

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
ECON 1115 Principles of Macroeconomics

CRN 15235 Fall 2025

Basic Information

Instructor: Dr. Jacob Thompson
Email: jac.thompson@northeastern.edu
Class Meetings: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 1:35-2:40 pm
Class Location: Science Engineering Complex 136
Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 2:50-4:15 pm
Office Location: 353 Holmes Hall
Zoom Office: Office Hours [Zoom Link](#)

Course Description

This class introduces students to the fundamentals of macroeconomic analysis. Topics include the flow of national income, economic growth and fluctuations, the role of money and banking, and monetary and fiscal policies. This course emphasizes the development of conceptual tools to analyze the economic problems facing modern society, including long-run growth, unemployment, inflation, and inequality. It analyzes strengths and weaknesses of aggregate measures of economic activity, including how aggregation can hide underlying inequalities across racial, gender, and socioeconomic lines.

Course Objectives

Upon successful conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

- Define and explain measures of macro-economic performance.
 - Examples include GDP, Inflation, and Unemployment
- Identify sources of long-run growth, and explain their connection to improvements in standard of living and persistent economic inequality.
- Define different types of unemployment, explain their causes, and discuss why zero unemployment should not be the goal.
- Explain the causes and real costs of inflation.

- Explain causes and consequences of short-run fluctuations in the economy.
- Define monetary and fiscal policy, explain their pros and cons, and describe how each affects the economy in the long-run and short-run.

Textbook

Principles of Macroeconomics (10th edition) with mindtap, ISBN 9780357722985

Cengage Unlimited recommended: Price from Cengage \$154.00 for book+mindtap, \$149 for single semester of Cengage Unlimited

AI Policy

Generative AI is rapidly evolving and so too must policies and procedures defining acceptable use of AI. Generative AI may not be used in a way that violates copyright nor in a manner that enables a student to pass off work as their own, nor may any student use it in a manner that enables academic dishonesty as described in Northeastern University's Academic Integrity Policy

Course Outline

- Chapters 1-4, 6 (or 7): Introductory Micro Topics and Economists' Toolkit
- **FIRST EXAM**
- Chapters 10-11: Measuring Macroeconomic Activity
- Chapters 12-14: Growth, Saving, and Investment (Classical Economics)
- Chapters 16-17: Money and Banking
- **SECOND EXAM**
- Chapters 18-19: Open Economy Macroeconomics
- Chapters 20-23: Short Run Economic Fluctuations (Keynesian Economics)
- **FINAL EXAM**

Course Grading

- Homeworks (40%)
- Discussions (10%)
- Tests (50%): three non-cumulative exams

Assessment

Grades in this course are awarded according to performance in the above-mentioned assignment areas. Each week, homework will be assigned on-line as we progress through the chapter material. Homework is assigned through Cengage's Mindtap platform, which you can access through this course's Canvas page. To facilitate classroom engagement this course will also be a weekly "Question and Answer" discussion assignment on Canvas. To complete this assignment you must ask a question related to the material covered during that week AND attempt to answer another student's question. This component is designed to facilitate discussion and to assess student learning. Questions will be graded according to their relevance to the covered material and specificity. There will be **three** non-cumulative exams, including two midterm exams and one final exam given during finals week. Makeup exams will not be given for non-excused absences.

Classroom Policies

- Homework is considered an extension of lectures.
- Attendance is required.
- No recording of lectures without permission.
- Devices must be silenced; no food in class.

Contacting Me

Office hours are the best time to meet. If unavailable, I will suggest an alternative time. Email is the most effective communication method.

University Policies and Resources

- Academic Integrity (OSCCR guidelines apply). Northeastern University is committed to the principles of intellectual honesty and integrity. The University's Academic Integrity

Policy can be found on the website of the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).

- Disability Resource Center accommodations available. The University's Disability Access Services works with students and faculty to provide students who qualify under the Americans With Disabilities Act with accommodations that allow them to participate fully in the activities at the university. Ordinarily, students receiving such accommodations will deliver teacher notification letters at the beginning of the semester. Students have the right to choose whether to disclose their specific disabilities to instructors but must provide a letter to receive accommodations.
- Title IX protections in effect. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 protects individuals from sex or gender-based discrimination, including discrimination based on gender-identity, in educational programs and activities that receive federal funding. Any NU community member who has experienced such discrimination, sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, coercion, and/or sexual harassment, is encouraged to seek help. Confidential support and guidance can be found through University <https://uhcs.northeastern.edu/>, <https://spirituallife.northeastern.edu/>, and the <https://open.northeastern.edu/> Note that faculty members are considered "responsible employees" at Northeastern University, meaning they are required to report all allegations of sex or gender-based discrimination to the Title IX Coordinator.
- WeCare, WeCare offers supports for students during times of difficulty or challenge. You can find WeCare at 226 Curry Student center Monday - Friday from 8:30-5:00, call at 617-373-7591, or email wecare@northeastern.edu. Mental Health, Writing Center, Peer Tutoring, Snell Library all available.
- In addition to mental health resources available through Northeastern's University Health and Counseling Services, Northeastern has added Find@Northeastern, which is a 24/7 mental health consulting line and can be reached at 1-877-223-9477.
- The Northeastern University Writing Center offers free and friendly tutoring for any level of writer, including help with conceptualizing writing projects, the writing process, and using sources effectively. To make an appointment, or learn more about the Writing Center, visit <https://www.northeastern.edu/writingcenter>, or email WritingCenter@northeastern.edu. Advance and same-day appointments are available.
- The Peer Tutoring Program offers a wide range of tutoring services via the Knack platform. It offers 1-on-1 and small group tutoring in-person and online for all undergraduate courses offered each semester. For more information, please visit the web link above.

- Snell Library offers a variety of resources for undergraduate research, including subject-specific Research Guides (including economics), help with citation and bibliography, and 24/7 chat support. The library also houses the Digital Scholarship Group, which offers a variety of resources for instructors and students for multimedia projects.
- No make-up exams or late homework except in cases of excused absences as defined by Northeastern University's Attendance Requirements.

Grading Scale

A	≥ 93
A-	90–92.9
B+	87–89.9
B	83–86.9
B-	80–82.9
C+	77–79.9
C	73–76.9
C-	70–72.9
D+	67–69.9
D	63–66.9
D-	60–62.9
F	< 60