

Econ 002 -Introductory Economics: Macroeconomics FALL 2021

Department of Economics -University of Pennsylvania-

NOTE: the syllabus might change and be updated if the content delivery method changes throughout the semester.

Instructor's information and OH

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Please make sure to always include your full name in your email messages. I check my email regularly during working hours. However, if your email implies a very long answer, please come and see me during Zoom office hours.

Communal Zoom Office hours: Monday & Tuesday 7pm-8pm (please see Canvas for the Zoom link). Feel free to join at any time, as long as you are willing to possibly share the time slot with other students.

Coffee/tea over Zoom: Tuesdays 5-6pm (please see Canvas for the Zoom link)

Come to chat with me and your fellow students about things that are totally unrelated to the course content. Are you interested in eventually attending graduate school? Are you having any issues with your studies or on campus? Perhaps your fellow students and I can be a resource for you, or vice versa. You are also welcome to brag about a recent academic/sport/personal accomplishment or just to commiserate about a hectic semester. Please feel free to grab your coffee/tea and join us for a casual conversation and communal venting session to decompress.

Course information

Meeting time/place: According to the official Penn course roster are Monday and Wednesday 10:15-11:15am (if you are enrolled in Econ 002-001) or 12-1pm (if you are in Econ 002-002). According to the Dean of SAS message of 08/26/2021, Fall 2021 teaching in the College will be in person, as rostered, at full classroom densities. You must also attend in person the recitation for which you are enrolled in on Thursday/Friday.

Textbook: N. Gregory Mankiw: "**Principles of Macroeconomics**", *Cengage*, 9th edition. You can opt to have an electronic copy of the book with your Cengage/Mindtap/Aplia subscription. This is a cheaper option than buying the hardcopy of the textbook and the access to Cengage/Mindtap/Aplia separately.

Course website(s): 1) Login in **Canvas** system.
2) Signup to **Mindtap/Cengage** (from within Canvas), a companion website to complete the online assignments and access the online copy of the textbook. More details and "how to signup" are available in a separate document posted on Canvas. Please signup with your Penn student ID number when prompted. You are required to check the course websites regularly. Most of the class material including lecture notes, problem sets, exercises, readings, etc. will be posted online in Canvas. All the major announcements can also be found on Canvas. This means that you need to check the course website at least a 3-4 times during each week. I will assume that each student is aware of all the material posted on Canvas.

Optional: You can network with me on LinkedIn so I can endorse your Econ skills at the end of the semester.

Prerequisites: The official prerequisite for this course is Econ 001. This is a Department hard pre-requisite. There are no exceptions to this Departmental requirement (i.e. no permission of the instructor).

Course overview and objectives

ECON 002 is the first course in macroeconomics and the second course in Economics for undergraduate Penn students. Macroeconomics studies the aggregate behavior of the economy. In the first part of the course, students will learn how to measure economic performance and the meaning of terms such as GDP, inflation, and unemployment. The focus of this course will subsequently be the models that attempt to explain the determination of national output. We will examine the long-run growth of national income as well as the short-run fluctuations in national income (i.e., recessions and booms). Throughout the course we will explore how government fiscal and monetary policy can influence the performance of the economy.

This course fulfills one Curriculum requirement for the Society Sector in the College of A&S. Hence, this course should "enable students to develop concepts and principles, test theories, and perfect tools that can be used to interpret, explain and evaluate the behavior of human beings in contemporary societies."

Course Structure

You must attend both lectures on Monday/Wednesday and recitations on Thursday/Friday, as the material covered is designed to be different in each. Exams will cover all material covered in the lectures as well as the recitations. [All the recitation sessions for this course with their locations and instructors are listed in the course registrar's website:](#)

Requirements and grading distribution/criteria

Your grade in this course is based on attainment. This means that if you demonstrate a high degree of competence with the material, you will receive a high grade regardless of your relative rank in the class. You can use the following grading scale to convert your scores into letter grades:

A: > 93	B: 83.5 - 86.99	C: 73.5-76.99	D: 60-66.99
A-: 90-92.99	B-: 80 - 83.49	C-: 70-73.49	
B+: 87-89.99	C+: 77-79.99	D+: 67-69.99	F: < 60

Your overall grade will be based on recitation attendance, 3 exams, and the assignments. Failure to attend class might impact your letter grade as well.

Recitations' attendance will count for 5% of your letter grade. There will be 13 recitations this semester. You can miss a maximum of 3 recitations during the semester before your letter grade is affected.

There are two methods used to calculate the course grade; I will choose the method that gives you the highest letter grade in the end.

Method 1 (consistency):

25% for each of the 3 exams,
20% for Mindtap/Cengage assignments,
5% for recitation attendance.

Method 2 (improvement):

15-20-25% for the 3 exams only if the score does not decrease but rather improves over time,
20% for Mindtap/Cengage assignments,
5% for recitation attendance,

These two methods favor the students, and it will help mitigate the effects of a one-time poor performance.

Minimum requirements to pass this course: beside having an overall score above 60 on average obviously, you must have at least two exams scores out of 3 above 50.

Exams

In this course there are no re-take exams. Only regularly scheduled exams. When you take an exam the grade in that exam will count toward your letter grade for this course according to the grading methods outlined above. Exams are in multiple choice format and are designed to evaluate mastery of course material. There will be three exams administered during the semester. I will announce the logistical details for the exams on Canvas. The exams cover the lectures, assignments, recitations and all the material we will cover in class/recitations/assignments.

Dates (All time of the exams are TBA, all exams delivered through Canvas)

Exam 1	Monday October 04
Focus:	Ch: 1, 2, 10, 11, 15, and inequality notes
Exam 2	Wednesday November 03
Focus:	Ch: 12, 13, 14, and Fiscal Policy notes
Exam 3	Wednesday December 08
Focus:	Ch: 16, 17, 18, 19

Students are responsible for making sure, at the beginning of the term, that they can take the exams in those dates. This semester due to the Pandemic and not to put under too much stress students during the final exam period, there will not be a final exam.

(Online) Assignments

Homework (through Cengage/Mindtap/Aplia) assignments are designed as learning processes. In particular, those assignments in this course are mostly related to textbook reading and comprehension. So they are relatively easy. This is by design. There will be 11 assignments, and it is required that you complete them. I will only count the best 10 of them toward your grade. Those overall count for 20% of your letter grade. Assignments will be posted on the Cengage website. You will be notified about their availability and about their due dates within Canvas.

Usually (but not always) they become available on Monday at 2pm and are due the following Sunday at 11:59pm. Once you submit your answer, you might consider printing the answers from the Mindtap web site for your own perusal. If you have any issues with how your problem set was graded, you should email me.

You can be up to 24 hours late on one assignment only. You must email me in this case within that 24 hours window and I will re-open the assignment for you. No other late assignments will be accepted. You will receive a zero if you do not submit an assignment at the deadline and you have used the late assignment bonus already. Mindtap system will have strict deadlines embedded, and if you miss it there isn't anything that can be done. Please do plan ahead. Technical problems with your computer or your internet connection are not acceptable excuses either. You have several days to submit the homework: do not leave submission to the last hour of the last day that it is due.

I will drop the lowest Cengage/Mindtap/Aplia assignment score. So if you miss one assignment for whatever reason, that counts as your lowest score and your letter grade will not be impacted. If you miss more than one assignment, that will likely impact your letter grade.

Feel free to study with other students and to discuss the material and assignments with your classmates and in fact you are encouraged to do so. However, the work you turn in should be your own. This is because working out problems/quizzes is an essential component to learning economics. Directly copying someone else's problem set or quizzes will be considered cheating.

Honor Code and Academic Integrity

[Please familiarize yourself with the code of academic integrity at the University of Pennsylvania.](#)

In particular, students are expected and required to:

1. Do not misrepresent work that you did not complete as your own.
 2. Do not cheat in examinations, as doing so will result in severe sanctions.
 3. Do not take the examinations together with other students or other people or using external help.
- If the teaching team catches you cheating during any of the course activities, I will report you to The Office of Student Conduct (OSC) and follow standard university procedures. Any student who is found responsible for violating the Code of Academic Integrity by the OSC will receive an automatic F in the course. NO EXCEPTIONS.

This semester I have several new tools available to confirm/verify that it was really you who truly did the work on exams and assignments.

Additional important information

- **Important dates:** September 14, course selection period ends; October 11, drop period ends; October 29, Grade Type Change Deadline; November 11, last day to withdraw from a course. Last day of classes is December 10.

- **Belonging and Diversity:** A goal of this course is to prepare students for a career as economists/public policy experts by giving them a sense of belonging within the field.

This can only happen if all members of the course community – the instructor, TAs, and students – work together to create a supportive, inclusive environment that welcomes all students, regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexuality, religious beliefs, physical or mental health status, or socioeconomic status. Diversity, inclusion, and belonging are all core values of this course. All participants in this course deserve to and should expect to be treated with respect by other members of the community. Lectures, office hours, and group working time should be spaces where everyone feels welcome and safe. In order to facilitate a welcoming environment, students of this course are expected to :

- Exercise consideration and respect in their speech and actions.
- Attempt collaboration and consideration, including listening to opposing perspectives and authentically and respectfully raising concerns, before conflict.
- Refrain from demeaning, **discriminatory, or harassing behavior and speech.**

If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by issues related to diversity in this course, please don't hesitate to talk with me. I want to be a resource for you. Remember that you can also submit anonymous feedback (which will lead to me making a general announcement to the class, if necessary to address your concerns). [If you prefer to speak with someone outside of the course, then here is a link with some extra resources for you.](#)

- **FGLI students:** I have secured few free access codes for FGLI students for accessing Cengage/Mindtap. This course is participating in the Penn First Plus Course Materials Initiative. If you believe that you would benefit from stretching your financial aid award through receipt of a free electronic access code for this course's primary text or lab platform, please complete the following form: [Penn First Plus \(P1P\) Fall 2021 Course Materials Initiative](#). Do not submit your request via email. This link also contains information on how to connect with additional resources through Penn Libraries.

- **Experiencing difficulties:** we all have been there where we truly needed a helping hand. Beside coming to talk to me about it, here are two great resources at Penn.

[If you are experiencing academic difficulties: CASNET](#)

[If you are experiencing mental health difficulties: CAPS](#)

- **Drawback of late enrollment:** If you sign up for the class late, and you miss any graded assignment(s) as a result, those will count as zero.

- **Disabilities:** University of Pennsylvania, provides reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities who have self-identified and been approved by the office of Student Disabilities Services (SDS). All services are confidential.

[Please contact Student Disability Services \(SDS\) at the Weingarten Learning Resource Center](#) at least **7 days prior an exam**, and make sure all the necessary administrative steps are taken for your exam accommodation.

- **Tutoring:** The Weingarten Center offers a variety of resources to support all Penn students in reaching their academic goals. All services are free and confidential. To contact the Weingarten Center, call 215-573-9235. The office is located in Stouffer Commons at 3702 Spruce Street, Suite 300. Visit www.vpul.upenn.edu/lrc to learn more.

There are also some Econ graduate students that can be hired and provide services as Econ tutors. <https://economics.sas.upenn.edu/undergraduate/resources/tutoring-services-available>

- **Contacts:**

- Logistical issues regarding joining a recitation section or changing sections: Please contact the undergraduate coordinator in the economics department, Emily Romanello, eroma@upenn.edu. She is also knowledgeable about requirements for majors etcetera.

- Technical issues regarding Canvas go to Penn Canvas help

- Technical issues regarding the Cengage/Mindtap site go to Cengage support

Concerns about homework, economics in general, or the material covered in class etc: contact either me (or your TA). I am here to facilitate your academic success at Penn. If you contact me as soon as a problem emerges, I will be able to help you better. If you contact me very late in the semester or after the semester is over, my help could be very limited.

Comments and suggestions

If you have any comments or suggestions for me, please do not hesitate to stop by during my office hours or to drop me an email. The tentative course outline is posted in Canvas.

