

ECON 310: Macroeconomic Theory

Section 001: TR 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM (ST 115)

Section 101: TR 5:00 PM - 6:15 PM (ST 113)

Instructor: Dr. Shantanu Bagchi
Office: ST 101-A
Email: sbagchi@towson.edu
Textbook: Williamson, Stephen D., *Macroeconomics*, Addison Wesley, 5th ed.
Office hours: TR 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM and by appointment.

This syllabus is our contract, so please read it carefully.

- **Course Objectives:**

The objective of this course is to introduce students to modern macroeconomic theory and its applications. At the end of this course, students should be able to use macroeconomic analysis in understanding and predicting how households, firms, and the aggregate economy respond to changes in the economic environment, some of which may be policy induced.

- **Textbook:**

There is one required textbook for this course: *Macroeconomics, 5th edition* by Stephen D. Williamson. We will primarily follow the sequence of topics as laid out in the textbook, but I will cover some topics out of sequence because of their relevance. In addition to the textbook, I will assign you reading from news websites and blogs, which we will analyze using the concepts that we learn in this course.

- **Blackboard:** Blackboard will be our primary information-sharing platform. It will be your responsibility to check Blackboard regularly for any class updates. Two major functions will be handled through Blackboard:

- Announcements will be posted on Blackboard.
- Course documents, e.g. Slides, assignments and solution sets will be available for download on Blackboard.

As you will notice throughout this course, I will break down material from every chapter into slides. These slides will only be a summary of the material, and they will simply serve as pointers to the concepts and examples that I want you to learn. These slides are **NOT** a substitute for the textbook, and you will **NOT** pass this course if you do not read the textbook. You will need to read the textbook to successfully complete all the homework assignments and tests.

- **Cell Phone Policy:** No cell phones are allowed in class. If a cell phone rings or vibrates in class, or if I see you using it, I will make a note of it and take 20% off of your next graded work. There are no exceptions. If you need to have your cell phone in the “on” position because of an out-of-the-ordinary situation, then you will need to let me know in advance.

- **Examinations and Assignments:**

There will be two (2) mid-terms and one (1) final exam (100 points each), and homework assignments will be given periodically. Also, there may be one to two extra credit opportunities available to you at the end of the semester. There are also participation credits for this course: participation will count for 10% of the overall points, and will be awarded to only those students with **3 (three) or less** absences.

NOTE: Late homework assignments will receive **zero** credits with absolutely no exceptions.

- **Exam dates:**

The exams will be given on the following dates in class. If you are unable to take the exams on the dates specified below, you will need to let me know **at least one week** in advance to be eligible for a make-up exam.

Exam	Date
Mid-term 1	March 1, 2016
Mid-term 2	April 11, 2016
Final Exam	Section 001: May 17, 2016, 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Section 101: May 17, 2016, 5:15 PM - 7:15 PM

- **Grading Policy:**

Item	Weight
Mid-terms (2)	40% (20% each)
Final	20%
Homework assignments	30%
Participation	10%

- **Grade Scale:**

Percentage score	Grade
100-93	A
92-90	A-
89-87	B+
86-83	B
82-80	B-
79-77	C+
76-70	C
69-60	D
59 or less	F

- **Academic Integrity:**

Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning as well as to evaluating academic performance. While I encourage cooperation and study groups, you must abide by Towson's Student Academic Integrity Policy.

- **Students with Disabilities:**

In accordance with university policy, if you have a documented disability and require accommodations in this course, you will need to contact me at the beginning of the semester,

and also before any assignment for which you will require an accommodation. Students with disabilities must verify their eligibility through the Student Disability Support Service (DSS) office, located in the Administrative Building.

• **Tentative Course Outline:**

Introduction and Measurement	Introduction	Ch. 1
	Measurement	Ch. 2
A One-Period Model of the Macroeconomy	Consumer and Firm Behavior	Ch. 4
Mid-term 1		
	A Closed-Economy One-Period Macroeconomic Model	Ch. 5
	Search and Unemployment	Ch. 6
Mid-term 2		
Economic Growth	Economic Growth: Malthus and Solow	Ch. 7
Saving, Investment and Govt. Deficits	The Consumption-Saving Decision and Credit Markets	Ch. 9
	Credit Market Imperfections	Ch. 10
Money and Business Cycles	Money, Banking, Prices, and Monetary Policy	Ch. 12
Final Exam		