

Econ 381: Intermediate Macroeconomics (Section 001)

Class: M,W, 1:35 p.m. to 2:50 p.m., 274 MARB
Instructor: Richard W. Evans
Office: 167 FOB, (801) 422-8303, revans@byu.edu
Office hours: M,T 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Th 9-10 a.m., or by appointment
T.A.: Hannah Hatch (hanbananhatch@hotmail.com)
T.A. office hours To be announced

PREREQUISITES Econ 110, Math 112 (or concurrent).

TEXT

Macroeconomics, 6th edition, by N. Gregory Mankiw, Worth Publishers, 2007.

GRADES

Grades will be based on the four categories listed below with the corresponding weights.

Item	Points	Pct. %
Homework	100	22%
Midterm 1	100	22%
Midterm 2	100	22%
Final Exam	150	34%

- **Homework:** I will assign 11 problem sets over the course of the semester, and you can drop your one lowest score. I also encourage you to work in groups of no more than four students. Unless otherwise specified, homework assignments given on a Wednesday will be due the following Monday by 1:35 p.m. Late homework will not be graded.
- **Midterms:** Midterm 1 and Midterm 2 will be given in the Testing Center and will cover the chapters from their respective section of the course. You can choose whether or not you would like to drop your lowest midterm in the calculation of your final grade (see note below). For this reason, I will not offer makeup midterms.
- **Final Exam:** The final exam will be comprehensive and will be given on Saturday, April 18, from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in room 274 MARB.
- **NOTE:** In order to avoid giving make-up midterms, I will assign final grades based on two possible curves, whichever gives you the highest grade. The first curve is the conventional curve based on ranking the entire class using everyone's score out of the total 450 points. The second curve is based on your ranking in the class based on subtracting everybody's worst midterm score.

BLACKBOARD

We will use **Blackboard** in this class for posting messages, downloading problem sets and data, and posting grades, Blackboard can be accessed either by going to [Route Y](#) or by going directly to <https://blackboard.byu.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>. You will want to check Blackboard often.

COURSE OUTLINE

Date	Day	Topic	Readings	HWK
Jan. 5	M	Introduction	Ch. 1	
Jan. 7	W	Data and stylized facts	Chs. 2,9	hwk 1
Jan. 12	M	National income	Ch. 3	
Jan. 14	W	Money and inflation	Ch. 4	
Jan. 21	W	Open economy macro	Ch. 5	hwk 2
Jan. 26	M	Employment/Unemployment	Ch. 6	
Jan. 28	W	Growth: capital and population	Ch. 7	hwk 3
Feb. 2	M	Growth: technology	Ch. 8	
Feb. 4	W	Growth: technology	Ch. 8	hwk 4
Feb. 9	M	Catch up and exam Review		
Feb. 11–13	W–F	Midterm 1 (Testing Center)	Chs. 1–8	
		<i>President's Day, Feb. 16, no Monday class</i>		
Feb. 17	T	Aggregate demand: IS-LM	Ch. 10	
Feb. 18	W	Aggregate demand: IS-LM	Ch. 11	hwk 5
Feb. 23	M	Aggregate demand: IS-LM	Ch. 11	
Feb. 25	W	Open economy IS-LM	Ch. 12	hwk 6
Mar. 2	M	Inflation/unemployment tradeoff	Ch. 13	
Mar. 4	W	Inflation/unemployment tradeoff	Ch. 13	hwk 7
Mar. 9	M	Stabilization Policy	Ch. 14	
Mar. 11	W	Government Debt	Ch. 15	hwk 8
Mar. 16	M	Catch up and exam Review		
Mar. 18–20	W–F	Midterm 2 (Testing Center)	Chs. 9–15	
Mar. 23	M	Consumption	Ch. 16	
Mar. 25	W	Consumption	Ch. 16	hwk 9
Mar. 30	M	Investment	Ch. 17	
Apr. 1	W	Money supply and demand	Ch. 18	hwk 10
Apr. 6	M	Business cycle theory	Ch. 19	
Apr. 8	W	Business cycle theory	Ch. 19	hwk 11
Apr. 13	M	Exam review		
		<i>Exam preparation days, April 15–16</i>		
Apr. 18	S	Final Exam, 274 MARB	Comprehensive	
2:30–5:30 p.m.				

GOALS

- At the end of the course, you should be able to interpret macroeconomic events reported in the media in terms of economic models based on the decisions of individual households and firms.
- I want to use macroeconomic examples from the current week in each lecture.
- Questions from the class are encouraged during the lecture.

RESOURCES

- Companion website (<http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/mankiw6/>) to Mankiw textbook *Macroeconomics*, 6th edition. This website includes self-test quizzes, flashcards, web links, macro models, a data plotter, animated graphs, and more.
- In addition to the textbook and available at the Bookstore is the *Student Guide and Workbook for use with Macroeconomics, 6th edition*, N. Gregory Mankiw, by Roger T. Kaufman, Worth Publishers, 2007. I won't use this officially in the class, but it might be a good source for some of you who want some extra help.
- My favorite economic news, and therefore much of our in-class current-events discussions, will come from the following sources:
 - *The Wall Street Journal* newspaper
 - *The Economist* magazine
 - *The New York Times* newspaper
 - Richard Evans' (mine) and Jason Debacker's blog (<http://www.econosseur.com/>)
 - Greg Mankiw's blog (<http://gregmankiw.blogspot.com/>)
 - James Hamilton's and Menzie Chinn's blog (<http://www.econbrowser.com/>)

COMMENTS

- Although I encourage you to work on homework assignments in groups of no more than four, **I will penalize any reported free riding**. Anyone who is confirmed to have put their name on an assignment without significantly contributing to its completion will lose credit on that assignment and the previous three assignments.
- **Any cheating will be penalized** commensurate with the degree of seriousness and available evidence, with the highest penalty being a failing grade in the course and being reported to the honor code office.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS FROM BYU

While all students sign the honor code, there are still specific skills most students need to master over time in order to correctly cite sources, especially in this new age of the internet; as well as deal with the stress and strain of college life without resorting to cheating. Please know that as your professor I will notice instances of cheating on exams or plagiarizing on papers. See <http://honorcode.byu.edu/> for specific examples of intentional, inadvertent plagiarism, and fabrication, falsification.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in an educational program or activity that receives federal funds. The act is intended to eliminate sex discrimination in education. Title IX covers discrimination in programs, admissions, activities, and student-to-student sexual harassment. BYU's policy against sexual harassment extends not only to employees of the university but to students as well. If you encounter unlawful sexual harassment or gender based discrimination, please talk to your professor; contact the Equal Opportunity Office at (801) 422-5895 or (801) 367-5689 (24-hours); or contact the Honor Code Office at (801) 422-2847, 4440 WSC.

Brigham Young University is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere that reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability that may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the University Accessibility Center (UAC), 1520 WSC, (801) 422-2767. It is the student's obligation to request academic adjustments to accommodate a disability and to assist the university through an interactive process to identify appropriate and effective academic accommodations. Disabled students needing and desiring an accommodation in the classroom or other school-related activity should contact the University Accessibility Center. UAC personnel will document the disability and determine appropriate accommodations.