select **Go to my course**.

Note: I recommend you always enter your MyLab Economics course through Canvas.

Sources of Additional Macroeconomics Information

- **The Economist** [↗\(http://www.economist.com/\)](http://www.economist.com/)
- **The Wall Street Journal** [↗\(http://www.wsj.com/\)](http://www.wsj.com/)
- **Financial Times** [↗\(http://www.financialtimes.com/\)](http://www.financialtimes.com/)
- **World Bank** [↗\(https://www.worldbank.org/en/home\)](https://www.worldbank.org/en/home)
- **International Monetary Fund** [↗\(http://www.imf.org/\)](http://www.imf.org/)
- **Board of Governors Federal Reserve System** [↗\(http://www.federalreserve.gov/\)](http://www.federalreserve.gov/)
- **Bureau of Economic Analysis** [↗\(http://www.bea.gov/\)](http://www.bea.gov/)
- **Bureau of Labor Statistics** [↗\(http://www.bls.gov/\)](http://www.bls.gov/)
- **The Brookings Institution** [↗\(http://www.brookings.edu/\)](http://www.brookings.edu/)
- **The Economic Policy Institute** [↗\(http://www.epi.org/\)](http://www.epi.org/)

- [The American Enterprise Institute](http://www.aei.org/)  (<http://www.aei.org/>)
- [Podcast Planet Money](https://www.npr.org/podcasts/510289/planet-money/)  (<https://www.npr.org/podcasts/510289/planet-money/>)

Expectations of this Course

This is an online course, which means most (if not all) of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same for a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:

- **review the getting started page** located in the course modules;
- **introduce yourself to the class** during the first week by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion;
- **take the practice quiz** to ensure that your computer is compatible with the learning management system, Canvas;
- **interact** online with instructor and peers;
- **review** and follow the course calendar and weekly outlines;
- **log in** to the course at least **2 times** per week;
- **post** and provide feedback to discussion boards;
- **respond to messages** within **2 days**;
- **submit** assignments and exams by the corresponding deadline.

The instructor will:

- log in to the course **10 times** per week;
- monitor discussion boards;
- respond to messages within **24 and 48 hours**;
- grade assignments within **7 days** of the assignment deadline.
- hold office hours by request

Course Detail

Course Communication

Communication in this course will take place via the Canvas Inbox. Check out the [Canvas Guide](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10574-4212710325) (<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10574-4212710325>) to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using Announcements, Discussions, and the Inbox.

Assignments and Textbook

We are going to cover 12 chapters from the book. I recommend that you read the chapter in the book, power point slides, and videos, as well as any other additional material (especially the videos that cover problems/numerical examples) that I am going to post related to the topics covered in class. Through MyLab Economics you have access to additional materials that could be helpful, and I might not necessarily post it in the Modules for the class (e.g. Study Plan and Multimedia Library). There are numerous videos explaining various concepts in the E-textbook as well.

I am using the Pearson power point slides as a base, but I have modified them. So, sometimes the information given in the book and that in the slides and/or the recorded videos might not match perfectly, especially regarding the data. For example, in Chapter 2, the book gives information about GDP, unemployment, inflation etc. up to 2022, whereas the graphs and the numbers in the slides are updated to reflect the latest available information in January 2025. The theoretical concepts haven't changed in the past 3 years, so changes that I made regarding them would not be as evident.

For each chapter you are going to have homework assignments and quizzes done through MyLab Economics. You can take any amount of time until the due date to do your homework. You have unlimited attempts to get the answers right for the Homework and 1 attempt for the Quizzes. The quizzes are made of 5 questions, and you have 20 min to finish them. Once you start the quiz, you cannot pause it, and your answers are final.

The two lowest grades for both quizzes and homework assignments will be dropped (that includes assignments that you missed).

Late assignments will be accepted for 60% of the grade.

Discussion Forums

Introductory post: about 100-150 words about your background and what you expect from this course. It is due January 20th. The Introduction post also covers the question "what is the most pressing problem economists should be addressing?".

Besides the introductory discussion, there is going to be **one additional** discussion during the semester based on current events.

Keep in mind that your discussion forum postings will likely be seen by other members of the course. Care should be taken when determining what to post.

Discussion is available March 3rd, due April 7th and feedback is due April 11th.


Video with Questions

Video: in which current topics with questions embedded in them are discussed, using an Interactive Video Platform, PlayPosit. You need to watch the video until the very end in order for your assignment to be submitted. It is due March 20th.

Exams

Two midterms and one final.

Pre-class test extra credit due January 20th. You will get full credit if you just demonstrate effort in answering the questions, as we'll cover the relevant topics during the semester. It is made out of 11 questions and lasts 20 min.

Exams will be proctored with Honorlock. Please see Honorlock [Student Guide](#)  (<https://olcdn.fiu.edu/docs/canvas/Student/Honorlock%20Student%20Guide.pdf>) for more details.

First midterm will be available on **February 10th, 6am-10pm**, it will be made out of 40 questions and it lasts 1.5 hours.

Second midterm will be available on **March 24th, 6am-10pm**, it will be made out of 40 questions and it lasts 1.5 hours.

Final will be available on **April 25th, 6am-10pm**; it will be made out of 50 questions and it lasts 2 hours. Final is cumulative. It has 8 questions from material that was covered for Midterm 1 and 2 and 42 questions from the new material.

There is no make up for exams under any circumstances. Weights for certain exams can be adjusted under exceptional circumstances.

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the [Practice Test](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215642/assignments) (<https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/215642/assignments>) from each computer you will be using to take your graded exams. Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet.

Zoom Video Conference

Zoom is a video conference tool that you can use to interact with your professor and fellow students by sharing screens, chatting, broadcasting live video/audio, and taking part in other interactive online activities. We will be utilizing this tool to conduct **office hours**.

Zoom Meetings will be available by appointment.

Economics Tutoring Center

The Economics Department is providing in person and online tutoring designed to assist students enrolled in various economics courses. Economics Ph.D. students are available during these times to help with any questions you may have. For more information check the website:

<https://economics.fiu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-tutoring/index.html>

Grading

Course Grades Distribution Table

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Weight for Each	Total Weight
Homework Assignments	12	1%	12%
Chapter quizzes	12	1%	12%
Introductory post	1	2%	2%
Discussion	1	7%	7%
Video with questions	1	5%	5%
Midterm	2	20%	40%
Final Exam	1	22%	22%
Total	30		100%
Pre-class test extra credit			2%

Letter Grade Distribution Table

Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%
A	95 or above	B	83 - 86	C	70 - 76
A-	90 - 94	B-	80 - 82	D	60 - 69
B+	87 - 89	C+	77 - 79	F	59 or less

Career Resources

Visit Career and Talent Development for career planning, job search resources, resume review, interview preparation, and more at career.fiu.edu