

Course title: Macroeconomics – L9

Course code: ECON 2123

Provided by: Department of Economics

Enrollment requirement: None

No. of credits: 3

Instructor: Zhesheng QIU

Course Description

This is an introductory level course in macroeconomics that covers the following three topics:

- (1) short-run and medium-run economic fluctuations in a closed economy,
- (2) short-run economic fluctuations in an open economy,
- (3) long-run economic growth in a closed economy.

This course deals with theory, data, and economic policies to develop a balanced perspective on the real-world economic environment in non-technical ways.

We define major macroeconomic variables, such as gross domestic product, price level, and unemployment rate. Then, we will investigate how the goods and financial markets move in the short run. Building on the IS-LM model, we include the labor market in the analysis to derive the AS-AD model for the medium run. We will extend the model to an open economy by bringing trade and exchange rates into the framework. Finally, we will study the long run trends in output, i.e., economic growth.

Required Textbook

- Blanchard, Olivier (2021), *Macroeconomics*, 8th ed., Pearson.
- A single chapter from the 6th edition will be provided electronically in PDF format.

School Intended Learning Outcomes (SILOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- (1) Identify important macroeconomic variables and understand their relationships; (SILO#3)
- (2) Gather and organize the relevant macroeconomic information for a given context; (SILO#1)
- (3) Apply tools learnt in class to analyze historical and current macroeconomic events; (SILO#3)
- (4) Understand the operation of open economy and exchange rate related topics. (SILO#4)

Hopefully, you can also

- (1) Discuss the consequences of a macroeconomic shock or a policy shock; (SILO#2)
- (2) Develop an appreciation for macroeconomics and a desire to continue further study.

For the details of SILOs, please refer to
[UG - School Intended Learning Outcomes](#)

Course Format

This course is delivered through lectures and tutorials. Students attend two 80-minute lectures per week. Please try to attend all lectures and participate actively in discussions. Tutorials will be given on a weekly basis starting from the second week.

The academic calendar is provided in the following link:

https://registry.hkust.edu.hk/calendar_dates/dates24-25confirmed.pdf.

Lectures	Instructor	Zhesheng QIU (zheshqiu@ust.hk)
	Time and venue	10:30-11:50 Mon & Wed at 2302 (Lifts 17-18)
	Office hour	13:30-15:30 Mon at 6080 LSK
Tutorials	Teaching assistant	Emily CHEN (eckuan@ust.hk)
	Time and venue	10:30-11:20 Fri (from week 2) at 1001 LSK
	Office hour	16:30-17:30 Thu at 6066 LSK

Tentative Schedule for 3 Sections of this Course

Date	Plan
Sep 02 (Mon) & Sep 04 (Wed)	Ch01&02 – A tour of the world and the book
Sep 09 (Mon) & Sep 11 (Wed)	Ch03 – the goods market: the IS curve
Sep 16 (Wed) & Sep 23 (Mon)	Ch04 – the financial market: the LM curve
Sep 25 (Wed) & Sep 30 (Mon)	Ch05 – the goods and financial markets: the IS-LM model
Sep 25 (Wed) to Oct 04 (Fri)	Problem set 1 (10 MC + 1 Essay question, open book) in canvas
Oct 09 (Wed)	Midterm 1 (10 MC + 1 Essay question, closed book) in class
Oct 02 (Wed) & Oct 07 (Mon)	Ch07 (8 th ed) – the labor market
Oct 14 (Mon) & Oct 16 (Wed)	Ch07 (6 th ed) – putting all markets together: the AS-AD model
Oct 21 (Mon) & Oct 23 (Wed)	Ch17&18 – openness in the goods and financial markets
Oct 28 (Mon) & Oct 30 (Wed)	Ch19 – the open economy version of the IS-LM model
Oct 28 (Mon) to Nov 06 (Wed)	Problem set 2 (10 MC + 1 Essay question, open book) in canvas
Nov 11 (Mon)	Midterm 2 (10 MC + 1 Essay question, closed book) in class
Nov 04 (Mon) & Nov 06 (Wed)	Ch10 – the facts of growth
Nov 13 (Wed) & Nov 18 (Mon)	Ch11 – saving, capital accumulation, and output
Nov 20 (Wed) & Nov 25 (Mon)	Ch12 – technological progress and growth
Nov 20 (Wed) to Nov 29 (Fri)	Problem set 3 (10 MC + 1 Essay question, open book) in canvas
Nov 27 (Wed)	Course review
After Dec 08	Final exam (accumulative, 20 MC + 2 Essays question, closed book)

Assessment Rule and Grading Rubrics

Overall score

- Overall score = 25% problem set score + 25% midterm score + 50% final score

Problem sets

- The problem sets are open book.
- Your answers to the problem sets should be submitted in canvas by the due date. No late submission is accepted.
- You may work on the problem set in any way you like, but it is highly suggested that you first treat it as a practice for exams and then check the answers for review purposes.
- The grading rubric is lenient because the problem sets emphasize more about the learning activities instead of the learning outcomes.
- Problem set score = 100 if 3/3 completed and submitted
Problem set score = 80 if 2/3 completed and submitted
Problem set score = 60 if 1/3 completed and submitted
Problem set score = 0 if 0/3 completed and submitted

Midterm exams

- The midterm exams are closed book and in class.
- Each midterm exam covers the corresponding section of the course materials.
- Each midterm exam will be graded according to rubrics stated in the question papers.
- The possible score of each midterm exam is between 0 and 100.
- Midterm score = max {midterm 1 score, midterm 2 score}.
- No makeup midterm exam will be provided.

Final exam

- The final exam is closed book and arranged by the university.
- The final exam is accumulative and covers all course materials of the semester with more weights on those not covered by the two midterm exams.
- The final exam will be graded according to rubrics stated in the question papers.
- The possible score of the final exam is between 0 and 100.
- Absence in the final exam without informing the instructor **BEFORE** the final exam may result in a score of **ZERO**.

Attendance

- No mandatory attendance requirements for regular lectures and tutorials.

Mapping of SILOs to Assessment Tasks

Assessed Task	Mapped SILOs	Explanation
Problem Sets	SILO1, SILO2, SILO3, SILO4	Problem sets & midterm exams are designed as mini versions of the final exam, including a variety of questions to cover all SILOs.
Midterm Exams	SILO1, SILO2, SILO3, SILO4	
Final Exam	SILO1, SILO2, SILO3, SILO4	

Final Grade Descriptors

Grades	Scores	Description	Elaboration
A+	Top 2 of A	Excellent	Deep understanding of lecture materials.
A	>= 90		Proficient utilization of introduced analytical tools.
A-	85 to 89		Effective communication on related topics.
B+	80 to 84	Good	Solid understanding of lecture materials.
B	75 to 79		Appropriate utilization of introduced analytical tools.
B-	70 to 74		Fluent communication on related topics.
C+	65 to 69	Satisfactory	Adequate understanding of lecture materials.
C	60 to 64		Being able to utilize introduced analytical tools.
C-	50 to 59		Being able to communicate on related topics.
D	40 to 49	Marginal Pass	Partial understanding of lecture materials.
F	< 40	Fail	Lack of understanding of lecture materials.

Note that there is no “grade curving”.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to the university’s academic integrity policy. Students are expected to uphold HKUST’s Academic Honor Code and to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. The University has zero tolerance of academic misconduct. Please refer to [Academic Integrity | HKUST – Academic Registry](#) for the University’s definition of plagiarism and ways to avoid cheating and plagiarism.

Regrading Policy

If you believe that there is an error in the grading, you can file a formal, typed regrading request to your TA. The request should list the question you want to be regraded and an explanation of why. The request should be emailed to your TA within 7 days after the exam is returned. The TA reserves the right to regrade the entire exam. Scores may increase or decrease as a result.

Communication and Feedback

- **Email policy:** Please add [Econ 2123] in the title line of your email. It may take up to 2 or 3 days to respond in busy times like exam periods. You may resend the email if there happens to be no response after 48 hours. Questions asked right before the due dates of problem sets and exams may not be answered.
- **Office hour:** You are encouraged to utilize the office hour of both the instructor and the TA. Meetings outside of the office hour via appointment are possible if necessary.
- **Course feedback:** Early course feedback is appreciated. It could be sent to the mailbox of the instructor or from under the door of the instructor’s office anonymously.