Department of Economics
University of Oklahoma
Norman

Spring 2020
Econ 3133
Daniel Hicks

Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory

Lectures: Tu Th 3:00-4:15
Office: 434 Cate Center 1
Instructor Website: http://faculty-staff.ou.edu/H/Daniel.Hicks-1/

This syllabus is a contract between you and me. By taking this course you agree to abide by the policies and rules listed within.

Course Description:

Macroeconomics is a wide ranging and commonly misunderstood field. Topics include the determinants of national income, economic growth, business cycles, interest rates, prices, employment, consumer behavior, and exchange rates. This course will focus on providing students with the tools and insights necessary to understand macroeconomic theory, evaluate fiscal and monetary policy in a rigorous manner, and weigh in on current economic debates.

Prerequisites:

This course requires a degree of comfort with working through formal arguments (mathematical, logical, and graphical). Further background, in calculus, statistics, and game theory, is helpful. Formally, the economics department suggests you should have taken 9 hours of economics, or 1113 and 1123 and six advanced hours of another social science, or have senior standing. Exceptions may be made under certain circumstances with instructor's consent. This course includes a reasonable amount of assigned required reading. A willingness to work and learn is essential to doing well in this course.

Readings:

There is only one textbook you must purchase for the course. It is Charles Jones's *Intermediate Macroeconomics*. There are several editions of this text. You can likely get by with any edition, although the newest edition contains both more content and updated data. I will from time to time make available additional readings either on the web or through handouts.

Administrative Information:

Email: hicksd@ou.edu
I check my email regularly and will try to respond quickly to questions. Email is a great place to get *administrative* questions answered (for course enrollment questions please contact the department instead.) In general, it is best to take most *subject* related questions to office hours or to lecture as economics via email can be both taxing and unclear. If your questions require very long answers, or you have many of them, I may simply ask you to stop by office hours.

Office hours: By Appt. / 434 Cate Center 1
This is a great time to get questions answered on a face to face basis, especially if there is something that we have gone over in class but on which you are still unclear. Feel free to visit to discuss issues and questions related to problem sets, exams, or questions about material covered or not covered in lectures. I also welcome questions relating to economics in general (both the field and the department).

I will not hold formal review sessions – however, I will briefly provide a summary of recent material in class prior to each examination.

Academics:

Grading:
The exam format will be a combination of short answer, problem solving, and essay questions. Answers are graded solely upon their content and not upon their intent. This means that I cannot and will not grade you based on what you "meant to say" but instead on what you actually write (even if you "knew the answer but just couldn't say it correctly"). At the same time this means that answers that are illegible, rambling, or poorly organized will not receive high marks.

There is no fixed curve for this course dictating what share of students will receive what letter grade. It is theoretically possible for everyone to earn an A. It is equally possible for everyone to earn a C. This course can be taken Pass/Not Pass if you are otherwise free to do so. P/NP students are expected to do the same work as other students and will receive scores on all assignments. If the course grade is a C- or better, a P/NP student will receive a Pass. P/NP students must take the final in order to pass the course.

Assignment grade breakdown:

Assignment	Percent of Grade
3 Problem Sets	19% (6.3% each)
3 Exams	81% (27% each)

Academic Honesty:

Cheating is forbidden, prohibido, interdit, verboten, Запрещается, 严禁, ممنوع. In order to be fair to students who put in hard work to succeed in this course, all forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. I design exams in ways that a) make cheating difficult and b) make cheating when it occurs easier to catch and prove. Nonetheless, the bulk of the responsibility for preventing cheating rests with you. If you are uncomfortable when taking an exam – please raise your hand and I will move you to another seat. Any evidence of cheating will result in a grade of 0 on the assignment/exam. Cheating on either exam will likely mean a grade of **'F'** for the course. In addition, *I will report* incidences of cheating to the Honor Council, which may in turn administer additional punishment. Do not falsely claim to be an instructor and request an instructor's manual. Book reps always check with the department and this will end badly for you.

Similarly, it is equally unfair for students to request specific grades in the course or additional extra credit assignments which are not available to other students. This includes contacting the instructor to inform them that one "needs" a specific grade for graduation, enrollment, or other financial issues. **Do not make grade requests!** These requests constitute academic dishonesty, and I will ignore all emails or notes which attempt to beg, pressure, or guilt an instructor for a grade. Students who wish to do better in the class may request help, additional readings, or studying tips. If you need a specific grade, I suggest putting in hard work from the start of the class, attending office hours, finding a study group, and keeping on top of assignments to prevent putting yourself in a situation where you are worried about your grade.

Special Accommodation:

If you require special accommodation for exams or lecture, you must let me know during the first week of classes. Ultimately, your point of contact is the University of Oklahoma Disability Resource Center (http://www.ou.edu/drc/home.html, 620 Elm Avenue, Suite 166 - Goddard Health Center) which will provide me with documented need for accommodation.

Additional Help:

There are additional sources of help outside of lectures and office hours if you need it. The economics department can provide helpful resources for students looking to hire a private tutor. For more information on this, check with the economics department office.