

ECON 211 Principles of Macroeconomics

Houghton College | Department of Business & Economics

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Please Add Email Subject as E211
Office Hours: MWF 4:00-5:00 PM
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Prerequisite

ECON 210 Principles of Microeconomics

Meetings

MWF 8:50-9:40 AM, Chamberlain Center 123

Description

This introductory course teaches basic macroeconomic concepts, data, models, and policy applications widely discussed in the news and media. Compared with microeconomics, which studies how individuals make decisions and the functioning of markets, macroeconomics examines aggregate economic phenomena such as national income, economic growth, labor market conditions, inflation, money, interest rates, financial system and their policy-related contents. Focus on economic intuition and analytical skills.

Objectives

The main goal is to learn the language and hammer home the analytical framework in macroeconomics. After completion, students will be able to approach the issues intuitively, graphically, and quantitatively.

- Familiarize with most widely discussed macroeconomic concepts and topics in the news media
- Apply price theory, money theory, and interest theory to a wide range of macroeconomic issues
- Relate the quantity theory to the measurements of macro phenomena and model their relations
- Characterize short-term economic fluctuations and long-term growth with data and theory
- Appreciate the role of expectations on macroeconomic outcome and policy effectiveness
- Explain the roles, goals, functions, and impacts of U.S. monetary and fiscal policies
- Acquire quantitative skills in analyzing macro data and conduct relevant research
- Report real-time macroeconomic conditions and outlooks to the audience

Textbook + MindTap

N. Gregory Mankiw, 2021, Principles of Economics, 9e, ISBN-10: 0357133536, Cengage (MindTap + eBook, ISBN-13: 9780357133538, \$119) MindTap is an online integrated learning management system provided by Cengage Learning. The course package includes the eBook, mini lecture videos, practice questions, and other digital resources. Problem sets, quizzes, and exams in this course will be assigned in MindTap. Students can follow instructions in Moodle to register MindTap free of charge for two weeks.

Moodle Check for announcements, lecture slides, presentation and research instructions, and policies.

Course Flow Please read the textbook chapters before each class meeting, take notes (for equations, models, and analytical graphs) during the lecture, and review afterwards. If absent, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to fill in the blanks. Refer to "Course Schedule" (page 3) and "Time-on-Task" table (page 4) to arrange study plans.

Evaluation

Student evaluation consists of six components: Problem Sets (20%), Pop Quizzes (10%), Midterm and Final Exams (40%), Economic Outlook Presentation (10%), Group Research Project (10%), and Faith Integration Essay (10%). The overall evaluation is a letter grade converted from the percentage scale taking into account the entire class distribution. Thanks to extra credits opportunities, all assignment deadlines are firm and late submission will not be accepted. In case of absence/emergency for family or medical reasons, students need to provide a valid document within three days.

- **Problem Sets.** There will be about 12 problem sets with each PS worth 2 points. Students may submit each PS up to three times and the highest score will be kept.
- **Pop Quizzes.** There will be about 12 short quizzes (multiple choices) throughout the semester. Each quiz (1%) takes 10 to 15 minutes and covers basic concepts and ideas from the designated textbook chapters. Due to extra credits, no makeup quiz will be scheduled outside of the class meeting.
- **Economic Outlook Presentation.** After midterm, each student will choose a non-US country or region of interest, prepare a short presentation (five minutes), and report its current macroeconomic conditions and outlooks. Refer to instructions in Moodle. Academic Integrity Policy applies.
- **Group Research Project.** Students can form a group of three to four members and jointly prepare a macroeconomic research project of which the topics and instructions are provided by the instructor. The project is designed to help students bridge the gap between theory and practice.
- **Faith Integration Essay.** By the end of the semester, students will reflect on the relationship between Christian Faith and Macroeconomics. Format: 2- to 3-page essay with instructions in Moodle.
- **Midterm and Final Exams.** Refer to instructions in Moodle. Academic Integrity Policy applies.

Attendance and Classroom Policy

The instructor understands extenuating circumstances for absence, but in principle in-person attendance and punctuality are expected. More than three unexcused absences will result in 10% off the total grade; more than six unexcused absences will result in a 20% off. Arriving late twice is counted as an absence. In case of a family or medical emergency, students are responsible for contacting the instructor within the week with a valid excuse document. Cellphones and other digital devices are not permitted during the lectures and exams unless otherwise instructed. Please maintain mutual respect and courtesy throughout the class. Disrespectful and inappropriate classroom behaviors will be reported to the Dean of Students

Grading Metrics and Letter Grades (100% scale)			
S = Scores	B+ $75 \leq S < 80$	C+ $60 \leq S < 65$	D+ $S < 50$
A $S \geq 85$	B $70 \leq S < 75$	C $55 \leq S < 60$	D $45 \leq S < 50$
A- $80 \leq S < 85$	B- $65 \leq S < 70$	C- $50 \leq S < 55$	F $S \leq 40$

Course Schedule (tentative)

Week	Key Topics	Readings
W1	Course Logistics, Introduction, and Overview Scientific Methodology in Macroeconomics	Syllabus L1 CH 1 2 4
W2	Macroeconomic Measurements: National Income and Wealth	L2 CH 23
W3	Macroeconomic Measurements: Price Level and Inflation	L3 CH 24 CH 30.2
W4	Macroeconomic Measurements: Labor Market Conditions	L4 CH 28
W5	Macroeconomic Measurements: Money and Interest Rates	L5.1 5.2 CH 29.1 CH 27 CH 26
W6	Macroeconomic Theory: The Quantity Equation of Money Macroeconomic Theory: The Money Market Equilibrium	L5.3 CH 30.1 L5.4 CH 30.1
W7	Economic Development and Growth: Data and Facts Economic Development and Growth: Theory and Model	L6.1-6.3 CH 25
W8	Review and Midterm Exam: Early March	
W9	Business Cycle Fluctuations: Data and Facts Macroeconomic Theory: The AD-AS Model	L7.1 L7.2 CH 33
W10	Inflation and Unemployment: The Phillips Curve Macroeconomic Theory: Rational Expectations	L7.3 L7.4 CH 35
W11	Macroeconomic Theory: Consumption and Investment	L8 CH 23.3 26
W12	Government Budget and Fiscal Policy	L9 CH 34.2 34.3 CH 36.2 36.5 36.6
W13	Central Bank and Monetary Policy	L10 CH 29.2-29.4 CH 30.1 CH 34.1
W14	Global Economy, International Trade and Finance	L11 CH 31 32
W15	Final Exam: 8:00-10:00AM, Wednesday, May 4	

Note: L=lectures from Chen (2022), CH=chapters from Mankiw (2021).

Important Dates: No class on Mar 16. Holidays: Feb 25-Mar 6 and Apr 14-18.

Last day to add/drop: Jan 14. Last day to withdraw: Mar 8. Last day of class: May 2.

<https://www.houghton.edu/current-students/registrar/calendars-important-dates-and-daily-schedules/>

Houghton College “Time-on-Task”

Learning activity	Comments and formats	Minimum time on task	Total hours
Ahead-of-lecture textbook reading	Overview topics/concepts Prepare to ask questions	About 1 to 2 hours per chapter	15 to 30 hours
Classroom meetings	Rigorous introduction, analysis, and Q&A	About 50 minutes per meeting including quizzes & presentations	40 hours
Post-lecture review	Focus on lecture notes/slides examples & applications	About 1 to 2 hours per week for previous lecture slides and notes	15 to 30 hours
Pop quizzes (Weekly)	In-class 10-15 minutes Basic concept and calculation	Preparation: 1 to 2 hours per week In-class about 10 minutes per week	10 hours
Problem sets (Weekly)	Short answers, analytical/quantitative applications	About 3 to 5 hours per week	30 to 50 hours
Economic outlooks (Individual)	Student presentation with PPT in class around 5 minutes	Preparation: 5 to 10 hours Data collection and writing	5 to 10 hours
Group research project	Multiple choice questions Basic concepts & analysis	Midterm preparation: 10-15 hours Final preparation: 15-20 hours	15 to 20 hours
Faith integration essay	Two to three pages: Relationship between Christian faith & Macroeconomics	Proposal: 2 to 5 hours First draft: 8-10 hours Final draft: 5-10 hours	15 to 20 hours
		Total time expected: 145-200 hours	

How to Get the Most Out of this Course

Students shall read the textbook ahead of time, take notes during the lectures, and review the lectures afterwards with your study group and alone.

- Follow the readings ahead of lecture from the textbooks
- Take notes during lectures (lecture slides are incomplete)
- Pay attention to course announcements and instructions
- Start early to work on assignments/projects/essay
- Review the lectures afterwards with your study group
- Seek help and guidance when you need or get stuck
- Attend lectures and office hours to solve problems
- Practice makes perfect. Ask, ask, ask questions

Academic Integrity Policy

Honesty is the foundation on which all intellectual endeavors rest. To use the ideas of others without acknowledging the authors of those ideas belies the nature and purpose of academic life. At Houghton, where we strive to live out Christian calling and commitment, personal integrity, including academic honesty, should be the hallmark of all our work and relationships. *Students are expected to exhibit extreme care relative to personal honesty in all academic work, including in-class and out-of-class learning experiences, such as exams, quizzes, journals, papers and research projects. Violation of the academic honesty code may result in a failing grade/course failure/college dismissal at the discretion of the Academic Dean. Refer to the College Catalog page 40 and extra instructions.*

<https://www.houghton.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2020-21-hc-catalog.pdf#page=40>

Accessibility Services

If you have an academic or physical disability that requires accommodations it is up to you to self-report any such disability to the office of Academic Support and Accessibility Services in the Center for Student Success located on the first floor of the Chamberlain Center (585-567-9622). With appropriate documentation, you will be afforded the necessary accommodations. For more information, please go to

<https://www.houghton.edu/current-students/center-for-student-success/academic-support-and-accessibility-services/>

COVID-19 Health Safety

Masking is still required of all individuals in campus buildings unless an individual is in their residence hall room or office. Social distancing continues to be strongly encouraged of all people, particularly in environments where you do not know the vaccination status of others, though is not required outside of classrooms. Individuals who are outdoors and are not socially distanced from others are encouraged to be masked. (Dean of Students, marc.smithers@houghton.edu)

Student Wellness and Success

<https://www.houghton.edu/current-students/center-for-student-success/writing-center/>

<https://www.houghton.edu/current-students/center-for-student-success/counseling-services/>

<https://www.houghton.edu/current-students/center-for-student-success/office-of-vocation-and-calling/>

Learning and Teaching Philosophy

It's my teaching philosophy and goal that Economics shall be fun, useful, and applicable. It is fun because there are lots of interesting social phenomena Economics can explain very well; useful because it applies in our daily life beyond schools; applicable because it provides a scientific way of thinking for solving decision-making problems. Throughout the course, it is important for students to contact the instructor to ensure positive learning and teaching experience. If students have trouble keeping up with the class material or the workload, please feel free to reach out to the instructor. It is the instructor's responsibility to support students in making progress and help students succeed in the course. Students are strongly encouraged to 1) raise questions and participate in the lecture and discussion; 2) provide feedback and suggestions regarding teaching and course organization; 3) discuss problem sets and review lectures in a group and alone; 4) seek advice from the instructor to improve academic performance.

Appendix: Online Resources

Online Textbooks

- OpenStax: Principles of Macroeconomics 2e. Downloadable ([w](https://openstax.org/details/books/principles-macroeconomics-2e))
<https://openstax.org/details/books/principles-macroeconomics-2e>
- CoreEcon: Economics for a Changing World
<https://www.core-econ.org/espp>
<https://core-econ.org/the-economy>
<https://www.core-econ.org/insights>
<https://www.core-econ.org/doing-economics>
<https://www.core-econ.org/experiencing-economics>

Online Courses

- Hawkes TV – Math Review and Lectures
<https://tv.hawkeslearning.com/MICRO.htm>
<https://tv.hawkeslearning.com/MACRO.htm>
- MRU – Principles of Macroeconomics
<https://mru.org/principles-economics-macroeconomics-0>
<https://mru.org/principles-economics-microeconomics>
- Khan Academy – Macroeconomics and Microeconomics
<https://www.khanacademy.org/economics-finance-domain/macroeconomics>
<https://www.khanacademy.org/economics-finance-domain/microeconomics>