

INTRODUCTION TO MACROECONOMICS

Winter 2026 Course Syllabus

Course: ECON 201 C

Meeting Time & Room: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6:30 to 8:20 pm, in THO 119

(No live streaming/recording of the class)

Instructor: Tsering Sherpa

Contact: Canvas messaging is preferred | Canvas

Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs., 4 to 5 pm, or by appointment, in SAV 319 C

Course Overview

ECON 201 is a five-credit introduction to the core forces that shape national economic activity. The course examines how output, employment, prices, and income are measured and how these variables interact within the broader macroeconomy. Students will develop a foundational understanding of economic growth, inflation, unemployment, and the role of public policy in stabilizing economic fluctuations.

Macroeconomics focuses on the economy *as a whole*, in contrast to microeconomics, which studies individual households and firms. This course emphasizes the roles of fiscal policy and monetary policy, including the institutional structure of the Federal Reserve, the banking system, money creation, interest rates, and exchange rates in an open economy.

Attendance and engagement are essential. Concepts, problem-solving strategies, and examples introduced in lecture form the basis for homework, quizzes, and exams.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Compute and interpret key macroeconomic indicators, including GDP, inflation, and unemployment.
2. Explain the structure and function of the banking system and the Federal Reserve.
3. Construct and interpret core macroeconomic graphs, including aggregate demand and aggregate supply.
4. Distinguish between fiscal and monetary policy tools and evaluate their effectiveness in applied contexts.

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5. Apply macroeconomic reasoning to current events through written and quantitative analysis.

Required Materials

Textbook and Related Reading Material: Our main textbook is Principles of Macroeconomics from OpenStax. It is a free online textbook. Links can be found on Canvas.

- A laptop or tablet is required for in-class polling and exercises.
- Pen and paper are required for handwritten writing assignments and exams.
- A simple four-function or scientific calculator is permitted on exams. Graphing calculators and phones are not allowed.

Deadline Policy

- To support consistency, fairness, and timely feedback, the following deadlines apply:
Weekly Canvas Homework is due **Thursdays at 11:59 pm** (with the exception of HW10).
- **Weekly In-Class Quizzes** take place **every Thursday during the first 25 minutes of class**.
- **In-Person Writing Assignments** are completed **in class during the final hour** on the dates listed in the course schedule.
- **Exams** occur **in person at the scheduled times**.
- **Late work is not accepted** unless approved through a **UW-recognized accommodation** or a **documented emergency**.

Late Work Policy

Assignments are due at the posted deadline. Late submissions are generally not accepted. Exceptions require:

- documented emergencies, or
- approved accommodations arranged in advance through DRS or the instructor

Your **lowest Canvas homework score is automatically dropped** at the end of the quarter.

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In-person writing assignments, quizzes, the midterm, and the final exam **cannot be made up without official documentation**. Make-up assessments, when permitted, may take an alternative format consistent with UW policy.

Assessment Breakdown

Your grade is determined by:

Weekly in-Class Quizzes	15%
In-Person Writing Assignments	15%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%
Weekly Canvas Homework/Participation	10%
Total	100%

In-Person Writing Assignments

- Completed during the last hour of class on Thursdays
- Handwritten, closed materials, and prompt-based
- Designed to evaluate your ability to apply macroeconomic tools to real economic events
- Completed without electronic devices or outside assistance

Participation

Participation includes short in-class exercises and problem-solving checks. These are completion-based and are intended to reinforce concepts between quizzes and homework assignments.

Tentative Schedule

This schedule outlines major topics, deadlines, and assessment dates. Additional materials will be posted on Canvas throughout the quarter. Students are responsible for checking Canvas regularly for updates. Unless otherwise stated, all weekly homework assignments are due on Thursdays at 11:59 pm following the listed week.

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Week	Dates	Topics	Readings / Prep	Assignments and Deadlines
1	Jan 6, 8	Course introduction, supply and demand review	Read syllabus, Canvas acknowledgment	HW 0 due Jan 8 (No quiz)
2	Jan 13, 15	GDP	GDP readings, FRED intro	HW 1 due Jan 15
3	Jan 20, 22	Inflation and the price level	CPI readings	HW 3 due Jan 22
4	Jan 27, 29	Labor markets and unemployment	Unemployment readings	HW 4 due Jan 29
	Thurs Jan 29	EXAM 1 (90 minutes)	Covers Weeks 1–3	No quiz this week
5	Feb 3, 5	Consumption, saving, investment	Saving–investment materials	In-Person Writing Assignment 1 due Feb 3 HW 5 due Feb 5
6	Feb 10, 12	Financial sector and banking	Banking and money creation	HW 6 due Feb 12
	Thurs Feb 12	EXAM 2 (90 minutes)	Covers Weeks 4–7	No quiz this week
7	Feb 17, 19	International finance, exchange rates, balance of payments	Exchange-rate materials, business cycle intro	HW 7 due Feb 19
8	Feb 24, 26	Business cycles, IS–MP model	IS–MP notes	HW 8 due Feb 26
9	Mar 3, 5	Phillips Curve and expectations	Phillips Curve readings	In-Person Writing Assignment 2 due on Mar 3 HW 9 due Mar 5
10	Mar 10, 12	Fiscal and monetary policy	Policy readings, Fed excerpts	HW 10 due Mar 10
	Thurs Mar 12	EXAM 3 (90 minutes)	Covers Weeks 8–10; builds on prior mechanisms	No quiz this week

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11	Mar 14–20	Final Exam Week	No class	No exam scheduled
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University Policies

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to know and follow the **University of Washington Student Conduct Code**. Plagiarism, cheating, unauthorized collaboration, use of prohibited materials during assessments, or misrepresentation of work are violations of academic integrity. Instructors are required to report all suspected misconduct to the **Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct**. Sanctions may include a zero on the assignment or exam and additional disciplinary action.

UW Libraries provides 24/7 citation and research support: <https://www.lib.washington.edu/>

Religious Accommodations

In accordance with Washington State law, UW provides reasonable accommodations for students who expect to miss class due to religious observances or conscience-related reasons. Requests must be submitted within the first **two weeks** of the course using the form at: <https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/>

Disability Resources / Learning Accommodations

If you have a disability or temporary health condition that may require accommodations, please contact **Disability Resources for Students (DRS)** at 206-543-8925, uwdrs@uw.edu, or <https://disability.uw.edu/>.

If you have approved accommodations, notify me as early as possible so we can discuss how they will be implemented.

Student Support and Academic Resources

Economics Undergraduate Board (EUB) Tutoring

Free tutoring for introductory economics courses, including ECON 201. Tutors can help with concepts, problem sets, and exam preparation.

<https://depts.washington.edu/ecnboard/eub-tutoring/>

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UW Libraries

Access to databases, e-journals, economic data sources, and research assistance. The 24/7 “Ask Us” chat service is available for quick questions.

<https://www.lib.washington.edu/>

CLUE (Center for Learning and Undergraduate Enrichment)

Free evening tutoring, academic skills workshops, and study support across subjects.

<https://webster.slc.washington.edu/clue>

Odegaard Writing and Research Center (OWRC)

One-on-one writing support for assignments in any discipline.

<https://depts.washington.edu/owrc/>

UW Counseling Center

Short-term mental health counseling, crisis support, and workshops.

<https://www.washington.edu/counseling/>

UW Campus Food Pantry

Free groceries for students, staff, and faculty with a Husky ID.

<https://www.washington.edu/anyhungryhusky/>

English as an Additional Language (EAL) Support

If English is an additional language for you, feel free to let me know. I can help connect you with UW resources and ensure you have the academic support you need.