

ECON 252 Intermediate Macroeconomics

Spring 2026

Persson Hall 208

MWF: 9:20 - 10:10AM

Instructor: Matt D'Urso (*he/him*)

Email: mdurso@colgate.edu

Office: Persson Hall 228

Office hours: Mon: 10:30AM - Noon

Fri: 1:30 - 3:00PM

By appointment

Tutor: first last (*she/her*)

Email: email

Tutor Center: Persson 208

Tutor Hours: Mon/Tues: 7:30 - 9:30PM*

1 Materials

Textbook: *Macroeconomics, 6th Edition*, by Stephen D. Williamson. Textbook not required.

Media: Set up access to these media outlets (free subscriptions through your Colgate account).

- The Economist: <https://myaccount.economist.com/s/login/SelfRegister>
- The Financial Times: <https://www.ft.com/join/licence/77997c8a-3577-4d37-b236-7227212f9928/details>
- The New York Times: <https://cul.colgate.edu/nytimes>
- Wall Street Journal: <https://cul.colgate.edu/node/3441>
 - Through the WSJ, you can subscribe to Real Time Economics to get a daily summary of major economic headlines in your inbox.

These sources will be where you find topics for your Economic Reports and Group Project.

2 Course Objectives

1. Develop the theoretical toolkit necessary to understand macroeconomic events.
2. Develop the empirical skills necessary to understand macroeconomic data.
3. Understand the tradeoffs to household, firm, and government decisions.
4. Understand how fiscal and monetary policy impacts the economy.
5. Understand the foundations of business cycles.

3 Grading

The standard bell curve will be used in determining your final grades: $\geq 90\% \Rightarrow A$, $\geq 80\% \Rightarrow B$, $\geq 68\% \Rightarrow C$, $\geq 55\% \Rightarrow D$, and below $55\% \Rightarrow F$. Plus and minuses will be assigned accordingly. Any changes will be announced in class. It is required that the final class average is a B-.

3.1 Midterm Exams: 40% (20% each, x2 exams)

There will be 2 in-class midterm exams that correspond to the first two sections of the course. Make-ups are only allowed for extreme situations, and must be taken *before* the scheduled exam. You are responsible for material covered in lecture, discussion, exercises, problem sets and readings. It is expected that you read each chapter before it is covered. Midterm dates are:

1. Friday, February 20th
2. Friday, March 27th

Any grading disputes on exams must be submitted to me in writing within 1 week of the exam date. In your dispute, you must: 1) clearly state how your answer compares to the correct answer that I provided, and 2) state exactly how many more points you think you should receive and why. I will then regrade your entire exam with this in mind. No verbal disputes will be accepted.

3.2 Final Exam: 30%

The *cumulative* final exam will be on Monday, May 4th from 9:00 – 11:00AM in Persson 208. You can find the final exam schedule here: [University-wide Final Exam Schedule](#). You are responsible for material covered in lecture, discussion, exercises, problem sets and readings.

3.3 Homework: 5%

You will have weekly problem sets due at the beginning of class most Mondays. Problem sets will be graded using a plus, check, minus grading system. A ‘+’ will be granted to problem sets that are neat, thorough, and accurate. There are no make-ups on assignments. Each student is allowed to miss one problem set throughout the semester without penalty. You may work with one partner on the problem sets; if you do, put each group member’s name on the assignment.

3.4 Economic Reports: 8% (4% each, x2 submissions)

You will write two brief reports based on a recent article on a macroeconomic topic from the media sources listed at the top of the syllabus. Each report must be a unique topic. The report should be between 1 to 1.5 pages (double-spaced) without a header. Any figures or references must go at the end of the report and do not count towards the page count. A strong report will *briefly* summarize the article and use the rest of the space to discuss how the ideas of the article relate to the models developed in class, using your notes and textbook as references. My definition of a

“Macroeconomic Topic” is fairly broad, but feel free to check in with me first. Reports are to be submitted on Moodle with due dates of:

1. Thursday, March 5th by 11:59PM
2. Thursday, April 9th by 11:59PM

3.5 Group Project: 15%

In groups of 2-4 people you will give a 12-15min presentation in class on a current macroeconomic topic and your own policy proposal regarding this topic. You should use the Economic Reports as practice for identifying a topic you find interesting and developing your ideas. You may use a topic covered in one of your Economic Reports for this project, if you wish. Using the tools developed in this class, along with your own research you must:

- Clearly state the topic at hand (5%)
- Explain the economic causes of this phenomenon (25%)
- Explain your own policy proposal regarding this topic (20%)
- *Clearly discuss tradeoffs to this policy proposal* (45%)
- Proper structure: not too short, correct citations/reference page, etc. (5%)

Further details can be found in the rubric on Moodle. Please email me your slides no later than the day before your presentation. Small edits may still be made after sending them to me.

3.6 Participation: 2%

Your participation, attendance, and effort will be the remaining part of your grade. A large part of this is your group participation. I will assume everyone contributes based on your own in-group agreements. However, I will take points away based on any defaults I am made aware of. I will also take further action if the transgression is severe enough. While I will not take attendance, I will pay attention to those who miss class frequently. Obviously, poor attendance will result in little class participation. “Effort” is the arbitrary part of your grade that is left up to my discretion at the end of the semester.

3.7 Extra Credit

There are only two potential sources of extra credit and I will not provide any other opportunities. First, there may be an extra credit question on an exam. These are optional questions; you will not lose points for an incorrect answer. The second is on the Group Project. If the slides you present are coded in LaTeX, then along with your slides, send me your source code and if it compiles without issue, you will receive an extra grade percentage point on your project grade. If you include an

image or working link (internal or external), you will receive an additional point. The code does not have to be “elegant” because mine isn’t; it just has to work.

4 Important Information

4.1 Academic Support

*Along with [tutor]’s hours, the Econ Tutoring Center has hours from Sunday - Thursday from 7:30 – 10:30PM in Persson 208. This includes other tutors for 252 and other Econ courses.

If you need help with identifying and managing factors that may enhance your learning you should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. You can also reach out to the Center for Learning, Teaching, and Research (cltr@colgate.edu). The CLTR has staff available to work with students on developing strategies and study skills to enhance learning. Their services are available free of charge to all students.

4.2 The Writing & Speaking Center

All writers and speakers benefit from the opportunity to talk about their ideas and to receive constructive feedback on their essays and presentations. I encourage you to make use of [The Writing and Speaking Center](#) in Lathrop Hall 208 (or call: (315) 228-6085), a free resource for all Colgate students that is staffed by friendly, well-qualified Peer Writing and Speaking Consultants from a range of disciplinary and linguistic backgrounds. You may make up to two, 45-minute appointments every week using the Writing and Speaking Center’s online scheduling app. Writing and Speaking Consultants can help you understand assignment expectations; brainstorm genre-appropriate and rhetorically effective topics; develop effective organizational frameworks; summarize, synthesize, and cite sources; implement peer or professor feedback; read for grammar and style concerns; and build confidence as a writer and speaker. All meetings are private, and you may visit at any stage of your process, from clarifying your initial ideas to polishing a final draft or presentation.

4.3 Accessibility Accommodations or Adjustments:

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Colgate University is committed to ensuring comprehensive educational access and adjustments for all registered students seeking to meet course requirements and fully participate in all University programs and activities. Students with documented disabilities or conditions that may in any way interfere with learning are encouraged to request these services by registering with the [Office of Student Disability Services](#). Roughly one third of all students are registered for such adjustments. For information related to these services or to schedule an appointment, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (osds@colgate.edu). Please be aware it is the student’s responsibility to schedule accommodations that may be needed and these services book quickly.

4.4 Title IX:

A fundamental part of the Colgate community is the assurance that all members can study, live, and work together in a community characterized by equal opportunity, inclusiveness, safety, and mutual respect. Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g., race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources here: [Non-Discrimination Response Policy](#).

4.5 Taking Care of Yourself:

Stress, sleep problems, anxiety, depression, interpersonal concerns, death, and alcohol and drug use among the top ten health impediments to academic performance. Students experiencing personal problems or situational crises are encouraged to contact: [Counseling and Psychological Services](#) or at (315-228-7385) and pressing #2 when prompted. Half of all students will have used these services at some point during their time here. Walk-in hours are Monday-Friday from 9AM-noon and 1:30-4:30PM. You can schedule a follow-up appointment or request a specific counselor moving forward. If walk-in hours do not fit your schedule, please send a message to the counseling center through their Wellness Portal found on the website. There is also a range of [Health and Wellness](#) services available. Group Therapy sessions are often overlooked by students, despite remaining an effective way to get you where you need to be.

Specific to sexual support, [Haven Services](#) offers a wide range of resources designed to help in any way you may want. All student information is to be treated as confidential, including the fact that the student receives (or previously received) any services through these offices.

4.6 Religious Observance

Students will not be penalized for missing class, assignments, or exams due to religious observance. If you plan to observe a religious holiday that may affect your coursework, please notify me as early as possible, ideally within the first two weeks of the semester, so we can arrange appropriate accommodations. For a list of recognized religious holidays and the university's observance policy, visit: [Colgate Religious Holidays](#). Please contact me if there are any other observances not listed here and I will do my best to make the needed arrangements.

4.7 Academic Dishonesty:

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. I expect that all students have understood the University's [Academic Honor Code](#), and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Colgate University defines academic dishonesty as

any attempt to misrepresent one's performance on any academic exercise submitted for evaluation. In any situation where a student questions the appropriateness of representing a work as their own, it is the student's responsibility to raise the question with the instructor. Ignorance of University policy concerning academic dishonesty shall not be a defense in any University Student Conduct Board proceeding. Any form of potential academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to the standards established by Colgate University. Students must recognize that failure to follow these established rules and guidelines, including the ones found in this syllabus may constitute academic dishonesty. If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by University Rules to report my suspicions to the University Disciplinary Officer.

4.7.1 Artificial Intelligence

Generative AI refers to artificial intelligence technologies, such as ChatGPT, that can draw on a large amount of training data to create new written, visual, or audio content. Due to the specificity of content and skills that we seek to develop in this class, you may not use AI tools in this course. Using such tools for any purposes will violate Colgate's academic integrity policy. Please contact me if you have any concerns regarding AI work.

If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me.

5 Course Outline

Calculus Refresher Course, taught by Dr. Sakib in Persson 007:

Lesson 1: Wed, Jan 21 from 11:30AM - 1:00PM and then repeated from 4:30 - 6:00PM.

Lesson 2: Fri, Jan 23 from 1:30PM - 3:00PM and then repeated from 3:15 - 4:45PM.

Section I: Partial Equilibrium. (Exam 1: Friday, February 20)

Ch. 1. An Introduction to Macroeconomics

Ch. 2. Terms and Conditions

Ch. 3. Macroeconomic Accounting

Ch. 4. Production and Labor

Ch. 5. Consumption, Savings, and Investment

Ch. 6 Money and Assets

Section II: General Equilibrium. (Exam 2: Friday, March 27)

Ch. 7. A Real Business Cycle Model

Ch. 8.1. IS-LM-FE

Ch. 8.2. AD-AS

Ch. 9. The Open Economy

Ch. 10. Malthusian and Solow Models

Section III: Policy. (Final: Monday, May 4th at 9AM)

Ch. 11. The Phillips Curve

Ch. 12. Monetary Policy

Ch. 13. Fiscal Policy

Syllabus subject to change throughout the semester. I will always make an announcement and replace older syllabi with the most up-to-date version.