

Department of Economics

ECON&202 Macroeconomics

Syllabus – Sections 5120B124 and 5121B124 – Spring 2012

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Instructor Contact Information

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Course Description

This course will cover basic economic theories, models, and concepts and shows their applications to a variety of economic issues. We will examine why the economy fluctuates, how the nation's economic output is measured, what determines the rate of unemployment, the rate of inflation and trade imbalances. We will also learn about the major institutions involved in the economy, economic instability, and analyze the fiscal and monetary policy tools that can be used to help stabilize the economy. Additionally, we will explore the different perspectives from which macroeconomic policies are formulated to gain an understanding of the economy and become better to critically evaluate economic events and policies.

Course Objectives

By the end of the quarter, students are expected to accomplish the following:

- Be able to evaluate the key concept of opportunity cost and the utility of economic reasoning in personal or business decisions.
- Understand the key components of GDP and what its measurement tells us.
- Understand, analyze and be able to evaluate different explanations related to macroeconomic outcomes, such as inflation, unemployment, economic growth, and international trade.
- Identify and describe the major institutions through which macroeconomic policies are implemented.
- Be able to understand and critique the reasonableness of economic content of newspapers, journals, radio or TV broadcasts.

Prerequisites

There are no particular prerequisites for this course except that 30 prior credit of college is recommended. You should have a good understanding of basic math such as calculating averages, percentage changes, graphing, and setting up and solving simple equations. Additionally, you should have good English writing skills.

Required Materials

The online textbook required for this class is Macroeconomics by Paul Krugman and Robin Wells (second edition). It is available online via Aplia ([www.aplia.com](http://www.aplia.com)). Aplia is also the source of graded and non-graded exercises used regularly throughout the quarter. The Aplia fee for online access is \$90.00. If you prefer a paper copy of the textbook, you can print the sections of the online textbook. If you prefer a hard copy of the textbook you can purchase a new copy directly from Aplia, for an additional cost or purchase a used copy from Amazon or other sources. *You will still need access to the online Aplia in order to do the exercises and complete the course.*

### APLIA Description ([www.aplia.com](http://www.aplia.com))

You should think of the Aplia site as a source for:

- 1) the electronic version of your textbook
- 2) practice, non-graded exercises to give you immediate feedback on what you are reading
- 3) graded homework exercises that assess your understanding of materials covered.

Aplia is only one source of learning and assessment and is meant to be used in conjunction with the instructor's lecture notes and other class resources. Many assignments in Aplia come in pairs of practice and graded problem sets. The practice sets give you immediate feedback about whether your answer is right or wrong and an explanation of the correct answer. They are not counted as part of your grade. The graded problem sets do count towards your final grade. By completing regular work of practice and graded sets, you will better prepare yourself for the exams in the course.

### Blackboard (BB) VISTA Description

The BB VISTA platform is the course homepage and presents an online learning environment that provides space for course contents. Pay particular attention to the use of discussion postings, announcements and how to access weekly modules and emails. More information is provided in the homepage. Only registered students will be able to access the course homepage.

There is a BB VISTA tutorial attached to the Distance-Ed Web Site (<http://bellevue.edu/distance>) to help you get acquainted with the software used in your classroom. This interactive student tutorial can be reviewed at: (<http://bellevuecollege.edu/distance/classroom.asp>).

One of the advantages of an online class is flexibility on when you choose to study. Think about your learning style and your productivity at different times. This flexibility does not mean the course is self-study or completely self-paced. Note deadlines and plan in order to meet them. We use a calendar in Aplia and also on the Vista site. PLAN AHEAD. The calendar will show topics by week. I will ignore the issue of holidays, week-ends, and school closures. Some of us may choose to work during those days while others stay to a regular 5 day a week approach.

### Attendance

Students who do not log on at least 3 or 4 times during any given week and/or do not log on for 2 consecutive traditional school days are likely to miss important assignments or information. It is your responsibility to keep current and get an email message to me if you are planning on missing consecutive days. It is so easy to fall behind or miss vital procedural information if you do not set yourself a regular schedule.

Having said that, I do not plan on being online 24/7 myself. I know you all have other important parts of your life which require some of your attention. My goal is to help you organize yourself and utilize an approach that will not leave you overwhelmed at the end.

### Responsibilities

Read instructions carefully and be certain to meet deadlines for all assignments and exams. You are responsible for missed assignments and exams and no re-taking is allowed. There is no extra credit assignments also. The following are additional responsibilities you are expected to accomplish:

- Visit the on-line classroom four or five times a week. Realistically, set at least three or four times each week.
- Notify me ahead of time if you're going to be "absent" for two days or more in a row.
- Complete and submit required assignments on time.
- Let me know if you're having trouble with the course material in a timely enough manner so that I can help you solve it successfully.
- Obtain and maintain access to the Internet
- Cope with technology problems, including virus, that involve your own machine or software.
- Write ethically and do your own work. Plagiarism is not allowed.

The instructor is responsible to be accessible and respond to your questions/concerns in a timely fashion, and facilitate and promote a learning environment that helps you learn and enjoy the process of discovery.

### Grading Scale

| Percentages | Letter | Percentages | Letter |
|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|
| 100 – 95    | A      | 76 – 74     | C      |
| 94 – 90     | A-     | 73 – 70     | C-     |
| 89 – 87     | B+     | 69 – 67     | D+     |
| 86 – 84     | B      | 66 – 64     | D      |
| 83 – 80     | B-     | 63 – 60     | D-     |
| 79 – 77     | C+     | Below 60    | F      |

### Grading Procedures

Your course grade will be determined by your performance on the following five components:

|                            |             |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Hour Exam I                | 20%         |
| Hour Exam II               | 20%         |
| Hour Exam III (Final Exam) | 20%         |
| Discussion Questions (DQs) | 20%         |
| Aplia Graded Exercises     | 20%         |
| <b>Total:</b>              | <b>100%</b> |

## Exams

Exams are online and are made up of various kinds of questions including, but not limited to, multiple choice questions and short essay answers that require short paragraph(s). I will provide specific information on each exam and it will be "open" for a certain period (e.g. a couple days). Make sure you check your syllabus so you do not miss the "open" period. The three exams constitute 60 percent of your final grade. There will be no make-ups for missed exams and therefore follow posted schedules carefully.

## Discussion Questions (DQs)

Discussions are a crucial aspect of this course. Since we are not meeting person-to-person in class for lectures, much of our learning takes place through participations in DQs postings.

You are required to participate in posting answers to the weekly discussion questions (DQs). Your responses must be substantive that include your own thoughts. You are also required to respond to your classmates' posts. Substantive answers include making comments using concepts found in the assigned reading materials or offering examples from your experience. Hence merely providing a brief "yes, I agree" or "no, I do not agree" postings are not adequate posts.

Your active participation in the learning process requires your involvement in the discussion process. Participation involves posting answers to discussion questions (DQs), reading posted answers of your classmates, and answering, questioning, and expanding the discussion process. For a full grade of 5 points for each DQ, follow this guideline:

- (1) Post your answer to the posted DQ and this will earn you 1 point.
- (2) Read as many posts as you want – say 20 or 40 or more and this will earn you another 1 point
- (3) Respond, expand, comment or ask questions related to (2) above by completing three separate postings and these will earn you additional 3 points. All of your posts must be well-written.

It is intended that your involvement in discussions be of a collaborative nature. Collaboration is quite different from confrontation. Each week's discussion question will be graded on a scale of 0 – 5. At the end of the quarter, the points earned are totaled and expressed as a percentage. DQ assignments constitute 20 percent of your final grade.

## Aplia Graded Exercises

Each week Aplia assignments will be graded on different scales depending on how many points are assigned to the set of questions. Your final Aplia grade will be totaled and expressed as a percentage. Aplia assignments constitute 20 percent of your final grade. You have access to your book while doing these exercises so grades should be relatively high in this area. The practice questions can help you immensely since it provides you with immediate feedback also.

## Due Dates

Due dates are exactly that. Any assignment can be completed earlier but not after the deadline since the system locks you out. Note: All deadlines are based on local time (Pacific-time).

DUE DATES for Discussion Questions (DQs), Aplia Assignments, and Exams for ECON&202 Macroeconomics  
Sections 5120B124 and 5121B124 – Spring 2012

All DQs assignments are due on SATURDAYS at 10:00 P.M.

All Aplia assignments are due on SUNDAYS at 11:00 P.M.

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| Week 1 (4/2-4/8)   | Ch. 1- First Principles<br>Introduction to Using Aplia Problem Sets<br>Maths and Graphing Assessment with Tutorials<br>Discussion Question (DQ) Due: 4/7<br>Aplia Assignment Due: 4/8   |
| Week 2 (4/9-4/15)  | Ch. 3-Supply and Demand / Ch. 4-The Market Strikes Back<br>Discussion Question Due: 4/14<br>Aplia Assignment Due: 4/15  |
| Week 3 (4/16-4/22) | Ch. 2-Economic Models: Trade-offs and Trade<br>Ch. 5-International Trade<br>Discussion Question Due: 4/21<br>Aplia Assignment Due: 4/22   |
| Week 4(4/23-4/29)  | Ch. 6-Macroeconomics: The Big Picture<br>Discussion Question Due: 4/28<br>Aplia Assignment Due: 4/29<br><br>EXAM ONE on Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5<br>Available on 4/27 at 10:00 P.M.<br>Closes on 4/30 at 10:00 P.M.                     |
| Week 5 (4/30-5/6)  | Ch. 7-Tracking the Macroeconomy<br>Ch. 8-Unemployment and Inflation<br>Discussion Question Due: 5/5<br>Aplia Assignments Due: 5/6   |
| Week 6 (5/7-5/13)  | Ch. 9-Long-Run Economic Growth<br>Ch. 12-Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply<br>Discussion Question Due: 5/12<br>Aplia Assignments Due: 5/13  |
| Week 7 (5/14-5/20) | Ch.10-Savings, Investment Spending and the Financial System<br>Discussion Question Due: 5/19<br>Aplia Assignments Due: 5/20<br><br>EXAM TWO on Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 12<br>Available on 5/18 at 10:00 P.M.<br>Closes on 5/21 at 10:00 P.M. |

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| Week 8 (5/21-5/27) | Ch.14-Money, Banking, and the Fed Reserve System<br>Ch.15-Monetary Policy<br>Discussion Question Due: 5/26<br>Aplia Assignments Due: 5/27 |
| Week 9 (5/28-6/3)  | Ch.13-Fiscal Policy<br>Ch.17-Macroeconomics: Events and Ideas<br>Discussion Question Due: 6/2<br>Aplia Assignments Due: 6/3               |
| Week 10 (6/4-6/10) | Ch.18-Open-Economy Macroeconomics<br>Discussion Question Due: 6/9<br>Aplia Assignments Due: 6/10  |
| Final Exam Week    | EXAM THREE on Chapters 10, 13, 14, 15, 17, and 18<br>Available on 6/11 at 10:00 P.M.<br>Closes on 6/14 at 10:00 P.M.                      |

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Read completely the Guidelines below:

Take a note that it is unacceptable behavior to post rude or personal attacks in discussion messages or using information from the personal biographies posted to harass fellow students. The instructor reserves the right to remove messages posted, downgrade the assessment of the exercise, and/or refer the student(s) to the appropriate authorities.

## PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION Spring 2012

### Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing\*

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services.

### Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F").

### F Grade

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."

### Final Examination Schedule

The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.

### Withdrawal From Class

College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

### Hardship Withdrawal

Instructors may assign the grade of "HW" (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

### Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who

require accommodation in class should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with Disability Resource Centre, and review those needs with the instructor as well.

#### Distribution of Grades

Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BC Web site.

#### Return of Papers and Tests

Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways ONLY: by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of sixty (60) instructional days following the end of the quarter.

*\*If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.*

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