

ECON& 202 Macroeconomics
(This course was formerly known as:
ECON 200 Introduction to Economics: Macroeconomics)
Section information for an on-line course: Fall 2008
Credits: 5

Instructor: Marjolein van der Veen
Office hours: by appointment
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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 BCC address above. All BCC students are also encouraged to get a BCC email address (registration for BCC 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 BCC):

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: Goodwin et al., *Macroeconomics In Context*, 1st edition, M.E. Sharpe, 2008.
ISBN: 978-0-7656-2297-6.

Aplia subscription: Aplia is an online learning tool for students, available at: www.aplia.com

Fee: \$35.00

Grace Period: t.b.a.

Course Key: t.b.a.

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. The homework assignments should be submitted through the assignment tool.

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.

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. If you need course modifications/adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, I can refer you to our Disabilities 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.

And lastly, starting this quarter, The Economics Department at BCC has an Economic Study Center where students can individually or in groups/teams come and do their homework, clarify their understanding of economics, study for tests, and work on projects. We are located in the A265 student lounge. There will be an instructor there from 12:30-2:20pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. This is an informal place to gather where there will be newspapers and economic related readings. Consider coming on your own to meet other students or bring your team to work on your next project. This is your space and we welcome your suggestions.

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 the total number of points earned during the course divided by the total possible points, which then establishes the student's percentage.

Grading scale:

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

Remember: according to BCC,
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 Oct. 3rd and the last day to withdraw with a W is Nov. 7th.

Class Schedule

Weekly reading assignments and topics covered	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
Week 1 Ch. 1, 2 Macro goals, the PPF	Sept. 22	Sept. 23	Sept. 24 Last day to add without a Blue card	Sept. 25	Sept. 26 Last day to withdraw with a 100% refund Discussion week 1 posting due	Sept. 27	Sept. 28
Week 2 Ch. 3, 4 Supply and Demand	Sept. 29	Sept. 30	Oct. 1	Oct. 2	Oct. 3 Last day to add without a Red card; last day to withdraw without a W Discussion week 1 replies due; Week 2 post due	Oct. 4	Oct. 5 Homework #1 due
Week 3 Ch. 5, 6 The GDP	Oct. 6	Oct. 7	Oct. 8	Oct. 9	Oct. 10 Discussion week 2 replies due; week 3 post due	Oct. 11	Oct. 12 Homework #2 due
Week 4 Ch. 7 Unemployment Ch. 8 (optional)	Oct. 13	Oct. 14	Oct. 15	Oct. 16 Review session for the midterm exam, 5:30pm – 7:30pm, room TBA	Oct. 17 Discussion week 3 replies due; week 4 post due	Oct. 18	Oct. 19 Homework #3 due
Week 5 Ch. 9 Aggregate Demand, the Business Cycle, the Keynesian Model	Oct. 20 Midterm exam issued	Oct. 21	Oct. 22 Midterm exam due (covers chs. 1-7)	Oct. 23	Oct. 24 Discussion week 4 replies due; week 5 post due	Oct. 25	Oct. 26 Homework #4 due
Week 6 Ch. 9 cont'd.	Oct. 27	Oct. 28	Oct. 29	Oct. 30	Oct. 31 Discussion week 5 replies due; week 6 post due	Nov. 1	Nov. 2 Homework #5 due

Week 7 Fiscal Policy, deficits and debt	Nov. 3	Nov. 4	Nov. 5	Nov. 6	Nov. 7 Last day to withdraw with a W. Discussion week 6 replies due; week 7 post due	Nov. 8	Nov. 9 Homework #6 due
Week 8 Ch. 11 Monetary Policy	Nov. 10	Nov. 11	Nov. 12	Nov. 13	Nov. 14 Discussion week 7 replies due; week 8 post due	Nov. 15	Nov. 16 Homework #7 due
Week 9 Ch. 12 AS/AD model, inflation	Nov. 17	Nov. 18	Nov. 19	Nov. 20	Nov. 21 Discussion week 8 replies due; week 9 post due	Nov. 22	Nov. 23 Homework #8 due
Week 10 Ch. 13 The Global Economy	Nov. 24	Nov. 25	Nov. 26	Nov. 27 Thanksgiving Holiday	Nov. 28 Thanksgiving Holiday Discussion week 9 replies due; week 10 post due	Nov. 29	Nov. 30
Week 11 Ch. 14 Economic Growth, Ch. 15 Challenges for the 21 st Century	Dec. 1	Dec. 2	Dec. 3 Homework #9 due	Dec. 4 Review session for the final exam, 5:30pm – 7:30pm, room TBA.	Dec. 5 Discussion week 10 replies due.	Dec. 6	Dec. 7
Week 12	Dec. 8 Final Exam 5:30pm – 7:30pm	Dec. 9	Dec. 10				