

# EC202B Fall 2008, Boston University CAS

## Intermediate Macroeconomics Analysis

Tamon Asonuma\*

September 2 2008

### 1 General Information

- Class hour: 11:00am-12:00am, Monday, Wednesday, Friday
- Classroom: Room B19, School of Theology (STH), 745 Commonwealth Ave.
- Course website: <http://courseinfo.bu.edu/08fallcas.html> (will be created shortly)

### 2 Contact (Instructor)

- Office address: Room B3B, (Basement) School of Social Work (SSW), 264 Bay State Road
- Tel: 617-353-5689
- E-mail: [tasonuma@bu.edu](mailto:tasonuma@bu.edu) (Please write EC202B at the beginning of the subject line)
- Office hour: Monday 1:00-2:30, Wednesday 1:00-2:30

### 3 Grader

- Mr. Chien-Yuan Sher
- Office hour: B17C, (Basement) School of Social Work (SSW), 264 Bay State Road
- Tel: 617-353-4230
- E-mail: [cyshe@bu.edu](mailto:cyshe@bu.edu) (Please write EC202B at the beginning of the subject line)
- Office hour: Tuesday 4:30pm-6:00pm and Thursday 4:00pm-5:30pm

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## 4 Course outline:

The course is designed for the undergraduate students, who are interested and majoring in Economics. The goal of this course is to develop some concepts and tools, in a rigorous manner, for understanding and analyzing questions related to macroeconomics, such as what affects inflation rate in the US, what is the unemployment rate and etc. After taking this course, you are expected to be able to

1. Analyze and answer these types of questions with the use of graphs and/or mathematical models.
2. Explain and present your arguments and conclusions built from graphs and mathematical models by words

Due to the subject matters, the discussion will be quite abstract and conceptual. If you feel you may be inadequately prepared, I encourage you to consider taking this course in the future, and please feel free to talk to me on this.

## 5 Lecture Format:

Lecture will be conducted through the talks based on lecture notes. Lecture notes will be posted before every lecture. However, you are encouraged to make your own notes and explanations based on my presentation and the lecture notes for the materials covered. When making your own note, you just need to summarize the **ideas** and the logical structures that links the arguments (in your own words). Making your own notes can help you think through the lecture materials, which is the most important part in the learning process.

## 6 Topics to be covered:

The following topics will be covered in this course (Chapter from the textbook):

1. Introduction: Data of Macroeconomics (Ch2)
  2. Classical theory: National Income (Ch3), Money and Inflation (Ch4) and Unemployment (Ch6)
  3. Business Cycle: Economic fluctuations (Ch9), Aggregate Demand 1 (Ch10), Aggregate Demand 2 (Ch11) and Aggregate Supply and Short-run tradeoff between inflation and unemployment (Ch13)
  4. Growth theory: Economic Growth 1 (Ch7) and Economic Growth 2 (Ch8)
  5. Special topic: Open Economy (Ch5 & Ch12) or Policy Debates (Ch14 & Ch15)
- Depending on the general class progress, special topic may be skipped.

## 7 Prerequisites:

Introductory level of Macroeconomics (EC102/EC112 taking from Boston University or equivalent level of course if you took from other college/university) is **MUST**. You should be familiar with the analysis of diagrams with two (or more) curves and the difference between shift of a curve and movement along a curve. Good knowledge of high school algebra (feels comfortable and being able to solve simultaneous equation system, solve quadratic equation, interpreting graphs) is **NECESSARY**. Knowledge of calculus and difference-equation are **NOT** required but will be helpful in learning some advance topic later in the course. Please let me know if you have difficulty in meeting any of these requirements.

## 8 Textbook:

The following textbook is **REQUIRED**:

- Title: Macroeconomics, 6th Edition
- Author: N. Gregory Mankiw
- Publisher: Worth Publishers
- ISBN-13: 978-0716767114/ ISBN-10: 0716767112

Textbook should be available in BU bookstore (Barns and Nobles).

## 9 Attendance Requirement:

You are required to attend and stay until end of class in ALL lectures on the scheduled days. Missing, being late or leave earlier in total 5 classes or more will result in zero grade of attendance. This policy will be strictly enforced with No exception. If you have any travel plan and/or other responsibility during the term, please plan your travel and/or working schedule accordingly. If there is no way to resolve schedule conflict, please drop out from this class. Going to work is not an excuse of missing class, late for class or leave earlier for class.

ONLY certified medical reasons will be accepted for missing, being late or leave earlier in class. You **MUST** present a proper medical certificate from a certified medical doctor. The certificate must have the contact of the doctor, the name and contact of his clinic/hospital. The receipt from our clinic will **NOT** be accepted.

Family EMERGENCY will be granted with proper documents. Family events including, but not limited to, wedding is definitely **NOT** an emergency as you should know the date in advance.

There are one **mid-term exam (Wed. October 22nd)** and **one final (on scheduled date in the final exam week)**.

## 10 Grading and Policies:

Final examination is cumulative but emphasis will be on the last part of the course. Exams **MUST** be taken on the above date and completed in **permanent ink**. I will return the graded mid-term no later than the first Wednesday (October 29th) after the mid-term and complaints about the grading must be made on/before the Friday in the same week during my office hour. **Complaints about grading will be considered only if you received almost no credit and you think you deserve almost full credit.**

Your final course grade is based on

- (A) Final exam (40%),
- (B) Mid-term (35%),
- (C) Homework (20%) and
- (D) Class Attendance (5%)

Each item is graded based on 100pt scale. I will round your final course grade to the least integer greater than it and then determine your letter grade according to the following table

Final course grade range	Letter grade
94-100	A
90-93	A-
81-89	B+
75-80	B
71-74	B-
65-70	C+
60-64	C
55-59	C-
50-54	D
below and equal to 49	F

## 11 Homework:

You will be assigned to solve problem sets during the semester. The solving the problem sets is most important way to learn the materials taught in the class. You can work in group if you prefer, but you must hand in your own solutions. Our grader will grade your assignments and return them shortly. As mentioned above, homework accounts 20% of the course grade. If you have any questions concerning assignments, **please contact with our grader in his office hours. Complaints about grading will be considered by grader only if you received almost no credit and you think you deserve almost full credit.**

## 12 Make-up Exam Policy:

Rules for taking make-up exam are identical to the rules for having legal absence. Make-up mid-term is scheduled either Friday, October 24th or Monday, October 27th. Make-up final exam is scheduled during the exam period (no later than Decemner 21st). Due to the condensed schedule, it is impossible to schedule another time for taking make-up exam.

## 13 Academic conduct:

It is YOUR responsibility to read, know and understand the provisions of the CAS Academic Conduct Code. Copies are available ni the building of CAS Room 105. Students caught cheating or otherwise violating the rules of academic conduct will receive a zero final course grade. I will refer ALL cases of suspected academic misconduct, including but not limited to cheating, to the Dean's Office, with No exception.