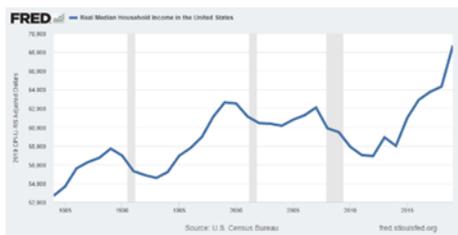SYLLABUS - CORE

Economics 10200

Principles of Macroeconomics
Spring Quarter 2022

Median Household Income in the USA.
Source: FRED series MEHOINUSA672N

Prerequisites

No prior familiarity with economics is assumed or required to succeed in this course. I will NOT assume you have any math coursework beyond algebra.

Measured Learning Objectives

Identify components of the macroeconomy and how they relate to each other.

Evaluate economic policy impacts within a simplified economic framework.

Interpret provided macroeconomic data.

Synthesize data and macro-economic theory

Analyze news events or opinion pieces.

Description

Department Website: By way of theory and public policy applications, this course covers current major domestic and international macroeconomic issues in the U.S. economy, including: the determination of income & output, inflation, unemployment, & economic growth; money, banking, & the Federal Reserve System; federal spending, taxation, & deficits; international trade, exchange rates, and the balance of payments.

Explained: What does economic theory imply about the causes or consequences of USA macroeconomic events and policies? We will discuss how economists measure the macroeconomy (income, output, unemployment, inflation) and how that data relates to our theoretical tools. We trade topic depth for topic range, applying these tools to analyze economic growth, business cycles (recessions and expansions), fiscal policy (federal spending, taxation, and deficits), monetary policy (money, banking, and the Federal Reserve System), and international economics (international trade, exchange rates, and the balance of payments).

Textbooks

<u>I do not assign mandatory homework or reading from any textbook.</u> I will post references to chapters for Mankiw in the Topic Summaries:

(GM) Mankiw.Principles of Macroeconomics (or Principles of Economics) 7th Edition or Later

(TR) Topical Readings: Articles or news stories integratingthe course content with current events or context which will be distributed on Canvas or referenced in homework.

While I provide references to Mankiw, you can use keywords from topic summaries to find the corresponding chapter in these books if preferred:

- (ALL) Acemoglu, Laibson and List. Economics
- (CM) Coppock and Mateer. Principles of Macroeconomics
- (CT) Cowen and Tabarrok. Modern Principles: Macroeconomics
- (DL) Dolan and Lindsey. Introduction to Macroeconomics
- (EC) Eric Chiang. CoreMacroeconomics
- (KW) Krugman and Wells. Macroeconomics
- (MM) Michael Mandel. Economics: The Basics
- (SW) Stevenson and Wolfers. Principles of Macroeconomics
- (TW) Taylor and Weeapana. Principles of Macroeconomics

	CLASS / *Discussion*	Office Hours			
MO	1:30-2:50pm (Kent 120)	4:00pm-5:00pm Zoom Appointment	-	-	-
WE	1:30-2:50pm (Kent 120)	9:30-10:30am SHFE 419 or SHFE 428	-	-	-
TH	-	10:30am-Noon Zoom Drop-In	1:30-3:30pm Zoom Drop-In	4:00-6:00pm Zoom Drop-In	-
FR	*1:30-2:20pm (See Canvas)*	-	-	-	9:30-11:30am Zoom Drop-in
		Dr. G.C. Pieters	**Yuchen Du**	**Stefano Bruzzo-Gallardo**	**Manuel Veras**
preferred salutation		Dr. Pieters//Prof. Pieters she/her/hers	Yuchen he/his/him	Stefano he/his/him	Manuel he/his/him
Email (@uchicago.edu)		gcpieters@	yuchen3@	sbruzzo@	mveras@

Econ 10200 SCHEDULE

CALENDAR

The following represents an outline of the due dates. As the course progresses, the Lecture Topics associated with each class will be updated to reflect what was covered. If the material changes, the date of assessments will **NOT** change, rather the content will be altered.

Week	Date	Summary§	Lecture Topic	Due
1	M, Mar 28	1	Big Measurement: GDP, Income, and Wealth	QRE 1
	W, March 30	2	Everything is Connected: Circular Flow Diagram	QRE 2
	F, April 1		*Discussion: Homework*	Homework 1
2	M, April 4	3	International Trade in Perspective	QRE 3
	W, April 6	4	(Macro) Economics of Trade	QRE 4
	F, April 8		*Discussion: Quiz Administered*	**Quiz 1**
3	M, April 11	5	Time Measurement: RGDP, NGDP, and per-capita	QRE 5
	W, April 13	6	Long Run Economic Growth	QRE 6
	F, April 15		*Discussion:* Homework	Homework 2
4	M, April 18	7	Economic Growth Policies	QRE 7
	W, April 20	8	Aggregate Demand and LR Aggregate Supply	QRE 8
	F, April 22		*Discussion: Quiz Administered*	**Quiz 2**
5	M, April 25	9	The AD-AS Model	QRE 9
	W, April 27	10	Business Cycles and Government Reallocation	QRE 10
	F, April 29		*Discussion: Homework*	Homework 3
6	M, May 2	11	Schools of Thought & SR AD-AS Equilibrium	QRE 11
	W, May 4	12	Fiscal Policy	QRE 12
	F, May 6		*Discussion: Quiz Administered*	**Quiz 3**
7	M, May 9	13	Debt, Deficit, and Taxation	QRE 13
	W, May 11	14	The Loanable Funds Market	QRE 14
	F, May 13		*Discussion: Homework*	Homework 4
8	M, May 16	15	What is Monetary Policy?	QRE 15
	W, May 18	16	What is Money?	QRE 16
	F, May 20		*Discussion: Quiz Administered*	**Quiz 4**
9	M, May 23	17	The many measures of Inflation	QRE 17
	W, May 25	18	Data and Theories: Unemployment	QRE 18 + Homework 5
	F, May 27*		*Discussion: Quiz Administered*	**Quiz 5**
Finals**	W, June 1		Quiz 6 Administered, 1pm-1:50pm	**Quiz 6**

§ Corresponding textbook readings and supplementary readings should be determined from the topic summary posted on Canvas. You should also review the material posted to Canvas (the class slides and practice problems).

*This is the last day to Withdraw. Graduating seniors' grades are due the following day.

Pass/Fail must be declared by email **at the start of the final exam time slot time.

STRUCTURE

In class I will show relevant theory with an application to a real-world situation. Each class meeting contains a "Quick Response Exercise" (QRE): an economic question to be discussed in groups with analysis ultimately shared with the entire class. Discussion sections revisit mathematical techniques and problems from class and introduce or revisit sample problems closely related to the homework. Discussion section material is selected and designed by the TA.

Homework questions are not a regurgitation of in-class examples: I design the biweekly homework assignment to evaluate whether you comprehend the material sufficiently to (1) understand the economic question, and (2) complete the economic analysis of that question. In addition to class attendance, I assume you work the provided practice problems, attend the discussion sections, and visit office hours or post on the Discussion board. In contrast to the class-discussion based QRE and group-based homework, the biweekly quizzes are an individual-level assessment of your knowledge and understanding of the course material.

GRADES CALCULATION

Aggregate Individual Score, AIS_i

Your *aggregated individual score* (AIS_i) is calculated from the combination of the three graded components of this class: (1) homework, (2) quick response exercises (QRE), and (3) quizzes.

- Each homework assignment is worth at least 5 points. <u>All</u> your homework scores are added together for a *Homework Component* that cannot exceed 20 points.
- Each QRE is worth 1 point. <u>All</u> your QRE scores are added together for a *QRE Component* that cannot exceed 10 points.
- Each quiz is worth 30 points. Your <u>4 highest</u> quizzes are added together for a *Quiz component* out of 120 points.

$$AIS_i = Homework\ Component\ (20) + QRE\ Component\ (10) + Quiz\ Component\ (120)$$

	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A
Default Cutoffs										
Fixed (out of 150)	90 60%	102 68%	105 70%	108 72%	117 78%	120 80%	123 82%	132 88%	135 90%	138 92%
Course Grade Curve (if needed) Distribution $\mu = Average\ S_i$ $\sigma = Std.Dev.$	$\mu - \frac{3}{2}\sigma$	$\mu - \frac{5}{4}\sigma$	$\mu - \sigma$	$\mu - \frac{3}{4}\sigma$	$\mu - \frac{1}{4}\sigma$	μ	$\mu + \frac{1}{4}\sigma$	$\mu + \frac{3}{4}\sigma$	$\mu + \sigma$	$\mu + \frac{5}{4}\sigma$
Share			C-: Median S_i (50th percentile)			B-: S_i of the top 25th Percentile			A-: S_i of the top 10th	

Grade Cutoffs

You will receive the highest letter grade for which your *aggregated individual score*, AIS_i, exceeds the grade cutoff score: $AIS_i \geq C_g$. If the entire class demonstrates mastery of the material (all scores are higher than the cutoff for an A grade), the entire class gets an A: <u>there is no grade rationing in this course</u> – you are not in a grade competition with other students in this class. I will not certify your understanding as mastery (an A grade) if it is not deserved.

The highest AIS_i you need to **guarantee** a grade is given by the "Fixed" cutoff (If you have 80% you will receive no less than a B-). I will "curve the class" using one of the curved cutoffs only if the cutoff is lower than the fixed cutoff. I *will never increase the cutoff above the default fixed value*.

A "Pass" for a Pass/Fail grade is a D. For the course to count towards any track of the economics major you need a quality (letter) grade of C- or higher.

Other Grading Notes

• All your grades and graded work will be available on Gradescope. I will not post scores to Canvas because it cannot calculate grades correctly.

• The class average on assessments may vary greatly from assignment to assignment. Individual assessments will not be curved.

• <u>No "Individual-Only" Extra Credit or "Grade Nudges"</u>. There will be NO additional grade assistance unless offered to the entire class. I ignore (and find insulting) all emails that ask for bonus assignments or a "grade nudge". **Everyone has equal opportunity to earn an A grade or to avoid an F**. Grades will not be adjusted to reflect the hours you report working on the course material, your effort, your class participation, your office hours or discussion section attendance, your financial aid status, etc. Your grades reflect only your understanding of the material as evaluated by assessments. Some students may be able to study for 10 minutes and obtain an A, while others can spend an entire week and receive an F.

POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Documentation posted on Canvas: Econ 10200 Syllabus Policies - Spring 2022 &
Econ 10200 Syllabus Resources - Spring 2022