

Course Information

Professor: Jake Zhao

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Friday, 10:30am – 11:30am, Wednesday, 8:30am – 10:30am

Classes: Tuesday and Friday, 1:30pm – 3:20pm, Room 211

Teaching assistant: Yuheng Chai

Office Hours: TBD

1. Course Description

1.1 Context

Course overview:

This course is structured to provide a rigorous introduction to the study of macroeconomics. The major topics that we will cover are growth, the real business cycle, consumption, and investment. Traditionally, macroeconomics taught at the master's level involve deriving analytical results from theory with some attention given to data. In conjunction with the traditional approach, we will learn computational and numerical techniques which can help with the solution of more complicated and realistic models.

Prerequisites:

Familiarity with intermediate level macroeconomics and econometrics (for example, textbooks such as “Intermediate Macroeconomics” by Mankiw and “Introductory Econometrics” by Wooldridge)

Basic knowledge of computer programming

1.2 Textbooks and Reading Materials

Required text:

“Advanced Macroeconomics” by David Romer

Recommended references:

Lecture notes and supplemental materials will be provided to students through the course management system (Course name: Macroeconomics, Password: MACRO2525).

2. Learning Outcomes

2.1 Intended Learning Outcomes

Learning Goals	Objectives	Assessment
1. Our graduates will be effective communicators.	1.1. Our students will produce quality business and research-oriented documents.	Problem sets
	1.2. Students are able to professionally present their ideas and also logically explain and defend their argument.	Problem sets, exams
2. Our graduates will be skilled in team work and leadership.	2.1. Students will be able to lead and participate in group for projects, discussion, and presentation.	Class participation
4. Our graduates will have a global perspective.	4.1. Students will have an international exposure.	Lectures
5. Our graduates will be skilled in problem-solving and critical thinking.	5.1. Our students will have a good understanding of fundamental theories in their fields.	Lectures, problem sets, exams
	5.2. Our students will be prepared to face problems in various business settings and find solutions.	Lectures, problem sets, exams
	5.3. Our students will demonstrate competency in critical thinking.	Lectures, problem sets, exams

2.2 Course specific objectives

This course is meant to provide a solid foundation for and develop students' interest in the further study of macroeconomics. In addition, the analytical and computational methods learned in this class may aid students in thesis writing and future research in various topics related to economics and finance.

2.3 Assessment/Grading Details

Component	Weight
Problem sets	10%
Attendance	10%
Participation	10%

Final	70%
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Homework: There will be 4 problem sets which will be graded with coarse granularity and mostly based on effort. Students are permitted to work in small groups but each person must turn in separate solutions.

Final: The final is scheduled on Tuesday, November 11 at 1:30pm – 3:30pm.

2.4 Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

It is important for a student's effort and credit to be recognized through class assessment. Credits earned for a student work due to efforts done by others are clearly unfair. Deliberate dishonesty is considered academic misconducts, which include plagiarism; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; or altering, forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying of data, research procedures, or data analysis.

All assessments are subject to academic misconduct check. Misconduct check may include reproducing the assessment, providing a copy to another member of faculty, and/or communicate a copy of this assignment to the PHBS Discipline Committee. A suspected plagiarized document/assignment submitted to a plagiarism checking service may be kept in its database for future reference purpose.

Where violation is suspected, penalties will be implemented. The penalties for academic misconduct may include: deduction of honour points, a mark of zero on the assessment, a fail grade for the whole course, and reference of the matter to the Peking University Registrar.

AI tools requirements:

Using AI tools to complete assignments or assessments without the approval of the course instructor will be regarded as an act of academic dishonesty. Depending on the severity of the situation, penalties will be implemented in accordance with the provisions of the Peking University Graduate Student Handbook.

For more information of plagiarism, please refer to PHBS Student Handbook.

3. Topics, Teaching and Assessment Schedule

Weeks 1-4 – Macroeconomic growth, endogenous growth theory

Weeks 5-6 – Real business cycle theory

Week 7 – Consumption

Weeks 8-9 – Investment