

Economics 2105 - Principles of Macroeconomics – Fall 2026

Georgia Institute of Technology - Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts - School of Economics

Instructor Information

Instructor: Manho Kang

Email: manho.kang@gatech.edu

Section: GT6

Credits: 3

Overview

Macroeconomics is the study of the economy as a whole. This course covers core macroeconomic concepts such as aggregate output, inflation, economic growth, unemployment, exchange rates, and fiscal and monetary policies. We will develop a solid analytical framework that economists use to represent these macroeconomic phenomena. The goal is to analyze and think critically about the macroeconomy and policies, including current economic issues faced by US and global economies.

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Social Sciences area.

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I understand human experiences and connections?

Student Learning Outcomes

After this class, students will be able to:

1. Compute key macroeconomic indicators (e.g. GDP, unemployment rate, inflation, etc.) and explain their uses and limitations.
2. Describe the connection between individual decisions on consumption, savings, investment, and macroeconomy.
3. Examine how change in economic conditions affects macroeconomic variables.
4. Propose macroeconomic policies to deal with the current macroeconomic phenomena of their interests with their expected outcomes.

Career-Ready Competencies

This course should help students develop the following core competencies that help students make connections between their learning and their future lives and careers:

- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Inquiry and Analysis
- Problem-Solving

Required Materials

This course has online tests and homework assignments. You must have access to a computer and a stable internet connection.

Textbook and Achieve Homework System

Betsey Stevenson and Justin Wolfers. *Principles of Macroeconomics, 3rd edition* (2025). Macmillan.

You must purchase the textbook from the publisher or from the bookstore to get access to the online homework system Achieve. A physical copy of the textbook is not required. If you do not purchase a copy of the textbook and cannot complete the homework, you will not receive credit for the assignment, so please do not delay purchasing the textbook.

Communications and Canvas

Communication about the course and other course materials is available on Georgia Tech's Canvas system. I will upload additional course materials and post course announcements on the course page. I strongly suggest setting your Canvas Notifications so that Announcements get forwarded to your email. You can access Canvas at <https://canvas.gatech.edu/>.

Grading Policies

I will assign weekly graded homework assignments (Weekly Homework Quiz Assignments); three graded problem sets (Problem Sets) to engage you in learning and to provide feedback before exams; Economics Podcast Quiz to connect economic theory to real world problems; and exams to evaluate your overall performance in the course. In addition, Extra Credit opportunities are available for random in-class quizzes and CIOS participation.

Material	Possible Points	Weight
Weekly Homework Quiz Assignments	160	16%
Problem Sets	180	18%
Podcast Quiz	20	2%
Midterm Exams (2 planned)	340	34%
Final Exam (comprehensive)	300	30%
Total:	1,000	100%
In-class Quiz Extra Credit	12	1.2%
CIOS End-of-Semester Student Evaluation Participation Goal Extra Credit Points depend on class response rate: 50%= 1 point, 60% = 2 points, 70% = 3 points, 80% = 4 points, 90% = 5 points, 100% = 6 points	6	0.6%

There are 1,000 possible points for graded assignments, thus your final grade is the number of points you earn (plus extra credit) divided by 1,000. Your final grades transfer to the Georgia Tech grading system as follows:

A	4.0	Excellent	90.00% - 100.00%
B	3.0	Good	80.00% - 89.99%
C	2.0	Satisfactory	70.00% - 79.99%
D	1.0	Passing	60.00% - 69.99%
F	0.0	Failure	< 60.00%

Note that grades are not rounded up (e.g., 89.99% is still a B). I reserve the right to increase all final grades equally if the material is more difficult than expected, but this is unlikely. At the end of the semester your final grade cannot be changed with extra credit or makeup opportunities; this is for fairness to all students. Any requests for revisions to weekly Homework Quiz and Problem Set grades must be submitted *before* the Final Exam.

Pass/Fail Policy

If you are taking the class pass/fail, you must achieve a C grade to earn a pass in the class. Please reach out to me at the beginning of the semester if you are taking the class pass/fail.

Attendance/Participation

I will not check attendance. However, we will have six in-class quizzes throughout the semester. You can earn two extra points for each. There are no makeup opportunities.

Homework Policy

Homework Quiz Assignments are completed via the online homework system Achieve associated with the textbook. There is one Homework Quiz assignment per chapter of the textbook. In some weeks we will cover multiple chapters; therefore, there can be multiple Homework Quizzes in those weeks. Problem Sets are completed online on Canvas. There is one Problem Set before each exam – one before the first Midterm, another before the second Midterm, and the last one before the Final. Both Homework Quiz assignments and Problem Sets are assessed by the accuracy of your answers.

All homework assignments are due by 11:59 pm ET on their due date. I will accept a late graded homework assignment but there will be a daily Late Penalty (e.g., 3% per day) – If there is a change in the Late Penalty policy during the semester, I will announce it via Canvas. Note, there are NO dropped assignments – You are responsible for doing *all* weekly Homework Quiz Assignments and Problem Sets.

Podcast Quiz

Podcasts are one of the most enjoyable ways to learn about economics. To encourage you to explore economics, I will assign two podcasts during the semester. You can earn credits by listening to the assigned podcasts and completing a quiz. The podcast quiz is due by 11:59 pm ET on its due date. Late podcast quizzes do not count and there are no makeup opportunities.

Exam Policy

Exams will be taken in class using the Lockdown Browser – Be sure to bring your laptop to class (with a fully charged battery!) and that its Internet connection is working! I will provide a practice test in advance so you can check that everything is working properly in the Lockdown Browser environment before the test.

Exams cannot be rescheduled. If there is a verifiable emergency or approved athletic absence, we can work out an appropriate extension. For illness, injury, or other emergency, provide appropriate documentation to the Office of the Dean of Students (<https://studentlife.gatech.edu/dean-students/class-attendance>). Work missed may be made up at the discretion of the instructor. False doctor's notes fall under the Academic Honor Code.

CIOS Course Survey Extra Credit

I value your feedback – it helps improve this course. At the end of the semester, GA Tech issues a CIOS Course Survey. To encourage you to fill out this anonymous survey and keep response rates high, I will give extra credit to the whole class based on the CIOS response rates in the class.

If we get a 50 percent response rate, I will give everybody 1 point of extra credit (based on the Possible Points outlined above). If we get a 60 percent response rate, I will give everybody 2 points of extra credit. If we get a 70 percent response rate, I will give everybody 3 points of extra credit. If we get an 80 percent response rate, I will give everybody 4 points of extra credit. If we get a 90 percent response rate, I will give everybody 5 points of extra credit. Finally, if we get a 100 percent response rate, I will give everybody 6 points of extra credit. I will count the CIOS completion deadline for this offer as of the day before the Final Exam at 11:59 pm.

Collaboration

In this course, group work and discussion are allowed on homework assignments. When turning in homework assignments, each student must turn in an individual submission. The midterm and final exams are not to be discussed between students and must be completed individually.

Course Policies

Recording Classroom Activities

In order to preserve class integrity, student privacy, and a safe environment to express opinions, recording of our real-time classes in any format (e.g., using digital, tape, or audio devices) is not allowed. This policy can be waived for students with accommodations upon explicit recommendation from the Office of Disability Services. The instructor may record real-time classes to accommodate students in particular cases (e.g., learning-needs or illness), but these recordings will not be shared with students who simply miss a meeting without a compelling reason. If you're not able to make it to class due to illness or a university-sponsored activity, you can send an email to the TA (and copy me) and they can send you a Zoom link for a class meeting or arrange access to a class recording.

Students must receive the written consent of the instructor to distribute, sell, or otherwise commercialize class notes, lecture slides, lecture videos, and materials such as homework assignments and answers. Students may not store or distribute class notes and materials in homework repositories or test banks under any circumstances. Students may not share or distribute lecture videos or lecture notes outside of this class.

Freedom of Expression

As a faculty member at Georgia Tech, I respect your rights to the freedom of speech and expression. I am also committed to maintaining an orderly learning environment for all students and ensuring that all facilities are used in a way that facilitates teaching, learning, and research. Therefore, you should treat your peers and instructor respectfully in discussion. Disagreements are likely to happen. When they do, you are expected to disagree respectfully and to keep your discussion focused on evidence.

Discussions in this class are expected to take place solely within the course. Thus, statements made during class must not be quoted on social media unless the individual being quoted has provided their express permission. This applies to the instructor, students, and classroom guests. This policy is meant to protect student privacy and create a safe environment to learn.

Academic Integrity

“I commit to uphold the ideals of honor and integrity by refusing to betray the trust bestowed upon me as a member of the Georgia Tech community.”

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. For information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/> or <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>. Academic integrity is extremely important to me.

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on an exam or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

It is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. See <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/> for an articulation of some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Athletics Absences

If you are a student athlete, you must obtain statements of approved absence from the Office of the Registrar (<https://registrar.gatech.edu/>) one week in advance of your planned absence. I will accommodate your schedule if I have enough time, so please get in touch early.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at (404) 894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>, as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

This Syllabus is Subject to Change

At any time for any reason, I may need to update this syllabus. I will inform you immediately if I make any changes.