Instructor: Jonathan Kreamer
Office: Tydings 4118B
Email: kreamer@econ.umd.edu
Office Hours: MTWR 3:15 - 4:15
Time and Location: MTWR 11:00 - 3:10, Tydings 2110
Course Website: http://www.elms.umd.edu (Blackboard)

Course Description

Economics 201 is the macroeconomics half of a two course sequence in the principles of economics. Most students take microeconomics, Econ 200, before macroeconomics but this is not required. Macroeconomics focuses on the determination of total national output. This course will be devoted to explaining the behavior of key macroeconomic variables such as output, unemployment, inflation, interest rates. We will also discuss the role of government in managing the macroeconomy through regulatory, fiscal and monetary policy.

Course Structure

This course meets four times per week for four hours each. The Winter term is only three weeks long. The typical course during the Fall or Spring semester is 15 weeks. Therefore each day of lecture covers more material than a week of class during a regular semester. Therefore it is very important that you attend lecture every day and study the material in between lectures.

To facilitate learning in this condensed schedule, lecture time will include in-class exercises. I will assign you to groups, and will give you exercises to perform in class each day. I will randomly ask groups to present their answers to the questions posed. Your performance on these in-class exercises will be part of your grade. Performance includes both the accuracy of the solutions, as well as your presentations and discussion of the material, and participation during other groups’ presentations.

You are only responsible for material that is covered in class. Lectures will follow the textbook closely, so you will find it useful to read the corresponding chapters to better understand the material.
There will be two midterms and a final. All questions on these exams will be multiple choice. Midterms are one hour long, and the final will be two hours long. All exams will be given in class, and will start at 11:00.

There will be homework assignments due every day of class. The assignments will be submitted through the blackboard site, and must be turned in no later than 30 minutes before the start of class. Problem sets will cover the important material from the previous lecture, and may also include questions on important topics from earlier lectures. Topics that are highlighted in the homework assignments are likely to be emphasized in the exams.

The course is cumulative, and it is important that you remember a few key concepts. Therefore every class will begin with a review of what we have learned so far, and I will be sure to emphasize the most important facts. I realize that it is difficult to retain information in a three-week class, and so I will be careful to highlight what I consider to be the most critical concepts covered in this course. These concepts will form an important foundation for higher-level courses in economics, and are essential to basic economic literacy.

**Material Covered**

We will cover the following material:

Introduction, measurement, growth, investment, and finance (ch. 10-14)

**Midterm 1**
The labor market, money, and open-economy macro (ch. 15-19)

**Midterm 2**
Business Cycles, and Summing Up (ch. 20-23)

**Final**

**Grading**

Your grade will be determined as follows:

Two Midterm Exams (20% each)
One Final Exam (40%)
Problem Sets and Participation (20%)

**Policies and Notes**

**Attendance:** I expect you to attend all lectures. Attendance is particularly important in this course due to its condensed nature. Missing a single class involves missing four hours of lecture, so it is equivalent to missing two weeks of class in a full-length semester.
**Classroom Conduct:** I expect respectful behavior in the classroom. This means no interruptions or private conversations. This holds whether I am lecturing or another student is speaking.

**Calculators:** You should not need a calculator for any of the exam questions. If you think you need a calculator, you are probably doing something wrong.

**Make-up Exams:** I will offer a makeup exam for those who have an excused absence. An excuse will only be granted if proper documentation is provided detailing a legitimate reason according to university policy. However, given the condensed nature of the class, missing an exam is not recommended. Please check the schedule and let me know as soon as possible if you anticipate having any conflicts.

**Cheating:** The University of Maryland is an honor code institution. This means that we place a very high level of trust in our students, and exact correspondingly high penalties when this trust is violated. I hope that you will all live up to the standards found in the University Code of Academic Integrity.\(^1\) Cheating is never the best option. I understand that this is a demanding course with a difficult schedule. If you find yourself falling behind and feel that you are out of options, please speak with me. I will help you work something out.

**Office Hours:** I will hold office hours each day after class. I will also be available by appointment.

**Communication:** Outside of class, I will communicate primarily through email. If you have not received an email from me, please let me know.

**Grading:** You will be graded on both an absolute and relative scale. An average grade in the course should result in a B, unless the course as a whole performs significantly worse or better than average. Thus you should interpret your grades relative to the class mean unless I indicate otherwise.

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\(^1\)Please see [http://www.shc.umd.edu](http://www.shc.umd.edu) for information about the Student Honor Council and the Code of Academic Integrity
## Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topics Covered</th>
<th>Chapters</th>
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<td>Tuesday, January 3</td>
<td>Introduction and Measurement I</td>
<td>ch. 1 - 10</td>
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<td>Wednesday, January 4</td>
<td>Measurement II and Production and Growth</td>
<td>ch. 11 - 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, January 5</td>
<td>Savings, Investment, and Finance Basics</td>
<td>ch. 13 - 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, January 9</td>
<td><strong>MIDTERM 1.</strong> Unemployment</td>
<td>ch. 15</td>
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<td>Tuesday, January 10</td>
<td>The Monetary System and Inflation</td>
<td>ch. 16 - 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, January 11</td>
<td>Open Economy Macro 1</td>
<td>ch. 18 - 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, January 12</td>
<td>Open Economy Macro 2 and AD-AS 1</td>
<td>ch. 19 - 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, January 16</td>
<td><strong>NO CLASS</strong> (MLK Day)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, January 17</td>
<td><strong>MIDTERM 2.</strong> AD-AS 2</td>
<td>ch. 20</td>
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<td>Wednesday, January 18</td>
<td>Monetary and Fiscal Policy</td>
<td>ch. 21</td>
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<td>Thursday, January 19</td>
<td>Phillips Curve, Macro Debates, and Review</td>
<td>ch. 22 - 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, January 23</td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM</strong></td>
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