

Instructor: Grace Kim Robbins  
Course website: <http://bc.instructure.com>  
[http://connect.mcgraw-hill.com/class/g\\_robbings\\_winter\\_2013\\_online](http://connect.mcgraw-hill.com/class/g_robbings_winter_2013_online)  
Email: [grace.robbings@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:grace.robbings@bellevuecollege.edu)  
Phone: 425.564.2370  
Office: D200B  
Office Hours: Monday: 9:30-10:20  
Tuesday: 11:30-12:20  
Wednesday: 9:30-11:20  
Thursday: 11:30-12:20  
Meeting Times: Online course with no scheduled synchronous meetings



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### Contact with the Instructor

The easiest way to reach me with quick questions is by email. Some questions are much more easily answered in person, so I am available Monday-Thursday each week during office hours listed above. You do not need an appointment to come to office hours. Please feel free to stop by with any questions about the course, or feel free to stop by simply to chat!

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### Course Information

Economics provides a useful perspective and set of tools for analyzing and interpreting the world around us. Economics 202, a macroeconomics course, focuses on the economy as a whole and the relationship of economies with one another. The course presents major theories of business cycles and economic growth. We will examine why the economy fluctuates, how the nation's economic output is measured, what determines the rate of unemployment, and what determines the rate of inflation. Students will examine economic policies aimed at price stability and unemployment in an industrialized capitalist nation as well as factors in international trade and monetary flows. We will also look at the factors that determine long-term growth. With global economic health currently in question, this is a great time to study economics. We will spend considerable time in this class applying the concepts we learn to our current (and other historical) economic situations.

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### Learning Goals and Objectives

By the end of the quarter, students will be able to do the following:



- Correctly identify reliable sources and be able to calculate the primary summary statistics used to evaluate macroeconomic performance: real GDP, unemployment rates, inflation measures, labor productivity, money measures, interest rates, and the federal budget position. Have the ability to read and interpret the reasonableness of these data as presented in charts and tables.
- Understand the key components (consumption, investment, government expenditures and net trade) of GDP for an open, mixed economy and how these relate to the flow of resources, national income and goods through an economy.
- Identify and describe the processes a central bank uses to implement monetary policies
- Identify and describe the components of fiscal policy as enacted by the federal government

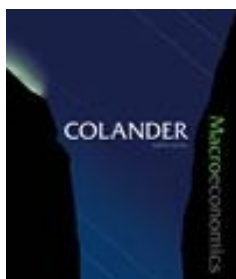
- Evaluate policies, within different time horizons, for their influence on business cycles, long-run growth, productivity and for various responses to external shocks to the economic system (growth and stability)
- Understand how the internationalization of our economy has changed the outcomes and choices of our domestic economy (including exchange rates, trade in goods and factors)

In addition, students may be introduced to a subset of the following:

- Explain the evolution of US capitalism from the Great Depression to the present and identify the major events that contributed to shifts in economic policy.
- Role of expectations, risk and uncertainty in modifying outcomes of actions, especially with respect to consumption and tax policies
- Short-term trade-offs of Phillips curve, Okun's and Gresham's Laws, and Taylor Rule
- An awareness of the competing macro theories and models
- A comparison of summary statistics with other countries' performance
- A discussion of how such measures, outcomes, and policies would be adjusted for lesser-developed countries

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## Required Text and Resources



The textbook we will be using for this course is *Macroeconomics* by David C. Colander (eighth edition). You will be required to purchase access to Connect Plus for the quarter, an online resource that includes access to an online version of your textbook. You may choose whether you'd like to have a hardcopy of the textbook or an etext which is available with Connect Plus (ISBN: 978-0-7167-7161-6). Another, perhaps more affordable option is to purchase the previous edition of the textbook to use as a reference.

### Connect Plus Description ([http://connect.mcgraw-hill.com/class/g\\_robbings\\_winter\\_2013\\_online](http://connect.mcgraw-hill.com/class/g_robbings_winter_2013_online)):

During this course, to complete certain assignments, you will be required to access a website dedicated to students and professors of economics. To access the website, you need to register for an account with connect using the link above. In the Getting Started module, registration instructions are provided so that you can register. Please register on the website within 24 hours using the registration information.

You should think of the Connect site as a source for

1. the electronic version of your textbook if you choose to use an etext;
2. LearnSmart study modules to help you apply the concepts you read in the textbook;
3. weekly graded homework assignments (quizzes) that assess your understanding of material covered.

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## Student Responsibilities

Students are expected to:

- help in creating a positive learning environment.
- login to the class five times per week.
- inform me ahead of time if you have any reason why you will miss assignments.
- know and meet the deadlines for all assignments and exams. *Please note that no make-up assignments or exams are offered!*
- come for extra help before small misunderstandings become major learning gaps.
- gain access to the internet. Students should maintain access and cope with any technology problems, including viruses, that involve your own machine or software.
- know BC's policies on withdrawing and other quarterly commitments
- complete their own work and be familiar with Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue Community College, especially with respect to cheating, stealing, and plagiarizing.



## Grading Policy

The best way to learn economics is by doing, not by memorizing. There will be a variety of homework assignments, exams, and activities in which students will demonstrate how they have learned to implement economic reasoning and analysis. Connect Plus offers a plethora of practice problems, including a LearnSmart study modules for major concepts in the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following grading scale:

Letter grade	%
A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	Below 60

Remember, according to BC:

A grades indicate *outstanding achievement*

B grades indicate *high achievement*

C grades indicate *satisfactory achievement*

D grades indicate *poor achievement*

F grades indicate *unsatisfactory achievement*

Grades will be based on the following weights:

Connect Homework	20% (5% for LearnSmart Modules, 15% for Chapter Assignments)
Canvas Discussion	15%
Paper	20%
3 Exams	15% x 3 = 45%

### Connect Homework

The graded problem sets should be completed individually (although students will have access to their textbooks as a resource during these assessments). The graded problem sets have a firm due date. In other words, ConnectPlus assignments must be completed by the due date. The software does not care whether you have an excuse or not. These assignments are posted weeks in advance. Do them early to avoid any emergencies preventing your completion before the due date. After the due date, you will be able to see the correct answers and the explanations for graded problems.

You have the option on any of the chapter assignments to re-do the problems with a minor (2% deduction) for additional attempts.

Students begin the quarter with **2 Free Passes** for homework assignments. The top grades will be counted, and the lowest two grades will be dropped. Since the 2 lowest scores are dropped, and since the materials are available well in advance, no missing assignments will be made up for any reason, even those that are not the student's "fault", including computer glitches, illness, travel, burglary, etc.

### Canvas Discussions

You will participate in weekly discussion boards with your fellow classmates. I will post a few question prompts on Monday of each week related to class material. You should write an original post to one of the questions and respond to at least two of your peers' posts in questions other than the one you answered. In general your original post should be done by Thursday (11:59pm) of each week, with the two replies to be completed by the following Sunday (11:59pm). Your posts should be substantive and add to the discussion, should be free of grammatical errors and written in a manner consistent with a college-level classroom discussion. You will be graded not only on completing the posts, but also on the depth and critical thinking behind your posts.

### Paper

The paper is designed to get you thinking like an economist. It will be due on Tuesday, 19 February and will be submitted in Canvas. More information about the paper and grading guidelines will be available in the weeks leading up to the due date.

### 3 Exams

Exams will be multiple choice and short answer questions to be completed in Canvas.

Exam 1 will be available in a 2-hour block during the week of 28 January – 03 February.

Exam 2 will be available in a 2-hour block during the week of 25 February – 03 March.

Exam 3 will be available in a 2-hour block during the days of 18-21 March.

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## **Preventing Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty occurring when students use information or material from outside sources without properly citing them. This is grounds for disciplinary action. It is your responsibility to understand plagiarism and its consequences. Plagiarism occurs if:

- You do not cite quotations and/or attribute borrowed ideas.
- You fail to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks.
- You do not write summaries and paraphrases in your own words and/or do not document your source.
- You turn in work created by another person.
- You submit or use your own prior work for a current or past course, or work from one current course in another course *without express permission* from your professors. This may also be considered academic dishonesty.

Consequences: If it is determined that you have plagiarized or engaged in other forms of academic dishonesty, you will fail the assignment and possibly the course, despite points earned through other work. Acts of academic dishonesty are reviewed for disciplinary action.

Please see the following Writing Lab link for more information regarding plagiarism:

<http://bellevuecollege.edu/writinglab/Plagiarism.html>

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**No extra credit will be offered under any circumstances! It is your responsibility as a student to be aware of the expectations set forth for this course. If these expectations of you are unclear, please come and speak with me as early as possible.**

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## **Resources**

### Disability Resource Center

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are required to meet with the Director of Disability Support Services (in Room B132) to establish their eligibility for accommodation. Telephone: (425)564-2498 or TTY (425) 564-4110. In addition, students are encouraged to review their accommodation requirements with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

### Writing Lab (Academic Success Center)

The Bellevue Community College Writing Lab gives students a free place to go for revision of **any** writing project, including class assignments, college applications, resumes, and personal projects. During 25-minute sessions, tutors in the Writing Lab help students individually by identifying weaknesses in a student's writing and explaining how to overcome them. To arrange an appointment in the writing lab to have your paper checked, please call 425-564-2200 or stop by D-204.

### Math Lab (Academic Success Center)

Students who are enrolled in a math class can stop by D-207 for help on math related problems.

### Academic Tutoring (Academic Success Center)

Drop-In Tutoring for Economics and Business students is available on Monday through Friday! Please check out C207K for this quarter's schedule.

Individual tutoring may be available for students with a grade of C or below. Please stop by D-204 to ask about eligibility and/or to apply.

### MCS – Multicultural Services

MCS has a very friendly staff who can answer any questions or provide help in a variety of areas. They can help you plan to complete college successfully, help you with financial aid application process, help you select classes, connect you with campus resources, help you talk with instructors, connect you with community resources that can help you with food, transportation, and temporary housing challenges, and generally support you in overcoming non-academic and academic challenges. They are located in the B-building above the bookstore.

### TriO

The TriO program provides extensive academic support, personal assistance, and financial aid guidance for students who qualify (first generation college students, low-income students, or students with a documented disability).