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Office Hours: M-F: 10:30 – 11:20
Meeting Times: M-F: 8:30 – 9:20 in A208 (Section A)
M-F: 9:30 – 10:20 in A208 (Section B)
M-F: 11:30 – 12:20 in L219 (Section C)



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 every day of the 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!

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.

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

Required Text and Resources



The textbook we will be using for this course is *Macroeconomics* by Paul Krugman and Robin Wells (second edition). You will be required to purchase access to Aplia for the quarter, an online resource that includes access to an online version of your textbook. You are not required to have a hardcopy of the textbook, but if you prefer to use a hardcopy, you can print the sections of the online textbook or purchase a copy from Aplia (\$55), the bookstore (\$120), Amazon.com (\$105) or elsewhere (ISBN: 978-0-7167-7161-6). Another, perhaps more affordable option is to purchase the previous (first) edition of the textbook to use as a reference. There are a few copies of the textbook on reserve at the library for short-term use.

APLIA Description (www.aplia.com):

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 Aplia at <http://www.aplia.com>. In the first week of class, I will provide you with an instruction sheet as well as a course key so that you can register. Please register on the website within 24 hours using the course key: FFXS-JW8Q-8G2S.

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 material covered.



Many assignments 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 course grade. Use them to check your understanding of the material. If you are confident, you can go directly to the graded problem set, and refer back to the practice set only if you want some additional help. The graded problem sets do count towards your final course grade, as outlined below.

You should register and make yourself familiar with the Aplia software as soon as possible. The cost of Aplia is \$90 per student for this class for the quarter. You may register and use the website until 23 January without paying the fee. If you are considering dropping this course during the drop/add period, do not make a payment until you are sure. You will need to pay the full amount before the end of the grace period to continue using the site. You may pay online with a credit card or personal check, or you can mail a check or money order to the address provided on the Aplia site.

If you can afford only one item, Aplia or the textbook, register for Aplia. You can read the textbook during my office hours, or in the library, but you must register individually at the Aplia site to do the assignments, which will count for part of your grade.

Student Responsibilities

WHERE'S MY BAILOUT??



Students are expected to:

- help in creating a positive learning environment.
- come prepared to every class. (Prepared means arriving on time with all materials needed for class and having read the relevant sections for discussion.)
- inform me ahead of time if they can't attend a class.
- 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 BCC'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.

Attendance Policy

Your attendance is very important for a number of reasons: you will have a chance to practice applying what we are learning in class; you will be able to clarify concepts and ask questions as they arise; I will be able to monitor the progress of the class and adjust the pace; you will learn from your peer's contributions and questions; and your peers will learn from your contributions and questions. As such you are expected to come to every class!

In order to align your incentives to show up with my desire for you to be here, for every entire class you attend you will receive **5 attendance points**, 1 point for every 10 minutes of class. These points will count as part of your In-Class Work grade as outlined below. Everybody starts the class with 5 extra points. You can think of these as a free pass, so if there's some emergency and you can't attend class, don't sweat too much. If you miss more than one class, you can complete the "Absence Make-Up Questions" found under

“Course Materials” tab in Aplia. You will keep these 5 extra points if you have perfect attendance for the quarter.

Tardiness: If you arrive late, you will lose 1 point for every portion of a 10-minute interval of class which you miss. If you leave early, you will lose 1 point for every portion of a 10-minute interval of class which you miss. (For example, if you arrive 2 minutes late (-1) and leave 11 minutes early (-2), you will receive only 3 attendance points.) Attendance will be taken by a designated team member starting in the second week of class, **and all team members will lose all points for the week if the information is recorded incorrectly.**

Cell phones are not allowed in class (unless cleared by grace beforehand). **If you are using your cell phone in class, you will lose 1 attendance point** for that day because that is time that you’re not really “with me” in class. The same is true if you are using your computer for non-class related work.

As backed by BC policy, **if you miss 20% or more of class meetings, you will automatically receive a failing grade for the course.**

Please do not come to class when you are sick!! **If you are sick** and unable to attend class, you will have a chance to earn these attendance points back: select an article published the day or the week of your absence, and complete the “Absence Make-Up Questions” about the article. The document with these questions can be found under “Course Materials” in the Aplia website.

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. Aplia offers a plethora of practice problems, including a Student Study Guide for each chapter which can be found in the “Course Materials” section, providing students with ample opportunity to check their level of understanding before sitting for in-class assessments. 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 BCC: A grades indicate <i>outstanding achievement</i> B grades indicate <i>high achievement</i> C grades indicate <i>satisfactory achievement</i> D grades indicate <i>poor achievement</i> F grades indicate <i>unsatisfactory achievement</i>

Grades will be based on the following weights:

Aplia Graded Problem Sets	15%
In-Class Assignments (including attendance and experiments)	25%

2 Think Pieces	$15\% \times 2 = 30\%$
Exams	$15\% \times 2 = 30\%$

Graded Problem Sets

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, Aplia 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.

Aplia problem sets make use of the **“Grade It Now”** feature, which offers you 3 chances to answer a version of a question. Your score on the question is the **highest** of the scores of the attempts you take.

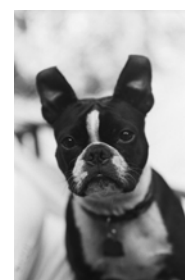
Students begin the quarter with **2 Free Passes** for homework assignments. The top grades will be counted, and the lowest two grades will be dropped. Since the 2 lowest scores are dropped, and since the materials are available well in advance, no missing assignments will be made up for any reason, even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

In-Class Assignments

There will be a number of in-class assignments throughout the quarter, generally completed as part of a team. (Team selection will happen in class during the first week of the quarter.) These activities or group quizzes are designed for the application of economic concepts and theories to real world examples. Attendance in class and participation in the activities are an important part of your grade. These assignments are not available before they are to be completed in class, but they will be posted on the Aplia under the “Course Materials” tab website after they have been covered in class.

If you are sick and miss an in-class assignment, and if you have completed the article summary and explanation as outlined under the “Attendance Policy” above, you can submit an individual in-class assignment for **partial credit**. The maximum score that you can receive is 20% less than your team’s score for that assignment so that you can feel the external cost you have imposed on your team with your absence.

To offer some more incentive to participate in class, students will have a chance to **earn Branston Bucks** to improve their grades. Students who participate in class or office hours by answering or asking questions or who demonstrate excellent classroom behavior will earn Branston Bucks, which can be used during the last week of class to buy back points missed from the In-Class Assignments score.



2 Think Pieces

You will write 2 Think Pieces at some point during the course of the quarter. These think pieces are designed to get you thinking like an economist. Each think piece will be approximately one page in length (single-spaced) and will be based on supplementary materials that are provided in the Assignments list in Aplia each week. In each Think Piece, you should provide a brief summary of the article (a few sentences); explain how the article illustrates a concept or model from class; and explain the connection between the current economic condition and the theory we discuss in class. Explain your own opinion on the role policy can play (if applicable) and provide any predictions on what you think may occur in the future after this policy is implemented. You may feel free to reference any other source of information, provided that you

do not plagiarize and that you cite the articles you use (preferably in APA format). Think Piece guidelines and a rubric will be available under “Course Materials” on the Aplia website.

Exams

The midterm exam will be held during class on Thursday, 27 January 2011. It will cover chapters 1-8. No make-up exams are offered. The final exam will be held during finals week (21-23 March 2011) at the time scheduled by the campus. (Section A: Wednesday at 7:30am/Section B: Monday at 9:30/Section C: Monday at 11:30.) The final exam will be a cumulative exam, although it will focus on material from the second half of the quarter. No make-up exams are offered.

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>

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.

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 or 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).