

ECON 3040 Course Syllabus
Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory, Spring 2024
[Canvas course page](#)

Instructor:

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Office hours: M@4:30pm-5:30pm and by [online appointment](#) (Uris 428)

Teaching Assistants:

Andrew Lee Wei (210,211)

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OH: Thur 3:00-4:30pm (Uris 457)

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OH: Wed 4:15-5:45pm (Uris 465)

Lectures:

M/W @ 2:55-4:10pm, Goldwin Smith Hall G76-Lewis

Sections:

F @ 9:05-9:55am; 10:10-11:00am; 1:25-2:15pm; 2:30-3:20pm, in Statler Hall (198 or 445)

Course Overview:

This course provides an introduction to the modern theory and practice of macroeconomics. It covers a variety of the central questions in macroeconomics including: What are the determinants of long-run economic growth? Why do economies regularly experience booms and recessions? Why is there unemployment? What determines the value of money in an economy? The course focuses particular attention on how macroeconomic policy (monetary and fiscal) affects outcomes in these dimensions, and on using the tools of the field to evaluate alternative policy responses to current events.

The [canvas page](#) for this course includes a tentative but detailed schedule of lecture topics and assignment due dates.

Prerequisites:

The prerequisites for this course are introductory economics (ECON 1110/1120) and familiarity with single variable calculus (MATH 1110). Some experience with partial derivatives (e.g., MATH 1120) is helpful but not required.

Required Text:

N. Gregory Mankiw. *Macroeconomics*. Worth Publishers, 11th edition, 2022

(Note: the 9th or 10th editions are suitable substitutes.)

Coursework:

The coursework in this class will consist of 4-6 graded projects, two midterm exams, and a final exam. For each project, I will distribute a detailed description of the objective, required resources, rules for appropriate collaboration, and the rubric used for grading the project. Exams are always cumulative, though they tend to emphasize newer material more.

Completed assignments must be submitted before the lecture on the day the assignment is due. No late assignment will be accepted.

Grading:

Each student will be assigned a numerical grade based on a weighted average of their performance across the exams and projects. Each mid-term will count for 20% of the final grade, the final will count for 40%, and the average score on projects will count for 10%. The remaining 10% will go to your best exam grade, whether that is one of your midterms or your final.

Letter grades will be assigned according to a curve. Students in the top 35% of the course will receive a letter in the A-range. Students in the next 40% will receive a letter in the B-range. Students in the next 20% will receive a letter in the C-range. Grades for students in the lower 5%, and pluses and minuses, will be assigned at my discretion.

Please note that I only curve grades “up”, so that this curve provides a lower bound on grades in the course. For example, a final score of 85% might correspond to a letter grade in the A-range, but will never map into a letter below a straight-B.

If you think that an exam has been graded incorrectly, you may request a regrade within one week after the exam is returned. To do so, you must submit a written note describing why you believe your grade is incorrect and the original *unmodified* exam. I will then regrade the entire exam, so that your final score may go up or down.

Accommodations:

If you are a student with a documented disability seeking reasonable accommodations in this course, please follow the procedures described at <https://sds.cornell.edu>. Two weeks advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations.

Excuses:

As noted above, I do not consider excuses for missed project assignments. However, when I compute project averages, I will drop your lowest project score. Hence, you can miss one project without incurring any grade penalty.

For exams, the [Faculty Handbook](#) lists several types of situations in which faculty are encouraged to make accommodations for missed work. However, the determination as to whether a particular case warrants accommodation is ultimately the decision of the faculty member. Here is how four common cases are handled in this course:

1. Short-term illness, or family or personal emergency: Please contact me as soon as possible, but before the exam start time at the latest, and briefly explain your situation. I will make a proposal based on your particular situation.
2. Religious observances. While I do my best not to schedule exams during religious holidays, please contact me at least two weeks in advance if an exam date/time conflicts with a religious holiday.
3. Athletics and Extracurricular Activities. Students in varsity athletics or recognized extracurricular activities must provide the standard permission slip from the staff responsible for the activity at least two weeks before the exam.
4. Employment interviews. I generally will not reschedule an exam to accommodate an employment interview, and I strongly encourage you avoid scheduling an interview that conflicts with exam periods.

Academic Integrity:

Cheating on any coursework will result in (1) an automatic failure in the course and (2) reporting the incident to the College of Arts and Sciences as required by the University. See the University's [code of academic integrity](#) for a full discussion of policies and procedures regarding academic integrity.

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