

# **ECON 20A: INTRODUCTION TO MACROECONOMICS**

## **Summer 2024 Draft Syllabus**

Instructor: Qihui Lei

Email: qlei@brandeis.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

### **MEETING TIMES**

Time: M/T/Th 8:30am - 11:00am

This course will be taught over Zoom at the meeting times given above. Class sessions will be recorded, and the recording will be available through LATTE a few hours after class.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course provides an introduction to macroeconomics. Macroeconomics is the study of overall or aggregate economic performance of national economies. The course will develop basic models used by economists to understand the relationships between economic growth, unemployment, inflation, interest rates, and exchange rates in the long run and in the short run. The course will also focus on the role of government policy in promoting economic growth in the long run and in limiting the effects of business cycle fluctuations in the short run.

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

There are also several more specific goals for mastery of the course concepts.

- Students will understand how the basic macroeconomic indicators (gross domestic product, the inflation rate, the unemployment rate) are constructed and be able to explain their limitations.
- Students will understand the determinants of economic growth.
- Students will be able to explain why the economy does not always remain at full employment but instead experiences the ups and downs of the business cycle.

- Students will be able to predict the effects changes in monetary and fiscal policy will have on the economy.

- Students will become familiar with important economic institutions, e.g., money, banks, central banks.

- Students will be able to explain how and why the Federal Reserve Board goes about changing the money supply and short-run interest rates

## **PREREQUISITES**

Knowledge of microeconomic principles is assumed,

- Econ 2a (with a B+ or better) or
- Econ 10a (with a C or better) or
- AP Micro (4 or 5) or
- An approved Introduction to Microeconomics course taken at another college or university

## **TEXTBOOK AND READINGS**

The required text for this class is Robert E. Hall and Marc Lieberman, *Macroeconomics: Principles and Applications*, 6th edition (South- Western Cengage Learning, 2012).

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Grades will be assigned according to a curve of the raw course scores computed using the following formula:

- Problem sets 30%
- Midterm exam 30%
- Final exam 40%

Exams:

There will be a midterm exam and a final exam. The midterm is designed to take place on July 26, 2024, and the final will take place on August 9, 2024. The final exam will be cumulative

but mostly focused on the materials not on the midterm. The midterm and the final exam will make up 30% and 40%, respectively.

Problem sets:

The problem sets will be posted on LATTE. You will be asked to submit three problem sets during the term. Late assignments will not be accepted. Please submit your problem sets in the pdf form.

## **COURSE PLAN**

<b>LECTURE</b>	<b>TOPIC(S) OF THE LECTURES</b>
1	Course Introduction
2	Production & Income (GDP)
3	Production & Income (GDP) Unemployment
4	The Price Level & Inflation
5	Classical Models: Equilibrium GDP; Savings & Investment; The Loanable Funds Market
6	Economic Growth & Productivity
7	Money, Banks & Central Banks
8	Money, Banks & Central Banks Money Growth & Inflation & Nominal Interest Rates & Asset Pricing
9	Exchange Rates
10	The Business Cycle; The Aggregate Expenditure Model
11	Expenditure & Tax Multipliers & Fiscal Policy
12	The Money Market & Monetary Policy
13	The Aggregate Supply-Aggregate Demand Model
14	Inflation & Monetary Policy Financial Crises
15	Financial Crises Government Debt & Fiscal Crises International Debt Crises

## **SYLLABUS STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC HONESTY**

You are expected to be honest in all your academic work. Please consult Brandeis University Rights and Responsibilities for all policies and procedures related to academic integrity. Allegations of alleged academic dishonesty will be forwarded to the Director of Academic Integrity. Sanctions for academic dishonesty—such as plagiarism—can include failing grades and/or suspension from the university. It is your responsibility to accurately cite any words, ideas, data, charts, etc., from any sources you use in your work. Citation and research assistance can be found at LTS – Library guides.

## **ACCOMMODATIONS**

Brandeis seeks to create a learning environment that is welcoming and inclusive of all students, and I want to support you in my course. If you think you may require disability accommodations, you will need to work with Student Accessibility Support (SAS). You can contact SAS at 781-736-3470 or [access@brandeis.edu](mailto:access@brandeis.edu) or visit the SAS website. You can find helpful student FAQs and other resources on the SAS website, including guidance on whether you might be eligible for support from SAS.

If you already have an accommodation letter from SAS, please provide me with a copy as soon as you can so that I can ensure effective implementation of accommodations for this class. In order to coordinate exam accommodations, please provide the accommodation letter at least 48 hours before an exam.

## **WORKLOAD**

Success in this 4-credit course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 9 hours per week outside of class reading and reviewing, working on homework, preparing for exams, etc.