

ECON 4020: Intermediate Macroeconomics

Spring 2026 · Online

Instructor	Ayixunbati (Eisen) Nuerlantai
Email	ayixunbati.nuerlantai@utah.edu
Office hours	By appointment
Credit hours	3
Prerequisites	ECON 2010, 2020, and 3620 (or equivalent, or instructor's consent)

Course Description

What factors determine unemployment and inflation, and what drives economic growth? What can the government do to achieve policy goals? This course covers macroeconomic theories, models, and analysis focused on national income determination, unemployment, inflation, and public policy. It introduces standard models of the macroeconomy and the resulting policy recommendations and controversies. This course fulfills the Quantitative Intensive (QI) BS requirement.

The course is organized into 14 week-long modules, with a break that coincides with the semester break. The module schedule and assignment due dates are listed on the Canvas Modules page.

Course Outcomes and Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe, analyze, and critically discuss how demand determines output in the short run, and how other factors—such as consumer confidence, the state of the financial system, and fiscal and monetary policy—affect demand.
- Identify, describe, and critically discuss the natural rate of unemployment, and how the macroeconomy returns to the level of output corresponding to the natural rate in the medium run.
- Identify, describe, and critically discuss long-run growth of real GDP, and how saving, technological progress, and institutions determine it.

Required Materials

Olivier Blanchard, *Macroeconomics*, 9th edition. Please do not use older editions. The Canvas “Bookshelf” provides an online version of the textbook through the Inclusive Access program. Where necessary, complementary readings will be posted on Canvas.

Teaching and Learning Methods

All course content, grades, and communication reside in Canvas.

Canvas time zone. To view due dates and times correctly, set your Canvas time zone to your current location by following [this guide](#). If you do not change your time zone, all due dates and times in Canvas default to Mountain Time (MT). All times written in this syllabus, such as office hours, are in Mountain Time unless stated otherwise.

Online Course Expectations

While the academic expectations of this online course are equivalent to those of the traditional course, there are some additional expectations for participating online.

Instructor expectations

- The instructor will design the course to include lectures, reading materials, and assignments that challenge students and provide opportunities to learn and practice course content.
- Although the course includes pre-recorded lectures, it is not run “automatically” by technology. The instructor and teaching assistants will interact with the class through announcements, virtual office hours, email and the Canvas Inbox, feedback on assignments, and comments on discussion boards.
- The instructor and teaching assistants will respond to emails within 48 hours, not including weekends and holidays.
- The instructor will be available for individual consultation via virtual office hours, email, or phone. Students will not be required to come to campus to meet with the instructor.
- The instructor will provide timely feedback on assignments and follow all official University of Utah policies regarding conduct, incompletes, and accommodations. Accommodations are considered on an individual basis and only with the required documentation.

Student expectations

- Students will log in to the course at least three times per week.
- Students may be expected to work with classmates, but are not expected to meet in person; online video conferencing or any technology students are comfortable with is a good alternative.
- To do well in an online course, students must be self-motivated, organized, and willing to stay on top of the schedule.
- Students will regularly check course announcements, the instructor’s official means of communicating with the whole class, and will update their Canvas settings to receive timely notifications.
- Students who have questions or are struggling with course material will take the initiative to contact the instructor via the Canvas Inbox or email. If you do not hear back within 3 days, please contact the instructor again.
- Students will engage with the course, other students, and the instructor in a respectful and professional manner at all times, following the [core rules of netiquette](#).

Assignments

Assignment weights are shown in the overview on the Canvas syllabus page.

Exams. Exams are open-book, completed at home on Canvas, and mostly multiple choice. They are an important part of the grade. The final exam is not cumulative.

Projects. Projects are short essays or slide shows that require you to engage specific topics in depth, and may involve data work such as creating a time-series chart. They are an important part of the grade and ensure that you work through theories, evidence, and issues in detail, even without face-to-face discussion.

Discussions. Three graded discussion threads correspond to the major parts of the textbook: the short run (goods and financial markets), the medium run (adding the labor market), and the long run (economic growth). They gauge your participation and are graded for substance and style. You can ask questions, answer your peers' questions, or provide other insights.

Quizzes. Multiple-choice quizzes cover the substance of the material and prepare you for the two exams. They are a relatively small portion of the grade, but completing them requires reading the chapters on time and thinking through the material.

Other assignments. Other assignments engage you with your classmates and the materials in various forms. You usually receive credit for completion, and they count for a smaller portion of the grade.

Communication. Important updates and reminders are sent via Announcements, which usually link to discussion threads. Discussion threads are the principal tool of communication in this class and are visible to all students. Some are graded; others provide space for ungraded, non-judgmental questions and answers. You can always write to me directly as well.

Late assignments. No late assignments will be accepted, and no exceptions will be made. The course offers plenty of opportunity to complete work for credit, and in some assignment categories the lowest grade is dropped (see "Assignments" → "View by type" in Canvas). Students are also expected to verify that they have submitted the correct file; late submissions will not be accepted because of an incorrect file.

Grading Scale

94–100%	A	80–83.9%	B–	67–69.9%	D+
90–93.9%	A–	77–79.9%	C+	64–66.9%	D
87–89.9%	B+	74–76.9%	C	60–63.9%	D–
84–86.9%	B	70–73.9%	C–	0–59.9%	E

Technology Issues and Tech Help

- Contact the instructor immediately when you notice broken links or inaccessible files. Points lost because of inaccessible links or files cannot be made up if the problem was not reported before the due date.
- The instructor will fix broken links and inaccessible files as soon as possible and will post an announcement describing alternatives or new due dates if there is a significant delay.
- If a technical problem prevents you from submitting an assignment, immediately email the

instructor (attaching a copy of the assignment where possible), contact the Canvas help desk, and then email the instructor an update on whether the problem was resolved. Emails about tech problems sent after the due date are not appropriate.

- Read all assignment instructions and submit work in the required file format. Work submitted in an improper format will not be considered on time.
- 24/7 help is available via the Help button in the far-left Canvas menu.

University Policies and Resources

Updated mandatory syllabus policies regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act, Safety at the U, Addressing Sexual Misconduct, and Academic Misconduct can be viewed at <https://cte.utah.edu/instructor-education/syllabus/institutional-policies.php>.

Academic misconduct. It is expected that students adhere to University of Utah policies regarding academic honesty, including but not limited to refraining from cheating, plagiarizing, misrepresenting one's work, and/or inappropriately collaborating. This includes the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools without citation, documentation, or authorization. Any student who engages in academic dishonesty may be subject to academic sanctions as per the University of Utah's Student Code: <https://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-410.php>.

Drop and withdrawal. Students may drop a course within the first two weeks of a given semester without any penalties. Students may officially withdraw (W) from a class or all classes after the drop deadline through the midpoint of a course. A "W" grade is recorded on the transcript and appropriate tuition/fees are assessed. The grade "W" is not used in calculating the student's GPA. See the University's Academic Calendar for deadlines.

Campus resources.

- *Accommodations:* Center for Disability & Access, 162 Union Building, 801-581-5020, <https://disability.utah.edu>
- *Safety:* To report suspicious activity or request a courtesy escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677); <https://safeu.utah.edu>
- *Title IX:* Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 383 South University Street, 801-581-8365
- *Wellness:* Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776, <https://wellness.utah.edu>
- *Basic needs:* Basic Needs Collective, <https://basicneeds.utah.edu>
- *Tutoring:* Learning Center, <https://learningcenter.utah.edu>; Writing Center, <https://writingcenter.utah.edu>
- *Other student support:* <https://studentsuccess.utah.edu/resources/student-support/>

Syllabus changes. This syllabus is meant to serve as an outline and guide for our course. I may modify it with reasonable notice to you, and I may also modify the course schedule to accommodate the needs of our class. Any changes will be posted to Canvas under Announcements.