Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis

Course: Economics 321 (Section 07)
Time: Monday and Wednesday, 4:30 pm – 5:50 pm   **Room:** CA-A4

Instructor: Prof. Zhifeng Cai
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Office hours: Wednesday 15:00 – 16:15 or by appointment

Teaching assistant: Yongbo Sim
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Office hours: Thursday 15:00 – 16:30 or by appointment

Prerequisites: Grades of C or higher in Intro to Microeconomics (220:102), Intro to
Macroeconomics (220:103), and Calculus I (640:135 or 640:151, or equivalent).

Course Materials: The required textbook is *Macroeconomics Policy and Practice* (2nd edition)
by Frederic S. Mishkin, which is available in hardcover, in an unbound value version, and as an
e-text. You are also required to enroll in **MyEconLab**, an online platform where problem sets
will be assigned and graded.

Access to MyEconLab can be purchased either bundled together with the physical textbook
(from the bookstore or the publisher) or separately at http://pearsonmylabandmastering.com.
Either way, you will need to register for the course at http://pearsonmylabandmastering.com.
More information on how to register can be found on the course Sakai site. Please register with
MyEconLab within 24 hours of the first class. The course ID for your section is: `cai38404`.

Registering for MyEconLab is mandatory. Assignments will be posted every week and can only
be answered online. You can access the site free of charge during a grace period (which lasts 14
days) but you must register to do so.

Grading: Course grades will be based on the following:

Exam 1	25%	October 9 (in class)
Exam 2	30%	November 13 (in class)
Exam 3	30%	December 21, 4:00 pm
Homework	15%	Due online every Tuesday by 10:00 pm

Note: Economics majors must earn a grade of **C or better** in this course

Late homework assignments are not accepted. You will receive a grade of 0 for late homework. When we calculate your total homework score, **your homework with the lowest grade is not included** (say there are 15 homework assignments in total, we will only count 14 of them and omit the one with the lowest grade. Use this opportunity wisely)**.**

There will be **no makeup exams**. If a truly extreme situation arises, you must contact me immediately. I must agree the reason was extreme enough to miss the exam and verification of your situation will be required. Otherwise, you will receive a grade of 0 for any exam missed.

There will be **no extra credit** work.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all classes and to participate in class discussions. If you will miss more than one class because of illness or a family emergency, please use the University absence reporting website: https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/ to indicate the dates and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

Cell phones and other electronic devices not used to access course materials **must be turned off** before each class begins.

Academic Integrity: Cheating will not be tolerated. The University has established severe penalties for cheating. The University's policy on academic integrity is found in the official catalogue at http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-at-rutgers

Learning outcomes: This class analyzes general equilibrium models of the aggregate economy. A student taking the course should gain a thorough understanding of the factors affecting long-run economic growth, the determinants of business-cycle fluctuations, the effect of monetary and fiscal policy on output and prices, the causes of unemployment, the causes and effects of financial crises, and issues related to the long-run solvency of the public sector.

Course outline: The outline below provides an overview of the topics we will cover. The precise order/topics may be revised over the course of the semester.

> Macroeconomic preliminaries: Chapters 1 – 3
> Long-run economic growth: Chapters 6 – 7
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> *Exam 1 (October 9)*
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> Saving and investment: Chapter 4
> Business cycle analysis: Chapters 8 – 13, 22
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> *Exam 2 (November 13)*
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> Current policy issues: Chapters 16, 17, and 20 (tentative)
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> *Exam 3 (December 21)*