

FNCE 6230:
Macroeconomics and the Global Economic Environment
Fall 2023

Professor: Tim Landvoigt

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Teaching Assistants

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Office Hours

Tim Landvoigt: Zoom OH Wednesdays 4:30-5:30pm, or by appointment

TA office hour: Zoom OH Tuesdays 7:00-8:30pm

Course Materials

- (1) Slides posted online
- (2) Supplemental notes and videos posted online
- (3) Links to readings or other external materials to be accessed online
- (5) Macroeconomics by Charles I. Jones, W. W. Norton, 5th edition, 2020

Exam Dates

Final Exam

2h in-person exam on October 11, 7-9pm

Course Objectives

This course will provide students with the foundation to understand important macroeconomic issues and learn how to evaluate the macroeconomic and policy environment in which business decisions are made. The goal of the course is to develop a framework widely used by analysts and policymakers to understand different economic episodes and business cycle fluctuations. The first part of the course will introduce fundamental macroeconomic concepts focusing on the components of GDP, productivity and long-run growth, inflation, international trade, labor markets, and monetary policy. The second part will synthesize these concepts into a unified framework to understand important economic episodes such as the financial crisis of the 2000s or the Covid-induced recession. In the context of these applications, we will discuss the extent to which policy can or should affect economic outcomes. Throughout the course, we will relate the material to current macroeconomic events.

Course Structure

Lectures

Our course is lecture-based and meets twice a week for one hour and thirty minutes each meeting. Most lectures are divided into two parts: developing new economic concepts and applying those concepts to a current policy topic or economic issue. Students are expected to come to class prepared and actively participate.

Course website and readings

The course website is hosted by Wharton's Canvas system. It contains links to lecture slides, lecture videos, recorded class sessions (made available to all students for exam review), and other course content. The other content includes optional course readings, which are short articles drawn from the popular and financial press.

Textbook

The Jones textbook assigned for this class is optional. I will try to structure the class content to follow the textbook closely. Many students succeed without buying the text, but many other students find the text helpful. I will leave it up to you to figure out what works best for you. I will mark the appropriate readings from the text on the course reading list.

Quizzes

In most weeks, I will post a short (10-15 minute) online quiz on Canvas. The purpose of these quizzes is to give you an incentive not to fall behind on class material. In the past, students have found this commitment device very useful. The quizzes will be easy if you are keeping up to date with the course. We will also post practice questions to help you prepare for the quiz each week.

How to succeed

I will send weekly updates with reminders of what is expected for that week. However, I want to stress that succeeding in this course is simple: come to class prepared, actively participate in lectures, complete the quizzes, and, if desired, do the optional readings and participate in online discussions.

Expectations and Evaluation

Grading

Your grade will be determined by three components:

- (1) 60% from the final exam.
- (2) 20% from quizzes. There will be 5 quizzes total, but I will drop your lowest quiz grade.
- (3) 10% class attendance. We will use Wharton's dedicated app to track student attendance. Every student may miss one lecture unexcused. More unexcused absences result in a zero score for attendance.
- (4) 10% class participation. This grade will be based on responses to in-class quiz questions on PollEverywhere.

All quizzes will be administered online through Canvas. We will typically post the quizzes by Thursday morning of a given week and the quiz will typically be due on the following Tuesday.

The final exam will be given during the scheduled mid-semester exam period set by the MBA program office (see front page). The exam is an in-person exam administered as a quiz on Canvas. It is comprehensive, and closed-book. However, you may have one single-sided 8.5" x 11" page of handwritten notes for the exam. This handwritten page can only contain your own notes in your own handwriting—and may not contain large portions of reproduced notes or any other course materials such as slides, solution manuals or answer keys. Calculators are permitted. You must work on all quizzes and exams alone.

An exam can be rescheduled only if required by university policy. Any request for a makeup exam as well as notification of disability accommodations must be directly addressed to the MBA Program Office. Students that miss the exam for a valid reason, as determined by the MBA program office, will get the chance to take a make-up exam during a date to be determined.

Re-grades

Regrade requests for the exams must be submitted using the Regrade Request form together with the Statement of Honesty posted on the course website. Requests must be submitted within one week from the date the exam is returned. For any request, the entire exam will be automatically regraded; meaning, the grade may stay the same, go up, or go down.

Code of Academic Integrity

Students must adhere to the University's Code of Academic Integrity. Any student found responsible of academic misconduct, cheating, fabrication or plagiarism will automatically fail the class, and the incident will be reported to the MBA Program Office.

Recording Policy

By attending course sessions, students acknowledge that:

1. They will not: (i) record, share, or disseminate Wharton course sessions, videos, transcripts, audio, or chats; (ii) retain such materials after the end of the course; or (iii) use such materials for any purpose other than in connection with participation in the course.
2. They will not share links to Wharton course sessions with any persons not authorized to be in the course session. Sharing course materials with persons authorized to be in the relevant course is permitted. Syllabi, handouts, slides, and other documents may be shared at the discretion of the instructor.
3. Course recordings, content, and materials may be covered by copyrights held by the University, the instructor, or third parties. Any unauthorized use of such recordings or course materials may violate such copyrights.

Course Schedule

Class	Date	Quiz	Topic	Jones Ch.
1	8/29		Introduction, National Income Accounting	1.2-1.3, 2.2
2	8/31		Inflation and Real GDP Growth	2.3, 8.3-8.4
3	9/5	#1	Long-run Trends: Technology and Demographics	3.2-3.5,4.2-4.4
4	9/7		International Trade: Theory and Accounting	19.2,19.4-19.5
5	9/12	#2	The Labor Market and Business Cycles	7.2-7.3,9.2-9.4
6	9/14		Aggregate Demand and Its Components	11.1-11.4
7	9/19	#3	Monetary Policy and the AS/AD Model	12.1-2,12.5-7
8	9/21		Case Study: Stagflation in the 1970s and Volcker	12.3,13.2-13.4
9	9/26	#4	Financial Markets and Macro Fundamentals	
10	9/28		Case Study: The Great Recession	14
11	10/3	#5	Case Study: The Covid Crisis and its Legacy	
12	10/5		Review for Midterm Exam	
Oct 11			Final Exam: 2h in-person exam, 7-9pm	