

# Economics 3334: Intermediate Macroeconomics

## Spring 2008

Prof. Dietrich Vollrath  
Office: McElhinney 201C, 743-3806  
Office Hours: 2:30 – 5pm Tuesdays  
Email: [devollrath@uh.edu](mailto:devollrath@uh.edu)  
Web: <http://uhec3334.blogspot.com/>

Teaching Assistant: Parul Mathur  
Office: McElhinney 246  
Office Hours:  
Email: [parulmathur@rediffmail.com](mailto:parulmathur@rediffmail.com)

### Textbook and Readings

The book for this course is Intermediate Macroeconomics (6th edition) by Gregory Mankiw. There is a variety of supplemental material available to help you with this course. The publisher's website ([www.worthpublishers.com/mankiw](http://www.worthpublishers.com/mankiw)) has extra problems, current data, and tutorials.

The second primary source of materials for class will be a website I will be updating specifically for my intermediate macro classes this semester. The site is <http://uhec3334.blogspot.com/>. On this site I'll post the articles that you'll be reading and writing about, as well as various other interesting items that are relevant to class.

### Mechanics

This syllabus covers both of my sections of intermediate macro. Econ 3334-03 meets T/TH from 10-11:30am in E. Cullen room 105. Econ 3334-04 meets T/TH from 1-2:30pm in McElhinney room 106.

For both classes, there will be a midterm on Thursday, **February 28<sup>th</sup>**, in class. This midterm will count for 30% of your grade. The final exam is on **April 24<sup>th</sup>**, in class, and also counts for 30% of your grade.

There will be three (3) problem sets due on (subject to change) **February 5<sup>th</sup>**, **February 26<sup>th</sup>**, and **April 3<sup>rd</sup>**. These problem sets, in total, will count for 20% of your grade.

You will have to write five (5) short article discussions during the semester. These will count for a total of 10% of your grade. The discussions will be assessed on the writing rubric presented in class. If your discussion does not meet the requirements, you will have to meet with a writing consultant at the UH Writing Center to receive credit for the assignment.

Finally, one longer paper summarizing an article I post will be due at the end of the semester, **April 24<sup>th</sup>**, and will count for 10% of your grade.

### Withdrawals

If you want to withdraw from this class without getting a grade, you must do this by the university deadline of **January 28<sup>th</sup>**. After that day, if you withdraw, you will

receive a “W” on your transcript, and you have only a limited number of “W”s that you are allowed to receive. You may withdraw with a “W” up to **April 1<sup>st</sup>**. After that date, you will receive a letter grade for the class regardless of your situation.

### **Problems, Issues, Emergencies**

If something comes up that will prevent you from turning in a homework, taking a test, attending class regularly, etc.. then speak with me immediately. We can work something out to make sure you can still succeed in the class, assuming I know what is going on. If you come to me weeks or months after the fact, I will not be sympathetic.

### **Course Outline**

1. January 15<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>: Introduction, data, and basic facts
2. January 24<sup>th</sup> – Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>: Income, Money, and Open Economies
  - a. Application: The U.S. Trade Deficit
3. February 7<sup>th</sup> – March 4<sup>th</sup>: Short run fluctuations, building IS/LM model
  - a. Application: Risk versus reward in the IS market
  - b. Application: Fed operations and money creation
  - c. Application: Housing bubble
4. February 28<sup>th</sup>: **MIDTERM** covers points 1-3
5. March 6<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>: Open economy IS/LM
  - a. Application: Currency crises
  - b. Application: The rise of China
6. March 25<sup>th</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup>: The Philips curve and implications
  - a. Application: The Great Depression
  - b. Application: The Great Moderation
7. April 3<sup>rd</sup> – April 15<sup>th</sup>: Other aspects of the macroeconomy
  - a. Application: Government debt
  - b. Application: Unions and unemployment
  - c. Application: Income distribution in the U.S.
8. April 17<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>: Growth and Development
9. April 24<sup>th</sup>: **FINAL** covers points 5-8