

ECON 201: Introduction to Macroeconomics

Instructor: Jonas Jin

Spring 2026

Email: jjjin@northwestern.edu

Class Hours and Location: MWF, 2 - 2:50 PM, Tech Lecture Room 3

Office Hours: T 1 - 2:30 PM, F 11 AM - 12 PM, or by appointment in Kellogg 3389

Teaching Assistants

Name	Email (@u.northwestern.edu)	Office Hours	Discussion Sessions
Davis Kedrosky	DavisKedrosky2029	M 3 - 4 PM (Kellogg 3198) Th 11 AM - 12 PM (Zoom)	T 10 - 10:50 AM (Tech L160) T 4 - 4:50 PM (Tech A110)
Vitor von Ungern-Sternberg	vitor	T 11 AM - 12 PM (Zoom) W 5 - 6 PM (Kellogg 3411)	T 4 - 4:50 PM (Tech M120) T 5 - 5:50 PM (Tech F281)

This class covers the principles of “macroeconomics,” or the study of whole economies. Material is separated into four rough units: microeconomics (particularly effects of and justifications for government intervention), macroeconomic growth, macroeconomic business cycles, and international macroeconomics. Topics include models that aim to explain economic outcomes, monetary and fiscal policy, unemployment, inflation, government debt, and more.

Textbook, Readings, and Other Materials

The textbook is *Principles of Macroeconomics* by Coppock and Mateer, 5th edition. The 4th edition (and likely many editions before it) will suffice and is cheaper. You may find the textbook to be helpful, but all **required** course material will be contained within the slides or readings. I will also post complementary readings (from relevant news articles/current events, blog posts, etc.) to Canvas.

TA Discussion Sections

TA discussion sections will generally build on class material, such as looking at interesting facts and trends in the data to better understand real-world applications. They will also occasionally review material. Material from discussion sections may show up on exams.

Grading and Assignment Policy

- **7 problem sets (15%)**

- Due at 11:59 PM on due date (see course schedule, though due dates subject to change via announcement)
 - * Each problem set will be weighted equally in your final grade, though your lowest score will be dropped.
 - * No extensions will be provided except in extreme cases (e.g. multiple medical/family emergencies during the quarter)
- Collaboration is encouraged, but everybody must submit their own copy, and your submitted work must reflect a significant individual contribution. Each individual should indicate with whom they worked.
- Please upload problem sets online through Crowdmark. Written copies can be uploaded using a scanner or an app such as CamScanner.

- **2 in-class midterms (45%)**

- Midterm 1 (15%): **Friday, April 17**, covering weeks 1 - 3
- Midterm 2 (30%): **Wednesday, May 6**, covering weeks 4 - 6
 - * This is just before the drop deadline. I will upload solutions to the exam immediately following so you have a good idea of how it went.
- If you have regrade requests, you must submit them within 3 days of the grades being returned.

- **Final exam (40%)**

- The final exam will be on **Wednesday, June 10 from 3 - 5 PM**. It will cover material from entire course, with a heavy focus on later materials.

Accessibility, NUHelp, Extensions/Missed Work, and Academic Resources

AccessibleNU: Any student requesting accommodations related to a disability or other condition is required to register with AccessibleNU (accessiblenu@northwestern.edu; 847-467-5530) and provide professors with an accommodation notification from AccessibleNU, preferably within the first two weeks of class. All information will remain confidential.

NUHelp: Students can find useful resources for safety and security, academic support, and mental and physical health and well-being at the NUHelp website: <https://www.northwestern.edu/nuhelp/>.

Academic Support & Learning Advancement (ASLA) (Registration Required):

If you would like to study with other students in this class, consider joining a [Peer-Guided Study Group](#). Participants will meet weekly with about 5 to 8 other students and a peer facilitator, a trained student who has already taken and done well in the course. During sessions, students review concepts, work through practice problems, bring their questions, and work together to develop answers.

Students register for the full quarter on CAESAR, and attendance is expected weekly. Study Group sessions are listed on CAESAR below course lecture and discussion sections (when searching for study groups, enter “SG” in the Course Number field in CAESAR to get a complete list of sections). Feel free to contact Borislava at borislava.miltcheva@northwestern.edu with any questions.

Drop-In Peer Tutoring – No Appointment Needed:

Students are welcome to stop by Drop-In Peer Tutoring to get support with a specific question or issue, or just talk through course materials with others. Tutoring is offered for this course and many introductory courses in Biology, Chemistry, Economics, Engineering, Math, Physics and Statistics. Tutoring takes place Sundays through Thursdays. Check specific times, courses, and locations on the Drop-In Peer Tutoring website. Feel free to contact Valerie at valerie.wolf@northwestern.edu with any questions.

Drop-In Peer Tutoring!

Econ 201, 202, 281, 310-1&2

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- **Sundays** 8-10pm: Shepard
- **Mondays** 8-10pm: Shepard
- **Tuesdays** 8-10pm: Schapiro
- **Wednesdays** 8-10pm: Shepard
- **Thursdays** 8-10pm: Schapiro

bit.ly/tutoringnu

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Additional Academic Support Options:

ASLA offers [individual and group peer academic coaching](#), as well as [consultations](#), to help students navigate their academic paths and refine their study strategies.

Provided through Academic Support & Learning Advancement. Wondering how to become a peer leader with ASLA? See the [ASLA website](#) to learn more.

Course Policies

Generally, this course follows the [Northwestern University Syllabus Standards](#), and students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with this information. Some of the specifics are below:

- **Academic Integrity:** Students are expected to comply with Northwestern's academic integrity policy found [here](#). All assignments must be submitted electronically unless otherwise instructed and may be tested for plagiarism.

Keep in mind that the Provost's definition of plagiarism "includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized use of generative artificial intelligence to create content that is submitted as one's own." Using AI in this class for assignments is permitted *only* to assist you in learning new software, such as Excel. However, any other parts of the assignment (including, but not limited to, written responses and interpretation) must be done without any AI assistance.

- **Late Assignments:** Problem sets must be submitted by 11:59 PM on the submission day (typically Sunday). Late problem sets can be turned with 25% of the total possible points deducted from the grade for each day that has passed after the deadline. For example, a homework assignment due on Sunday night at 11:59 PM and turned in on Monday morning at 4 AM will receive at most 75%.
- **Recording by Students:** Unauthorized student recording of classroom or other academic activities (including office hours) is prohibited. Unauthorized recording is unethical and may also be a violation of University policy and state law. Students requesting the use of assistive technology as an accommodation should contact AccessibleNU.

Under the University's Copyright Policy, faculty own the copyright to instructional materials – including those resources created specifically for the purposes of instruction, such as syllabi, lectures and lecture notes, and presentations. Students cannot copy, reproduce, display, or distribute these materials. Students who engage in unauthorized recording, unauthorized use of a recording, or unauthorized distribution of instructional materials will be referred to the appropriate University office for follow-up.

- **Missed Exams:** Please plan to take midterm exams as scheduled. If you have a valid reason such as a medical issue/exemption, religious or athletic conflict, or a family emergency, **please inform me as soon as possible** and we can figure out an alternative, which may include increasing the weight on other components of the class. **Absences I am informed of *after* the exam will not be accepted, and you will receive a zero on the missed exam.**

Per Weinberg rules, students are required to take the final exam in person at the designated time. I am unable to make alternative arrangements individually, but in the case of extenuating circumstances (e.g. similar to above), please reach out as soon as possible. This may require [petitioning for an incomplete](#).

- **Changes to the Syllabus:** Lectures and due dates on this syllabus are subject to change. *Any changes will be mentioned in class, and any changes to due dates will be made at least a week in advance. I will upload a new syllabus to the Canvas course site with any changes.*

Course Calendar

The course calendar is subject to change, but will be adhered to as closely as possible. Textbook chapters for each topic are in parentheses.

Lecture slides will be posted by 9 AM on the day of class.

Monday	Wednesday	Friday	TA Discussion Section/Notes
3/31 Introduction and Course Overview (on Tuesday)	4/1 Economic Thinking and Decision Making (1,2)	4/3 Supply, Demand, and Equilibrium; Elasticity (3, Appendix 4A)	Northwestern Monday, no TA session; PS1 due next Tuesday
4/6 Consumer and Producer Surplus (4)	4/8 Taxes and Subsidies; Deadweight Loss (4)	4/10 Market Structures and Market Failures	Price controls (5); PS2 due
4/13 Micro Application: Equity-Efficiency Tradeoff	4/15 GDP Measurement	4/17 Midterm 1	Taxes and the Laffer Curve; Midterm review
4/20 Production and Growth (12)	4/22 Long-run growth: Solow Model (12)	4/24 Solow Model: Empirics and Applications	Go over midterm; Gini coefficient and inequality; PS3 due
4/27 Business Cycles	4/29 Aggregate Supply and Aggregate Demand (13)	5/1 Keynesian Cross Model (14, Appendix 14A)	Solow Model review; conditional convergence; PS4 due
5/4 AS/AD and Keynesian Model Applications; Midterm Questions	5/6 Midterm 2	5/8 Inflation Measurement	Unemployment (7); Breaking down NLF; pandemic unemployment; Midterm review
5/11 Monetary System and Banking (17)	5/13 Monetary Policy (18)	5/15 Government Debt and Deficit (15)	Inflation consequences; applications of quantity theory; PS5 due
5/18 Fiscal Policy (16)	5/20 Phillips Curve (18)	5/22 Phillips Curve Applications	Financial assets: stocks, bonds, and mortgages/loans (9,10); PS6 due
5/25 Memorial Day; no class	5/27 International Macro 1 (19)	5/29 International Macro 2 (20)	Stabilization debate, policy lags; PS7 due
6/1 Technology, AI, and Macroeconomic Trends	6/3 No class	6/5 No class	Final exam on Wednesday, June 10 from 3 - 5 PM