

INTRO TO MACROECONOMICS
ECON 200
B.C.C., SPRING QTR. 2008

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class: 9:30 - 10:20, A262
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Office hours: Tues: 11;30-1
Weds 8-9, and by appt.

What is economics and in particular, what is macroeconomics? Why is it important in your life and in society? How does economics address the question of “Why do people do the things they do?” Economics is about choices, particularly *how* we make choices using the economic way of thinking.

I not only encourage but expect an interactive class time. We will discuss – and I do mean discuss—many interesting areas of economics. We begin with some basic concepts in economic reasoning and economic organization, then supply and demand. In macroeconomics our focus turns to the primary problems of inflation, unemployment, the business cycles, and growth. This class will also be concerned with ethical, distributional and policy issues. Nothing works in isolation and the interaction and relationship of the areas of economics is important to understand.

You will need to be prepared before class by reading the assignments. There will be pop quizzes to encourage you to be thus prepared. Pop quizzes will be given at the beginning of the class period before we have covered that material in lecture. Read ahead!

Group projects will be assigned during class and you will need to be present to receive credit for these.

For some, economics is obvious and for others it is mysterious or just plain difficult. I encourage you to seek help if you are having difficulty with the material. My office hours and email address are on this syllabus and I am available to discuss your thoughts. Very few students find economics to be one of their easier subjects. That does not mean they do not like it. Many students recall it was one of the best and most interesting classes they have ever taken. But it is demanding. There is considerable new material, extensive terminology, and the ‘language’ of graphs. This course will not be taught as a highly technical nor intensely mathematical course. We will focus on the ‘economic way of thinking’, creating a knowledge base, and gaining a framework for understanding the political economy of this country in a global setting.

TEXT

MACROECONOMICS, 6th ed. David C. Colander

Exams

There will be two 50 minute exams during the term and a two-hour final. The dates of the exams are on the class schedule. You will be able to make up a missed exam if and only if I am notified ahead of time and I find that it is a valid reason for missing an exam. Time and place of any make-ups will be at my discretion. Pop quizzes, as mentioned above, will be short, given at the beginning of class, and will cover the material to be covered that day. Read ahead!

A "BAT" (be able to) sheet will be handed out prior to exams. This will help you focus your preparation to particular subjects. For example: bat define GDP, bat explain how the US government figures the poverty level.

Grading

Attendance is required and your attendance record will figure in your quarter grade. Participation and improvement over the term will also contribute to your grade. Thus the final grade will be determined by:

50 min exams	100 each
Final exam	200
Pops	5-10 each
Groups	20 each
Homework	10-20
Other	20 each

Grading is on the curve. The total points available will end up to be between 500 and 600. You will be given updates of your total points and the class standings (anonymously) periodically during the term.