

ECON2021B/C Basic Macroeconomics

Term 2, 2023-24

Instructor

Dr. Cheuk Yin Ho

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Office location: ELB1002

Office hours: By Appointment

Teaching Assistants

| ECON2021B | ECON2021C |
|--|---|
| Cao Zhi, zhicao@link.cuhk.edu.hk | Tu Meng, 1155161385@link.cuhk.edu.hk |
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Lectures

| ECON2021B | ECON2021C |
|---|---|
| Tue 8:30pm – 10:15am, Sino Building LT2 Thu 12:30pm – 13:15pm, WFY LT4 | Mon 2:30pm – 4:15pm, CK TSE Wed 1:30pm – 2:15pm, WFY LT4 |

Tutorials

TAs will conduct tutorials to go through problem sets and solutions of assignments. The meeting time and venue of tutorials will be announced later.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to macroeconomics, which aims to provide students a solid background for higher level economics courses. The course focuses on understanding the aggregate economy. The course covers essential components in macroeconomics including GDP, consumer price index, growth, money, inflation, business cycles, and open economy. There are no prerequisites for this course, but an understanding of basic mathematical reasoning (including graphs and elementary algebra) is presumed.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the course, students should be able to understand introductory macroeconomics, to solve basic macroeconomic problems, and to use these techniques to think about policy questions relevant to the operation of the aggregate economy.

Honesty in Academic Work

Students must observe the University's policy on Honesty in Academic Work

<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>

Readings

Required Textbook:

Mankiw, N. G., (2020). Principles of Economics, Cengage Learning, 9th edition. (older versions are acceptable).

Course Requirements

Students are expected to read the textbook chapters and lecture slides before class and attend all lectures and tutorials. The instructor explains important concepts with examples for each topic. To help students become familiar with the materials, 2 to 3 practice questions are assigned for discussion after finishing each topic.

Assessment Scheme

| Type of Assessment | Weighting | Description |
|--------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| Assignment | 10% | Two assignments, equally weighted |
| Mid-term Exam | 35% | In-class midterm exam (Week 11) |
| Final Exam | 55% | Centrally scheduled by the university |

Syllabus

| Topic | Title | Textbook Chapter |
|-------|---|------------------|
| | | |
| 1 | Measuring a Nation's Income | 23 |
| 2 | Measuring the Cost of Living | 24 |
| 3 | Production and Growth | 25 |
| 4 | Saving, Investment, and the Financial System | 26 |
| 5 | The Monetary System | 29 |
| 6 | Money Growth and Inflation | 30 |
| 7 | Open-Economy Macroeconomics: Basic Concepts | 31 |
| 8 | A Macroeconomic Theory of the Open Economy | 32 |
| 9 | Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply | 33 |
| 10 | The Influence of Monetary and Fiscal Policy on Aggregate Demand | 34 |
| 11 | The Short-Run Tradeoff Between Inflation and Unemployment | 35 |