

ECON& 202 Macroeconomics
(This course was formerly known as:
ECON 200 Introduction to Economics: Macroeconomics)
Section information for an on-line course: Spring 2010
Credits: 5

Instructor: Marjolein van der Veen
Office hours: by appointment
Email: Mvanderv@bellevuecollege.edu
Phone: 425.564.5192

Communication with the Instructor:

If you want to email me, first use the email available within Vista. If this is not possible, you can email me at my Bellevue College address above. All Bellevue College students are also encouraged to get a Bellevue College email address (registration for BC email addresses is done at the N building).

I will usually log onto the course during business hours on weekdays (Monday – Fridays, 9am – 5pm), and will try to answer emails in a timely fashion. I tend not to log on to the course over the weekends. If you would like to speak with me over the phone, send me an email to arrange a phone appointment. If you would like to meet in-person for office hours, I will only be available a couple times over the course of the quarter, as I am currently living in Eastern Washington. I will be giving midterm and final exam review sessions (for those students living in the area who would like to have face-to-face review sessions).

Course Description

This course is designed to study the macroeconomy. 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. We will learn about economic instability and crisis, and analyze the fiscal and monetary policy tools that can be used to help stabilize the economy. We will also look at the factors that determine long-term growth. We will question the federal budget deficit and why it has risen. We will also study trade policies, trade imbalances, the trade deficit, and fluctuations in the value of currencies. We will learn about the major institutions involved in the economy, and the historical context that shaped the economy of today. We will explore the different perspectives from which macroeconomic theory and policy has been formulated, to gain a better understanding of the macroeconomy and become better able to critically evaluate economic events and policies.

Expected Course Outcomes (according to the Economics department and BC):

1. Analyze macroeconomic outcomes, such as inflation, unemployment, economic growth, and trade and payments balances, by identifying and evaluating explanations, interpretations, possible solutions, and reliable sources of analysis and data.
2. Use economic reasoning and principles to compare and evaluate possible causes of and solutions for macroeconomic instability.
3. Identify the influence and importance of value judgments with regard to macroeconomic problems such as stagnation, budget and trade deficits, or slow productivity growth.
4. Identify and describe the major institutions through which macroeconomic policies are implemented.
5. Identify, compare, and use key macroeconomic statistics; be able to distinguish between data and conclusions based on data; and be able to explain the methods used to gather reported statistics and identify the misuse of economic statistics.
6. Explain the evolution of U.S. capitalism from the Great Depression to the present and identify the major trends in economic policy.
7. Compare and contrast the major traditions of economic thought as they apply to macroeconomic theory and policy.

Prerequisites:

Recommended: 30 prior college credits. You should have a grasp of basic math skills, such as calculating averages, percentage change, graphing, setting up equations and solving for unknown variables, etc.

Texts and other Required Materials

Required:

1. Goodwin et al., *Macroeconomics In Context*, 1st edition, M.E. Sharpe, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-7656-2297-6. The textbook is available for purchase in the campus bookstore. E-text versions of the textbook are also available for a price of \$35 at: <http://www.sharpe-etext.com/product/macroeconomics-in-context> Used copies can often be found on the internet (such as at Amazon.com.) Supplementary materials (such as a student study guide) are available for free on the website, at: <http://www.ase.tufts.edu/gdae/publications/textbooks/macroeconomics.html>

2. Aplia subscription: Aplia is an online learning tool for students, available at: www.aplia.com
Fee: \$35.00

Course Key: TBA

Grace Period: April 25, 2010

Additional articles and handouts may be posted by the instructor.

Attendance

Students are expected to log into the course on a daily basis, and participate by posting onto the threaded bulletin board discussions. In this fashion, we will be creating a “virtual classroom.” Your postings will be an important component of the class requirements and your grade (see below).

Course Requirements

1. One midterm exam, which will be conducted on-line, and will comprise 20% of the grade. The midterm exam will be given half-way through the quarter, via the assessment tool.

2. A final exam, which will be a proctored, in-class exam, and will comprise 30% of the grade. The final exam will be held during the final exam period.

3. Discussion postings, which will comprise 25% of your grade. You are required to respond to the discussion questions posted every week, by providing a “substantive” post to each of the questions posted, and at least 2 replies to other students’ postings. By “substantive”, I mean providing a quality post, providing your own thoughts on the material and/or responding to your classmates with a post showing that you are engaging with the material and ideas being discussed. Each weekly discussion will be graded on a scale of 0-10, and then at the end of the quarter, averaged and expressed as a percentage. The lowest weekly discussion grade will be dropped.

4. Weekly homework assignments and aplia exercises, which will comprise 25% of your grade. Your weekly homework/aplia assignment will be graded on a scale of 0 - 10. Your final homework/aplia grade will be an average of your weekly scores and expressed as a percentage. The lowest weekly homework grade will be dropped.

Grade overview:

Weekly homework and aplia exercises: 25%

Discussion postings: 25%

Midterm exam: 20%

Final exam: 30%

Total: 100%

The exams may include short essay questions, numerical problems and multiple choice questions. The exams will cover material presented during class and assigned readings in the text for that segment of the course. The exams are only comprehensive (or cumulative) in the sense that the material in the later chapters build on material in the earlier chapters. Make-up examinations will be given only if an emergency arises and if the student makes prior arrangements.

Students With Disabilities: If you have medical information to share with me in the event of an emergency, please contact me via email or come to see me during office hours. Emergency preparedness is important! If you need course modifications, adaptations, or accommodations because of a disability, I can refer you to our Disability Resource Center (DRC). If you prefer, you may contact them directly by going to B132 or by calling 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110. Information is also available on their website at <http://bellevuecollege.edu/drc/>

Other services you should be aware of include:

- For technical difficulties with the online aspects of the course: Liz Anderson with Distance Ed, Rm. A140, 425-564-2438.
- Financial Aid, B building, 1st floor, 425-564-2227.
- Library Media Center, D126, 425-564-6161.
- Academic Tutoring Center, D204, 425-564-2468
- Social Sciences Advisor: Deanne Eschback, deschbac@bellevuecollege.edu, 425-564-2216.
- Counseling Center, B234, 425-564-2212.

If you need help with your writing, please make use of the following student support services:

- Academic Success Center: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/academicsuccess/>
- Academic Tutoring Center: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/tutoring/>
- TRiO Student Support Services: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/TRiO/>
- Writing Lab @ BCC: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/writinglab/>

In addition, consider exploring the LMC! The Library Media Center is at your fingertips! I strongly encourage you to visit the LMC at least once a week, but you can also access it via the web. Talk to a Reference Librarian at the Library (D-126), by calling (425) 564-6161, or by email reference@bellevuecollege.edu.

- Main Library Media Center: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/>
- For the LMC online catalog: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/catalogs.html>
- For article databases: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/periodicals.html>

Rules for in-class proctored final examination:

- Only non-programmable calculators and non-electronic dictionaries allowed.
- Once the exam has begun, students will not be permitted to leave the room until the exam has been turned in to the instructor. Hence, make sure you use the bathroom before coming to class to take the exam.

Cheating

Any student who is found cheating or engaging in plagiarism will receive no grade (i.e. a zero) for that exam or assignment.

Grading

The student's grade will be determined by taking a weighted average of the four components of the grade (homework, discussions, midterm and final exam). Each component of the grade will be determined by taking the total number of points earned divided by the total possible points, which then establishes the student's percentage.

Grading scale:

93% and above: A
 90-92%: A-
 87-89%: B+
 83-86% B
 80-82%: B-
 77 – 79%: C+

73 – 76%: C
 70 – 72%: C-
 67 – 69%: D+
 63 – 66%: D
 60 – 62%: D-
 Below 60: F

Remember: according to Bellevue College,
 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.

Withdrawals

The last day to withdraw without a W is April 16, and the last day to withdraw with a W is May 21.

Class Schedule

Weekly reading assignments and topics covered	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Week 1 Ch. 1, 2 Macro goals, the PPF	April 5 Classes begin	April 6	April 7 Last day to add without blue card	April 8	April 9 Discussion week 1 posting due	April 10	April 11 Getting Started Assignment due
Week 2 Ch. 3, 4 Supply and Demand	April 12	April 13	April 14	April 15	April 16 Discussion week 1 replies due; Week 2 post due *** Last day to add with blue card, and withdraw without a W	April 17	April 18 Homework #1 due
Week 3 Ch. 5, 6 The GDP	April 19	April 20	April 21	April 22	April 23 Discussion week 2 replies due; week 3 post due	April 24	April 25 Homework #2 due
Week 4 Ch. 7 Unemployment Ch. 8 (optional)	April 26	April 27	April 28	April 29 Review session for the midterm exam, 5:30pm –	April 30 Discussion week 3 replies due; week 4 post due	May 1	May 2 Homework #3 due

				7:30pm, room TBA			
Week 5 Ch. 9 Aggregate Demand, the Business Cycle, the Keynesian Model	May 3 Midterm exam issued	May 4	May 5 Midterm exam due (covers chs. 1-7)	May 6	May 7 Discussion week 4 replies due; week 5 post due	May 8	May 9 Homework #4 due
Week 6 Ch. 9 cont'd.	May 10	May 11	May 12	May 13	May 14 Discussion week 5 replies due; week 6 post due	May 15	May 16 Homework #5 due
Week 7 Ch. 10 Fiscal Policy, deficits and debt	May 17	May 18	May 19	May 20	May 21 Discussion week 6 replies due; week 7 post due *** Last day to withdraw with a W	May 22	May 23 Homework #6 due
Week 8 Ch. 11 Monetary Policy	May 24	May 25	May 26	May 27	May 28 Discussion week 7 replies due; week 8 post due	May 29	May 30 Homework #7 due
Week 9 Ch. 12 ASR/ADE model, inflation	May 31 Memorial Day holiday	June 1	June 2	June 3	June 4 Discussion week 8 replies due; week 9 post due	June 5	June 6 Homework #8 due
Week 10 Ch. 13 - 15 The Global Economy (ch. 14 is optional reading)	June 7	June 8	June 9	June 10	June 11 Discussion week 9 replies due; week 10 post due	June 12	June 13 Homework #9 due
Week 11	June 14	June 15 Review session for the	June 16	June 17 Final Exam 5:30pm – 7:30pm,	June 18 Discussion week 10 replies due.		

		final exam, 5:30pm – 7:30pm, room TBA.		room TBA.			
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PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION Spring 2010

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.*