

Syllabus for ECON 362 Macroeconomic Theory

Florian Kuhn
ECON 362 – A 1 and A 2
Spring 2017

Prerequisites

Grade of C or better in ECON 160 and ECON 162; also grade of C or better in college level calculus.

Lectures

Section A1: 8.30 am – 9.30 am, MWF, Academic Building A G008

Section A2: 9.40 am – 10.40 am, MWF, University Union 120

Communication

Announcements about the organization of the course will be made at the beginning of class and/or on Blackboard.

I receive a large volume of emails. As such, I cannot reply to emails with information that is already given in the syllabus, posted on Blackboard, or was announced in class. I also cannot explain course material in emails – if you have questions about the course material, you may ask them during office hours or in discussion.

Teaching Assistants and Discussion Sections

Leila Salarpour
Arudha Antaneel
Andrew Bodnar
Jacob Padwa

Discussion sections begin the week of [January 23rd](#). You must attend the section you registered for.

Office Hours

Office hours begin the week of [January 23rd](#). Times and locations will be announced on Blackboard.

Mid-Term Exams

There are two mid-term exams, scheduled for [March 1st](#) and [April 19th](#).

Any special requests regarding the mid-term exams must be made in writing three weeks before each mid-term exam, i.e. on or before [February 8th](#) and [March 29th](#), respectively. After that, I will not consider any special requests.

Final Exam

The comprehensive final exam will be held during the final exam period. Note that this means that the latest possible date for the final exam is [May 17th](#). The specific dates, times, and locations for final exams for each course will be announced early in the semester by the University. NOTE: Department policy (see at the end of syllabus) prohibits instructors to accommodate any unexcused absences from the final exam, including travel plans.

Readings

The assigned textbook is *Macroeconomics*, 9th Ed., by Andrew Abel, Ben Bernanke, and Dean Croushore. You must have access to MyEconLab for this class.

Homework

There will be regular homework problems made available through MyEconLab.

In-class participation

The course will use an in-class polling system for student participation and short quizzes. Further instructions about the required hardware and how to register it will be announced in class and on blackboard.

In-class participation will be divided in three periods, corresponding to the dates of the midterms (period 1: from add/drop date to first midterm, period 2: between first and second midterm, period 3: until end of classes). Students will receive a percentage grade for in-class participation at the end of each period.

In-class participation is optional, but it can improve the grade of the final exam (see “grading” below).

Student Academic Honesty Code

Students in this course are expected to observe the [Student Academic Honesty Code](#) and should make sure they become familiar with its provisions. Violations of the code, for example, cheating on exams, will be prosecuted as specified in the Code.

Grading

The course grade consists of four parts: Midterm exams (20% each), homework (10%), the final exam (at least 41%, at most 50%), and three in-class participation periods (up to 3% each). For each period of in-class participation for which the percentage score is better than the percentage score of the final, 3% of the weight will be shifted from the final exam to the corresponding participation period.

The course score will be computed as the weighted average of the percentage score achieved in each of the four parts (midterms, homework, final, participation). Formally, this can be represented by the formula

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Course score} = & 20\% \text{ Midterm1} + 20\% \text{ Midterm2} + 10\% \text{ Homework} + 41\% \text{ Final} + \\ & + 3\% \max(\text{Final}, \text{Participation Period 1}) + 3\% \max(\text{Final}, \text{PP 2}) + 3\% \max(\text{Final}, \text{PP 3}) \end{aligned}$$

The course score will then be converted to a letter grade. There will be “a curve”. In recent years, the average grade distribution for all ECON 362 classes taught at Binghamton was: 10% D and F, 29% C, 40% B, 21% A. I expect the distribution in this course to match this average from previous years very closely, although I reserve the right to deviate in either way if I see reasons to do so.

ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT POLICY REGARDING MAKE-UP FINAL EXAMS

STUDENTS SHOULD NOT MAKE ANY TRAVEL PLANS to return home before the END of the exam period May 17, 2017 unless all exams, including make-up exams, have been verified. Those who book travel prior to the end of their scheduled exams will NOT be accommodated under any circumstances. The desire to leave early does not qualify you for an early make-up final exam—if you are not present to take the regular final or the scheduled make-up exam, then the missed final exam will count as an F towards your course grade.

ALL make up final exams in Economics will be given Wednesday May 17, from 8:00 AM to 10:00AM. All officially scheduled final exams for Spring 2017 will be linked from the BU Brain on February 7. YOU MUST CHECK FOR CONFLICTS. If a conflict exists you may request a make-up exam from the instructor of ANY of the conflicting courses. If you request a make-up exam for an economics course, a sign-up list to request the make-up exam will be available in class after the add/drop deadline – ask the instructor. Students MUST make their request for a make-up exam in economics NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, April 28.

It is the student's responsibility to learn from the instructor if the request has been approved. Only students who are approved may take a make up final exam. Students who have not requested a make-up exam in an economics course by April 28 will be required to resolve conflicting exams with the instructor in one of their other courses.

Make up exams are approved ONLY for the following conditions:

- **Conflicts with the OFFICIAL final exam schedule such as –**
 - **Two exams at the exact same time or**
 - **More than two exams that begin within a 24 period.**
- **DOCUMENTED personal illness or family emergency.**