



**THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS**

**ECON3021
INTERMEDIATE MACROECONOMIC THEORY**

**COURSE SYLLABUS
(2018-2019 First Term)**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Macroeconomics is the study of economic aggregates, focusing on the aggregate behavior of large collection of economic agents. This one-semester course is divided into two major parts – Long-run and Short-run macroeconomics. In the Long-run part of the course, we will cover topics such as economic growth and development, inflation and equilibrium unemployment, government debt and the public pension system.

In the Short-run part of the course, we focus mainly on theories of business cycles. Macroeconomic models based on microfoundations will be discussed. In addition, we will study basic monetary and banking models, public finance, and international macroeconomics. Major historical macroeconomic events will also be analyzed, and optional topics will be added if time permits.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

After completing this course, students should be able to:

1. Understand the importance of economic growth and development, and the theories that seek to explain reasons for economic growth.
2. Handle macroeconomic models both graphically and algebraically.
3. Evaluate the effects of macroeconomic policies and shocks on the domestic economy in the short run and how macroeconomic aggregates are determined in the long run.
4. Understand the functioning of fixed and flexible exchange rate regimes.
5. Understand the theoretical and practical limitation of central bank independence.

THE TEACHING TEAM

Instructor	Wallace K. C. Mok
Email	wallacemok@cuhk.edu.hk
Office	ELB 905
Office Hours	Walk-in consultations welcomed

Teaching Assistant	Anna CHU	Siho PARK
Email	laishanchu@cuhk.edu.hk	shpark@link.cuhk.edu.hk
Office	ELB1007	ELB1017
Office Hours	Tuesday morning, 9:30-10:30 By Appointment	By Appointment

LECTURE HOURS

Wednesday 8:30pm-11:15pm ELB LT4

ASSESSMENT SCHEME

The assessment is based on:

Instruments	Weight
Midterm	40%
Final	60%
Total	100%

More details will be announced during class.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

The **main textbook** is:

- *Intermediate Macroeconomics* – 7th Edition (International Student Edition for Asia), by N. Gregory Mankiw, Worth Palgrave Macmillan

Or

- *Macroeconomics* – 2nd Edition, by Charles I. Jones, Norton

In addition, there are 3 additional textbooks that you can purchase for reference purposes. You are **NOT** required to purchase any of these reference textbooks. The books by Romer and Acemoglu are quite advanced. The book by Sloman is quite easy to read.

- *Advanced Macroeconomics*, by David Romer, McGraw-Hill/Irwin

- *Introduction to Modern Economic Growth*. by Daron Acemoglu, Princeton University Press
- *Economics*, by John Sloman, Prentice Hall

COURSE MATERIALS

Course materials (lecture slides, lecture notes, additional readings, problems sets and their solutions) will be posted on WEBCT.

HONESTY IN ACADEMIC WORK

Students must observe the University's policy on Honesty in Academic Work (please see <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>).

CONTENTS

Part 1. The Macroeconomy in the Long Run

	Reading (Chapters)
A. Introduction to Macroeconomics 1. Economic Statistics 2. National Income Accounting 3. Introduction to Classical Macroeconomics.	1,2 (Mankiw) 1, 2 (Jones)
B. Economic Growth 1. Meaning of Economic Growth and Development 2. Malthus and Solow Growth Models 3. Endogenous Growth Theory	3, 7, 8 (Mankiw) 3- 6 (Jones)
C. Inflation and Unemployment 1. Hyperinflation 2. The Beveridge Curve, Job Creation Curve and Equilibrium Unemployment 3. Search Theory	4, 6 (Mankiw) 7 – 8 (Jones)
D. Government Debt and Current Demographic Trends 1. Budget Deficit and Ricardian Equivalence 2. Demographic Trends and the Macroeconomy 3. Public Pension (Social Security)	16 (Mankiw) 17 (Jones)

Part 2. The Macroeconomy in the Short Run

	Reading (Chapters)
A. The Business Cycle 1. IS/LM Model, Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply 2. Classical Macroeconomics 3. Keynesian Macroeconomics and Monetarism 4. Forecasting – Vector Autoregression (Optional)	9 (Mankiw) 9-11, 13-14 (Jones)
B. Macroeconomic Models with Microfoundations 1. Real Business Cycle Theory 2. New Keynesian Macroeconomics (if time permits)	-
C. Monetary Economics and Banking 1. What is Money? 2. Monetary Policy: Rules vs. Discretion 3. The Phillip’s Curve 4. Monetary Models	13, 15 (Mankiw) 12 (Jones)
D. Fiscal Policy: Introduction to Public Finance 1. The role of the government in the economy and the First Fundamental Theorem of Welfare Economics 2. Elements of Public Finance 3. Optimal Taxation	-
E. Open Economy Macroeconomics 1. The ISLM Model in the Open Economy 2. Exchange Rate Regimes 3. Exchange Rate Crises	5, 12 (Mankiw) 18-19 (Jones)
F. Consumption and Housing Economics (if time permits) 1. Life-cycle hypothesis 2. The Consumption Euler Equation 3. Consumption and Income Volatility 4. Permanent Income Hypothesis 5. The Hong Kong housing market and the macroeconomy	17 (Mankiw) 15 (Jones)
G. Understanding the World Economy (if time permits) 1. The Great Depression 2. The Japanese Recession 3. The Great Recession 4. Thatcherism and the British Economy in 1970-1990	-