

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

Instructor: Marjolein van der Veen
Office hours: by appointment
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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 BCC address above. 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 will not be logging 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. If requested, I can return to BCC for midterm and final exam 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*, Global Development and Environment Institute, Tufts University, 2006. The textbook is downloadable for free from the Global Development and Environment Institute website:
<http://ase.tufts.edu/gdae/publications/textbooks/macroeconomics.html>.

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

Grace Period: 07/04/2008

Course Key: YSFW-3BFQ-GXVF for section SU08 5281 5282

Course Key: R5KV-6Z92-YZZ8 for section SU08 5283 5284

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/>

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

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 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 June 30th, and the last day to withdraw with a W is July 25.

Class Schedule

Weekly class schedule

Weekly reading assignments and topics covered	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Week 1 Ch. 1, 2 Macro goals, the PPF	June 23	June 24	June 25	June 26	June 27 Discussion Wk1 post due	June 28	June 29 Getting Started assignment due
Week 2 Ch. 3, 4 Supply and Demand	June 30	July 1	July 2	July 3	July 4 Discussion Wk 1 replies due; Wk 2 post due	July 5	July 6 Hmwk #1 due
Week 3 Ch. 5, 6 The GDP	July 7	July 8	July 9	July 10	July 11 Discussion Wk2 replies due; Wk 3 post due	July 12	July 13 Hmwk #2 due
Week 4	July 14	July 15	July 16	July 17	July 18	July 19	July 20

Ch. 7 Unemployment (Ch. 8 is optional) start ch. 9					Discussion Wk3 replies due; Wk 4 post due		Hmwk #3 due
Week 5 Ch. 9 Aggregate Demand, the Business Cycle, the Keynesian model	July 21 Midterm Exam issued	July 22	July 23 Midterm Exam due (chs. 1-7)	July 24	July 25 Discussion Wk 4 replies due; Wk 5 post due	July 26	July 27 Hwmk #4 due
Week 6 Ch. 10 Fiscal Policy, deficits and debt	July 28	July 29	July 30	July 31	Aug 1 Discussion Wk 5 replies due; Wk 6 post due	Aug 2	Aug 3 Hmwk #5 due
Week 7 Ch. 11 Monetary Policy Also read the articles by Mankiw, and Stiglitz	Aug 4	Aug 5	Aug 6	Aug 7	Aug 8 Discussion Wk 6 replies due; Wk 7 post due	Aug 9	Aug 10 Hmwk #6 due
Week 8 Ch. 12 AS/AD model, inflation	Aug 11	Aug 12	Aug 13	Aug 14	Aug 15 Discussion Wk 7 replies due; Wk 8 post due	Aug 16	Aug 17 Hwmk #7 due
Week 9 Ch. 13, 14 The Global Economy, Growth	Aug 18	Aug 19	Aug 20	Aug 21	Aug 22 Discussion Wk 8 replies due; Wk 9 post due	Aug 23	Aug 24 Hmwk #8 due
Week 10 Ch. 15 Challenges for the 21 st	Aug 25	Aug 26	Aug 27	Aug 28 Final Exam (chs. 9-	Discussion Wk 9 replies due		

Century				15), on campus, 5:30 – 7:30pm, Rm TBA			
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