

Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory

BC3033, Fall A 2020

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Martina Jasova

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OFFICE: Milstein 1005

OFFICE HOURS: M 8–10am, W 4–6pm, please register online at <https://calendly.com/jasova>

TEACHING ASSISTANT: Lavanya Sayal, ls3666@columbia.edu

TA OFFICE HOURS: TBA

GRADER: Yuki Tada, ytada@barnard.edu

LECTURES: MTWR 6:10–7:25pm, Zoom

RECITATIONS: TBA

Course description: This course introduces students to modern macroeconomic theory. The goal of the course is to provide a coherent framework for analyzing economic growth and macroeconomic events. We will use the theory to evaluate policies designed to promote growth and stability, and to understand economic developments both in the U.S. and abroad including the economic response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Learning Objectives: Students completing this course will be able to (1) show fluency in the key concepts, models and tools of macroeconomic theory, (2) demonstrate understanding of macroeconomic data and its relevance, (3) critically read and assess macroeconomic news (e.g. The Economist, The Wall Street Journal, Financial Times), and (4) apply theoretical knowledge to review the core of current economic events and policy discussions.

Prerequisites: ECON BC1003 Introduction to Economic Reasoning and ECON BC1007 Math Methods for Economics, or permission of the instructor.

Text: The required textbook for the course is *Blanchard O., Macroeconomics, 7th Edition (Pearson)*. It is available at the Columbia bookstore. A copy is also on reserve at the Barnard library. Any additional reading materials will be available on Canvas.

Evaluation: The final grade will be based on short quizzes (10%), three problem sets (20%), a midterm exam (30%) and a final exam (40%).

Quizzes and problem sets: Each week, there will be either a short home quiz or a longer problem set. Multiple choice quizzes will be posted on Canvas after Thursday's lecture and will be due by Monday's lecture. Problem sets will be posted on Canvas one week before the due date. Cooperation is permitted, but you are responsible for writing up your own solutions.

Midterm exam: **September 24, Thursday.** No make-up exam will be given.

Final exam: The date of the final exam will be determined by the official schedule (Fall A exam period is October 20-23). The final exam is non-cumulative.

CARDS: If you are a student with a documented disability and require academic accommodations in this course, you must register with the Center for Accessibility Resources & Disability Services (CARDS) for assistance. Students requesting accommodations will need to first meet with an CARDS staff member. Once registered, students are required to request accommodation letters each semester to notify faculty. Accommodations are not retroactive, so it is best to contact CARDS early each semester to access your accommodations. If you are registered with CARDS, please see me to schedule a meeting outside of class in which you can bring me your faculty notification letter and we can discuss your accommodations for this course. Students are not eligible to use their accommodations in this course until they have met with me. CARDS is located at 101 Altschul Hall.

Wellness: It is important to recognize and identify the different pressures, burdens, and stressors you may be facing, whether personal, emotional, physical, financial, mental, or academic. We as a community urge you to make yourself—your own health, sanity, and wellness—your priority throughout this term and your career here. Sleep, exercise, and eating well can all be a part of a healthy regimen to cope with stress. Resources exist to support you in several sectors of your life, and we encourage you to make use of them. Should you have any questions about navigating these resources, please visit these sites:

- <http://barnard.edu/primarycare>
- <http://barnard.edu/counseling>
- <http://barnard.edu/wellwoman/about>
- [Stressbusters Support Network](#)

The Honor Code The honor code will be strictly enforced. Approved by the student body in 1912 and updated in 2016, the Code states:

We, the students of Barnard College, resolve to uphold the honor of the College by engaging with integrity in all of our academic pursuits. We affirm that academic integrity is the honorable creation and presentation of our own work. We acknowledge that it is our responsibility to seek clarification of proper forms of collaboration and use of academic resources in all assignments or exams. We consider academic integrity to include the proper use and care for all print, electronic, or other academic resources. We will respect the rights of others to engage in pursuit of learning in order to uphold our commitment to honor. We pledge to do all that is in our power to create a spirit of honesty and honor for its own sake.

Course outline (Preliminary)

1. Sep 8–9: Review of Basic Concepts, Introduction to the Economic Growth.
2. Sep 10–16: Long-Run Economic Growth, Solow model.
Blanchard, Chapters 10.4, 11, 12.
3. Sep 17–21: Labor Market, Unemployment and Inflation.
Blanchard, Chapters 7 and 8.
4. Sep 22: Midterm Review.
5. Sep 23–Oct 1: Goods and Financial Markets.
Blanchard, Chapter 3 and 4.
6. Oct 5–8: IS-LM and IS-LM-PC Models.
Blanchard, Chapters 5, 6, 9. Additional material on current issues
7. Oct 12–15: Fiscal and Monetary Policy [subject to time availability].
Blanchard, Chapter 22 and 23, Additional material provided by the lecturer
8. Oct 19: Final Review.