

Econ 2105 Syllabus

Principles of Macroeconomics Fall 2026

Class Location: **Van Leer C241**

Monday & Wednesday 11:00-12:15 AM

Instructor Information

Instructor
Daniel Dench

Email
dench@gatech.edu

Office Hours & Location
12:15 AM-1:15 PM Mondays, Old
CE Room 206.

Office Hours

I am available in-person on the second floor of Old CE. Please drop by during my office hours and ask me anything related to the course or economics in general.

Description of teaching format

Lectures will be held in-person on campus in the above room. Attendance is required. In addition, I will give 3 free exceptions on absences throughout the semester for participation grades, which can be further extended if you send me a doctor or other official note. These should be delivered no later than 1 week after absence.

Course Description

This course is intended as an introduction to basic economic and macroeconomic concepts. You will learn about concepts such as comparative advantage, supply & demand, gross domestic product, unemployment, inflation, monetary policy and fiscal policy.

Course Learning Outcomes

The intention is that by the end of this course you will understand all the basic macroeconomic terms mentioned frequently in the news but also be able to evaluate macroeconomic news for relevance and be able to place them in greater context. You should also be able to solve basic math problems related to macroeconomics and learn how to use the Bureau of Economic Analysis ([BEA](#)), Bureau of Labor Statistics ([BLS](#)), and Federal Reserve Bank Data of St. Louis ([FRED](#)) websites to further your own education on the history and recent status of the US economy.

Prerequisites

Students are assumed to know algebra before taking this course.

Required Course Materials

Required Textbooks:

1. Achieve edition of Modern Principles: Macroeconomics, 6th Edition by Cowen and Tabarrok (C&T). The cost at the bookstore is \$81.11. The access codes we sell at the store is a physical card that can either pick up from the store or have shipped to you.

The course id is dewxcm

Grading Criteria

Each week you will have assignments to turn in depending on the schedule as outlined on Achieve.

Attendance and Participation

Your Attendance and participation grade will be based on answering PointSolutions questions in class. You will be graded based on participation in these questions rather than on accuracy although taking the questions seriously is good practice for learning the material. See below for more details.

Pre-Lecture Quiz

The first type of assignment will be pre-lecture quizzes before lecture each week to answer questions related to the reading on the first day the reading is to be discussed in class. They are not intended to be challenging but rather assess whether you have completed the reading that week. You get unlimited attempts on these quizzes and there is only a 3% penalty for wrong answers. If you take them seriously it will help prepare you for class. I'm well aware that you can use AI like ChatGPT and Claude to easily solve these problems. Don't do it for your own sake, you will not do well on the exams. You are encouraged however to ask these services about things you do not understand but please be aware that the books answers are the final word for exam questions, not AI.

Post-Lecture Quiz

The second will be a post-lecture quiz due on Sundays at 11:59 PM each week to test your understanding of the concepts we learned during the week. You get 3 attempts with each question, but a wrong answer reduces your score on each question by 10 percent. For all assignments late turn-in is allowed but with a penalty of 1 percent per day. Since the penalty is lenient there is no exception to this late turn-in rule. I'm well aware that you can use AI like ChatGPT and Claude to easily solve these problems. Don't do it for your own sake, you will not do well on the exams. You are encouraged however to ask these services about things you do not understand but please be aware that the books answers are the final word for exam questions, not AI.

Exams

There will be two exams, one midterm and one final. They will be given by scantron. **No computer and no phones are allowed and the penalty for breaking this rule will be course failure.** The final will be related only to the material covered after the midterm exam.

10% Attendance and Participation

30% Homework Assignments

30% Mid-term Exam

30% Final Exam

Grade distribution

90-100% A

80-89% B

70-79% C

50-69% D

<50% F

PointSolutions

IOS app [link](#).

Android app [link](#).

Attendance and participation are mandatory. In class I will be using a polling software sponsored by Georgia Tech called PointSolutions-Mobile. Make sure you login through your GT email credentials so that your participation is recorded properly. When you arrive in class there will be a PointSolutions code to login to the session. Your attendance and participation grades will be based on answering questions in PointSolutions. You will be graded based on participation rather than on accuracy although taking the questions seriously is good practice for learning the material. The mobile device app was formerly named TurningPoint but has been renamed to PointSolutions. The software should be free to use with your GT credentials.

Academic Integrity

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/>.

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

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 in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech we believe that 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 expectation 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.

Course Schedule

(See Schedule posted on Canvas)

Core Impacts Statement

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?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcomes:

- Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior, and how historical, economic, political, social or geographic relationships develop, persist or change.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Intercultural Competence
- Perspective-Taking
- Persuasion