

ECON 2123: Macroeconomics

Section Syllabus: L1 and L5

1. WHO ARE THE INSTRUCTORS?

General Information

- Instructor: Byoungchan Lee ([bclee@ust.hk](mailto:bcleee@ust.hk))
- Section Time and Location (3 Units)
 - L1: TuTh 10:30 – 11:50 AM, LSK G012
 - L5: TuTh 9:00 – 10:20 AM, LSK G012
- Office hours: Tu 2:00 – 4:00 PM, LSK 6068
- Course Website: <https://canvas.ust.hk>

Teaching Assistants

- L1: Dominic J. Pegler (ecdjpepler@ust.hk)
 - T1A: We 6:00 – 6:50 PM, LSK Rm 1009
 - T1B: Fr 12:00 – 12:50 PM, LSK Rm 1034
 - Office hours: Th 4:00 – 6:00 PM
- L5: Emily Chen (eckuan@ust.hk)
 - T5A: Tu 6:00 – 6:50 PM, LSK Rm 1034
 - T5B: Th 12:00 – 12:50PM, Lift 17-18 Rm 2406
 - Office hours: We 10:00 – 12:00 PM
- Weekly Tutorials
 - Tutorials will review course material, sharpen analytical techniques, and cover questions and problems.
 - Tutorials will begin from the second week of instruction.

2. WHAT IS THIS COURSE ABOUT?

Course Description

This is an introductory course to macroeconomics. It covers business cycles in a closed economy, aggregate fluctuation in an open economy, and economic growth (if time permits). This course deals with theory, data, and economic policies to develop a balanced perspective on the real-world economic environment.

We begin with defining major macroeconomic variables such as gross domestic product, price level, and unemployment rate. Then we will investigate how the goods and money markets move in the short run (IS-LM). Building on the IS-LM model, we include the labor market in the analysis to derive the AS-AD model for the medium run. We will further extend the model to an open economy by bringing trade and exchange rates into the framework. Finally, we will study the long run trends in output, i.e., economic growth.

Required Textbook

- Blanchard, Olivier (2017), *Macroeconomics*, 7th ed., Pearson.
- Chapters from the textbook will be assigned as readings. You are expected to read them.
- A single chapter from the 6th edition will be provided electronically in PDF format.

References

This list is only for those who find macroeconomics fascinating and want to study further in the future. They are not included in the required readings.

- Garin, Julio, Robert Lester and Eric Sims (2019). *Intermediate Macroeconomics*. https://www3.nd.edu/~esims1/gls_textbook.html
- Schmitt-Grohe, Stephanie, Martin Uribe and Michael Woodford (2019), *International Macroeconomics*. <http://www.columbia.edu/~mu2166/UIM/index.html>
- Landefeld, J. Steven, Eugene P. Seskin, and Barbara M. Fraumeni (2008). “Taking the Pulse of the Economy: Measuring GDP.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 22 (2): 193–216. <https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/jep.22.2.193>
- Romer, David H. (2000). “Keynesian Macroeconomics without the LM Curve.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 14 (2): 149–69. <https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/jep.14.2.149>
- Krugman, Paul (1994). “The myth of Asia’s miracle.” *Foreign Affairs* 73, November-December: 62-75.

Learning Outcome – School Intended Learning Outcomes (“SILOs”)

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- 1) Identify important macroeconomic variables and understand their relationships; (SILO # 4.1)
- 2) Gather and organize the relevant macroeconomic information for a given context; (SILO # 7.2)

- 3) Apply tools learned in class to analyze some historical and current macroeconomic events. (SILO # 4.2)
 - 4) Understand the operation of open economy and exchange rate related topics. (SILO #6.1)
 - 5) Discuss the consequences of a macroeconomic shock or a policy shock; (SILO # 4.3)
 - 6) Develop an appreciation for macroeconomics and a desire to continue further study. (SILO # 9)
- For the details of SILOs, please refer to the following link:
<http://www.bm.ust.hk/sbmlern/eng/thirdcat.php?sid=5&thirdid=3>

Course Outline and Tentative Schedule

- I. Introduction (Chapter 1 and 2): Week 1

- II. The Short Run
 - a. The Goods Market and The IS Relation (Chapter 3): Week 2-3
 - b. Financial Markets and The LM Relation (Chapter 4): Week 3
 - c. Goods and Financial Markets: The IS-LM Model (Chapter 5): Week 4

- III. The Medium Run
 - a. The Labor Market (Chapter 7): Week 5
 - b. Putting All Markets Together: The AS-AD Model (Chapter 7 from the 6th edition): Week 6-7

- IV. The Open Economy
 - a. Openness in Goods and Financial Markets (Chapter 17): Week 8
 - b. The Goods Market in an Open Economy (Chapter 18): Week 9
 - c. Output, the Interest Rate, and the Exchange Rate (Chapter 19): Week 10

- V. The Long Run (if time permits)
 - a. The Facts of Growth (Chapter 10): Week 11
 - b. Saving, Capital Accumulation, and Output (Chapter 11): Week 11-12
 - c. Technological Progress and Growth (Chapter 12): Week 13

3. ASSESSMENT / EXAMS / PROBLEM SETS

Assessment Scheme

Problem Sets	20%	4 problem sets
Midterm	40%	in-class exam on October 22, Tuesday
Final	40%	TBA

- Attendance to lectures or tutorials are not mandatory but strongly recommend.
- Letter grades will be curved in each section.

Exam, Review Session, and Re-grading policy

- The final exam is cumulative but focuses on the materials discussed after the midterm.
- We will review the materials in the last classes before each exam (Oct 17, Nov 28).
- If there is an issue that prevents you from taking either the midterm or the final, please contact the instructor BEFORE the exams.
- Re-grading policy
 - If you believe that there is a simple arithmetic error in adding up the points, please point this out to your TA within 7 days after the exam is returned.
 - If you believe that there is an error in the grading,
 - you can file a formal, typed re-grading request to your TA. The request should list the question you want to be re-graded and an explanation of why.
 - The request should be emailed to your TA within 7 days after the exam is returned.
 - The TA reserves the right to regrade the entire exam. Scores may increase or decrease as a result.
 - The TA further reserves the right to reject any request for fewer than 3 points.

Problem Sets

- We will have four problem sets, and all of them will be counted for the letter grade.
- Working in groups is welcome and recommended. However, each student should submit individually written reports.
- Late submissions will not be accepted.
- Graded problem sets will be returned through Gradescope. An invitation will be sent to your HKUST email account.

4. WHEN YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS...

Piazza (An online page for class Q&A)

- You can ask/answer questions online.
- An invitation will be sent to your HKUST email account.
- Active participants will earn bonus points at the end of the semester.

Email policy

- Please add [Econ 136] in the title line of your email. It may take up to 2 or 3 days to respond in busy times like exam periods.
- If your question needs a long answer with many equations and/or graphs, you are advised to visit office hours or talk about the question in classes. This is mainly because typing equations and/or drawing graphs take a long time, and therefore, it is not efficient.

Office Hours

- Time and Location: Tu 2:00 - 4:00 PM, LSK 6068
- If you are not available during the time above, we can arrange a separate meeting. Alternatively, we can just talk before or after sections.
- You can also go to the TA's office hours.
- Interaction with other students via Piazza is another good method to have answers.

Questions asked right before exams and due dates of problem sets may not be answered.

5. STUDENT COUNSELING

Many students experience personal and family problems, as well as emotional difficulties, such as depression, suicidal thoughts, and anxiety, while in college. The Counseling and Wellness Center is available to consult with you regarding various emotional health issues that may affect you or your friends. The Counseling and Wellness Center is in Room 5003, Academic Building (via Lift 3). You can also make an online appointment with student counselors. Outside office hours, you can call 8208 2688, which is a 24-hour helpline for all HKUST students.