

Spring 2016, ECON 2020 090- online

About this course This is an online course, which does not meet in-class. Please write for additional information, and visit the department's page on online classes as well as U Online

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Course Overview This course is intended to introduce students to main macroeconomic principles and theories. The focus will be on understanding the workings of three markets of a modern economy: the goods market, the financial market and the labor market. The goal is to learn how to think about macroeconomic issues in an analytical way. To this end some use of basic algebra and calculus as well as graphs will be necessary. Discussions of macroeconomic policy and tools and extensive references to current economic issues faced by the US economy and global economy in general will play a central part of the class. A successful student will, by the end of the semester, become familiar with main policy debates on fiscal and monetary policy, fiscal deficits and the global economy. In order to grasp contemporary debates about how economies and economic policies work in the real world, students will be asked to read articles from economic journals and newspapers such the Financial Times or the Wall Street Journal.

Course Objectives At the end of the course, a successful student will be able to: [1] Understand the general principles that underline the workings of the goods market, the financial market and the labor market in a modern economy. [2] Understand the mechanism and channels through which fiscal and monetary policies affect the macroeconomy. [3] Be familiar with current economic debates on macroeconomic intervention. [4] Understand how to use simple macroeconomic models to analyze an economy and to derive the effects of fiscal and monetary policies.

Textbook Principles of Macroeconomics, 11th ed., by Karl E. Case and Ray C. Fair, Pearson Prentice Hall. The textbook can be purchased from the university's bookstore. Other materials: Various blogs that focus on macroeconomic issues, magazines and newspaper articles. As I find interesting articles for you to read I will post them or the link to them on Canvas.

Teaching and learning methods This is an online class. All requirements can be fulfilled online; we will use [Instructure/Canvas](#). Multiple choice, essay, projects and discussion assignments facilitate learning. Midterm and final exam are completed online. Interaction between students (in groups, for example) and with the instructor will be fostered, in order to create a dynamic learning experience.

Course schedule & outline The midterm exam will be held the week before the Spring break. The final exam will be held during the University exam week which is scheduled for April 28-May 4, 2016. We will start with an introduction to economics and macroeconomics based on chapters 1 through 7 (we will not cover chapter 4). The substance for this course is covered by chapters 8-14 in Part III of the textbook and by chapter 20 in Part V. We will spend most of the time this semester working on these core chapters. Following the core material we will move on

to specific topics in macroeconomics. We will focus on chapters 15 and 17 and close with a review of main perspectives in macroeconomics presented in chapter 18.

Requirements and grading – It is your responsibility to follow emails and announcements sent through Canvas, and to stay up to date with readings (textbook chapters, discussions, assigned articles, etc). See the grade breakdown on the right hand side:

1. Chapter quizzes make up 30% of your final grade.
2. Two exams -- a midterm and a final exam -- contribute another 30% of your final grade.
3. Projects add 25 % to your final grade. Projects will include data work, short essays and participation into discussions threads which will be graded on substance.
4. Assignments add the remaining 15%. Keep in mind that some of these assignments earn participation credit for meaningful contributions (such as some discussion threads and selected exercises), but nevertheless are crucial contributions to your final grade.

Late assignments and exam policy All assignments will be administered through [Instructure/Canvas](#). The system is set up such that no answers can be submitted after the deadline. In other words no late assignments, exams, projects will be accepted. **To pass the class successfully you must be on top of these due dates, all of which will be posted in your class calendar. Active, regular participation is crucial for success in the course!**

Grading Grades are not curved but will follow an absolute scale according to university's requirements:

93% and above A+, 90% -92% A-, 86-89% B+, 82-85% B, 79-81% B-, 76-78% C+, 73-75% C, 70-72% C-, 67-69% D+, 64-66% D, 60-63% D-, <60 F

Disclaimer ADA – The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. ***Rights and responsibilities*** – All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code, spelled out in the [Student Handbook](#). Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.