SYLLABUS: MACROECONOMIC THEORY, FALL 2019

1. CONTACT DETAILS

- Teaching assistant: Muneeb Naseem. Email: mnaseem@brandeis.edu. Office hours: Thursday from 2:00 - 4:00 pm, in the cluster at IBS.
- Instructor: Professor Maya Eden, meden@brandeis.edu. Office hours: Thursdays 8:30-10 am, Sachar International Center, Sachar 130D. Please email at least one day in advance if you plan to attend office hours, and let me know when you plan to arrive and how long you expect to stay.

2. READING

(1) Textbook: Macroeconomics, Mankiw, 10th edition (Macmillan Learning) (recommended; not required)
3. Course description and objectives

The course will familiarize you with some important principles of macroeconomics, and introduce you to some current open questions in the field. The topics covered include national accounts; growth; automation; money; and recessions.

4. Learning goals

Students will understand the basic principles of macroeconomic analysis, and master the use of relevant mathematical models. They will learn to interpret macroeconomic data, and use macroeconomic thinking to evaluate policy proposals.

5. Prerequisites

- Econ 20 (Intro to Macro)
- Completion of calculus through AP credits, a C- or above in MATH 10A, or passed the economics calculus exemption exam given at the beginning of each semester.
- Please note that the math prerequisite is not just a formality: we will be using basic calculus in this class.

6. Course plan

The plan is tentative and is subject to change at the instructor’s discretion.

(1) Until the first midterm: Introduction; national accounts; economic well-being; leisure; inequality.
(2) Between the first and the second midterm: The production function; growth; the Malthusian model; the Solow model; productivity; income and growth accounting; automation

(3) Second midterm through the end of class: money; economic fluctuations; the Great Depression; the IS-LM model

Important dates:
(1) September 6th: calculus quiz.
(2) September 27th: midterm
(3) November 5th: midterm
(4) Final exam date to be determined

7. EVAULATION

(1) Attendance is required.
(2) The calculus quiz is only meant to check that your math background is at the level required for class. The quiz will cover the same topics as the worksheet distributed in the first class. If you find it difficult, please take the week to brush-up on your calculus. The quiz will be graded on a pass-fail basis. Students who fail this quiz will be encouraged to drop the class.

(3) There are 6 problem sets. Together they amount to 10% of the final grade.
(4) There are 3 exams (two midterms and a final). Each one is worth 30% of the final grade.

8. DISABILITIES

If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.

9. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are expected to be honest in all of your academic work. Please consult Brandeis University Rights and Responsibilities for all policies and procedures related to academic integrity. Students may be required to submit work to TurnItIn.com software to verify originality. Allegations of alleged academic dishonesty will be forwarded to the Director of Academic Integrity. Sanctions for academic dishonesty can include failing grades and/or suspension from the university. Citation and research assistance can be found at LTS - Library guides.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

Please check your email for class announcements.