BOSTON COLLEGE  
Department of Economics

EC 2202.03 Macroeconomic Theory  
Fall 2017  
(Subject to change, at the discretion of the instructor)

Class time and location: M W from 6 to 7:15pm, O’Neill Library 253  
Instructor: Mehmet Ezer (ezerm@bc.edu) - Maloney Hall D335

Office Hours: M W from 4 to 5pm (Maloney D334)  
TA: Zheng (Will) Zhan (zhanza@bc.edu)  
TA Office Hours: F from 2 to 3pm (Maloney D334)

Required Text: Olivier Blanchard, Macroeconomics, 7th edition, 2017, available at the BC Bookstore (or direct from the publisher or Amazon).

Also required: MyEconLab (see below, at the very end of the syllabus)

Also required: Simple calculator – no graphing calculators will be allowed. Please buy one in advance before our first midterm exam.

PLEASE NOTE THAT: ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY FOR THIS COURSE.

Course Overview:  
This course provides an introduction to the modern theory and practice of macroeconomics. It covers a variety of classic questions in macroeconomics including: What are the determinants of long-run economic growth? Why do economies regularly experience booms and recessions? Why is there unemployment? What determines the value of money in an economy? The course focuses particular attention on how macroeconomic policy (monetary and fiscal) affects outcomes in these dimensions, and on using the tools of the field to evaluate alternative policy responses to current events.
The total amount of reading in this course is modest, but the prudent student will read it several times. The course material is cumulative, with each topic building on prior ones, so missing classes and falling behind are particularly bad ideas.

I also encourage you to follow current economic issues by reading on a daily basis one of the major national newspapers (e.g., The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, and The Washington Post). Fortune, Business Week and the Economist magazines also are good sources for keeping up on economic events.

I encourage discussion in class by asking you questions, which I urge you to think about and answer. I also encourage you to ask questions in class, especially when you are confused. If you are confused, so are many of your classmates. Do us all a favor, and speak up!

I urge you to study the material together. You can learn as much from each other as you can from the textbook or from class.

**Prerequisites:**

- Principles of Microeconomics (EC1131)
- Principles of Macroeconomics (EC1132)
- One semester of calculus

"Who are you kidding? You're all about small government until you get stuck in a tree."
Problem Sets:

I will assign problem sets from MyEconLab. You may work together on the problem sets. You may work in groups, but each student must submit her or his own work. MyEconLab does not accept late submissions.

Grading:

| Attendance & Class Participation: 5% |
| Problem Sets (MyEconLab): 15%      |
| Exam#1: 20% (October 4)            |
| Exam#2: 20% (November 8)           |
| Exam#3: 25%                        |
| Group Presentation: 15%            |

All exams will be in our classroom, during regular class time. (Our final exam is scheduled for Monday, December 18, at the usual class meeting time and location).

If you have to miss a midterm, please let me know as soon as you know it. Please note that I can only use my discretion to excuse you from the exam, when I receive formal notification from your dean about your case.

There will be NO make-up exams; if you miss an exam, the weight of the missed exam will be distributed on other exams proportionately. Any unverified absence from an exam will result in a zero score for that exam.

Group Presentation:

Group presentations will take place in the last week of classes. Groups will consist of three students each. We will discuss about the topics during semester. Presentations will be in power point or a similar media format. Each presentation will be 10-15 minutes max (3-5 minutes per student).

Below is a guideline for presenters:

1) We will form the groups and determine the topics right after the first midterm.
2) You will need to find 2-3 articles (in total) related to your topic, and send them to me so I can provide you with some feedback. [The choice of your sources is very important. It has to be directly related to what we covered in class and macro theory. Investment, stock market analysis, financial analysis pieces, op-eds or blogs from financial market analysts are not good choices. Sources like the Economist, WSJ, New York Times, FT, etc. will give you many options.]
3) Try to connect it to the material we covered in class, preferably using equations, graphs and our models. [This is the most important task, along with the choice of your sources. These two will shape your grade.]
4) Put your draft presentation together in a PPT format (10-12 slides max).
5) *Send your draft PPT to me at least 3 days before your presentation.*
6) Please make sure to *practice together at least once* before presenting in front of the class - the group will get a grade only as good as the weakest member, so please help each other to make this right. You can start communicating via e-mail.
7) I expect the presentation to be *smooth, quick and clear.*

This is only 3-5 minutes (3-4 slides) per person, I am sure you can put together an excellent presentation.

Below is a *guideline for graders*:
1) *Everybody* who is not part of the presenting group will be *grading* [1-10, 1 lowest, 10 highest grade]
2) For each presentation, I want you to submit these grades via e-mail, to me, by the end of the presentation day:
   i) The *choice of articles* (interesting, relevant, source) [1-10]
   ii) How well it was *connected to the class material* [1-10]
   iii) *Overall presentation* for the entire group (clear and smooth) [1-10]
   iv) In addition, you will also *grade each presenter on his or her presentation skills* [1-10] x 3

I will provide an Excel template to fill in the grades.

**Academic Integrity, Disability Services:**

Any infraction of Boston College’s Academic Integrity Policy (available online at [http://www.bc.edu/offices/stserv/academic/integrity.html](http://www.bc.edu/offices/stserv/academic/integrity.html)) will result in an automatic *F* for the course and the offense will be reported to the Dean’s office. There will be no exceptions.

Boston College is committed to providing equal and integrated access for students with disabilities to all available academic, social, and recreational programs and activities. The Disability Services Office at Boston College ensures that students with disabilities receive appropriate accommodations and assistance in order to participate fully in University programs. Students requiring assistance are advised to get in touch with the Office of the Dean of Students ([http://www.bc.edu/offices/dos/subsidiary_offices/disabilityservices.html](http://www.bc.edu/offices/dos/subsidiary_offices/disabilityservices.html)).

**Optimizing Your Performance:**

Here are some suggestions that may help you to have the best chance to do well in my class:

1) *Attend the lecture.* The purpose of the course is to teach you something, not to toss out information and see how much sinks in.
2) Study the material, don’t just read it.
3) Check our *Canvas page* regularly. I will update it weekly to indicate what we covered in class.
4) Take the *problem sets* seriously, because they are the best indication of whether you understand the material and they are the best preparation for the exams.
5) When preparing for exams, let the *lectures* guide you as to what is really important.
6) And by all means, seek help if you need it, and before you get hopelessly behind.
To register for Ezer - Macro - Fall 2017:

2. Under Register, select Student.
3. Confirm you have the information needed, then select OK! Register now.
4. Enter your instructor’s course ID: ezer25617, and Continue.
5. Enter your existing Pearson account username and password to Sign In.
   You have an account if you have ever used a Pearson MyLab & Mastering product, such as MyMathLab, MyITLab, MySpanishLab, MasteringBiology or MasteringPhysics.
   > If you don’t have an account, select Create and complete the required fields.
6. Select an access option.
   > Enter the access code that came with your textbook or was purchased separately from the bookstore.
   > Buy access using a credit card or PayPal account.
   > If available, get temporary access by selecting the link near the bottom of the page.
7. From the You're Done! page, select Go To My Courses.
8. On the My Courses page, select the course name Ezer - Macro - Fall 2017 to start your work.

To sign in later:

2. Select Sign In.
3. Enter your Pearson account username and password, and Sign In.
4. Select the course name Ezer - Macro - Fall 2017 to start your work.

To upgrade temporary access to full access:

2. Select Sign In.
3. Enter your Pearson account username and password, and Sign In.
5. Enter an access code or buy access with a credit card or PayPal account.