

Economics 102: Macroeconomics (Spring 2009)

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Class time: MWF 12-2p	Office hours: M,Tu 9:30-10:30a (other TBD)
Location: Dennison 120	Location: Lorch 102 (or 104)

About the course

This course is an introduction to macroeconomics. Given recent events, I will structure the course around the recent financial crisis. We'll discuss various current issues regarding unemployment, what it means to be in recession, the effects of tax changes, and government spending/stimulus.

Prerequisites

Econ 101 provides an important basis for this course. You should be familiar with the concepts of supply and demand, consumer/producer surplus, and other such topics from that course. We will be using a large number of graphs and basic algebra in this course. Please see me if you are not comfortable with these concepts.

Office hours/email

I encourage you to stop by office hours even if you don't have specific questions. If you cannot make office hours and would like to meet, please contact me to schedule an appointment.

The best way to reach me is via email. I will almost always respond within 24 hours. Still, if you send me an email the night before a quiz or final I cannot guarantee I'll get back to you in time.

CTools

There is a CTools site for this course. I will try to remember to send email notifications when new material is posted, but please check it regularly.

Textbook

The textbook for this course is *Principles of Macroeconomics, 5th edition* (2009) by N. Gregory Mankiw OR *Brief Principles of Macroeconomics*. The 4th edition is also completely fine. We will be jumping around the book a fair bit, to cover material in a way that makes more sense for current events.

The textbook is on reserve (3 copies) at the undergraduate library. The 4th edition is also on reserve at Foster Library (second floor Lorch), but it has limited summer hours.

Grading

The grading breakdown is as follows:

Quizzes:	40%
Final exam:	50%
Class participation:	10%

Economics is all about incentives. To give you a greater incentive to participate, 10% of your grade will be based on your participation. These should be fairly easy points. Participation includes, but is not limited to, discussions in class and CTools.

Quizzes

Each **Friday** we will have a 30 minute quiz at the end of class. The quizzes will have a combination of true/false (with explanation), multiple choice, and short answer based on the material since the last quiz. The lowest quiz score will be dropped. As such, no make-up quizzes will be given.

Quiz dates: May 15, May 22, May 29, June 5, June 12, June 19

I will post old quiz questions to CTools.

Final

The two-hour final will take place on **Tuesday, June 23 8:00 am - 10:00 am**. You **must** be available to take this exam. If you cannot take the final exam at the scheduled time, you should not enroll in the course. There will be no make-up exams for non-medical reasons. It will be similar in form to the quizzes, but cumulative.

Homework

This course will have regular, ungraded practice problems. The homework is intended to prepare you for the quizzes and final. The homework will probably consist largely of problems from the textbook in addition to problems from old quizzes. I encourage you to work with others on the homework and for studying in general. If you have questions about the homework, please email me or stop in to office hours.

Readings

Given recent events, readings of news articles will play a central role in this course. These articles **will** show up on the quizzes and final. In order for you and everyone else to get the most out of lecture, please read the articles at least once **before** the class in which they're discussed.

Studying for this course

Please read the relevant chapter or articles before coming to class. This will allow us to focus on the aspects of the material which are more difficult and to have more interesting discussions.

When studying, the first source of material you should turn to is your lecture notes. Next, look to the homework problems for the important material in this course. Finally, reading the book both before lecture and before each quiz should also be valuable for doing well in this course.

Accommodations

Please see me as soon as possible if you need special accommodation for learning disabilities, medical reasons, religious observances, or anything else I should be aware of. If applicable, I would appreciate a letter from the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD).

Plagiarism and Cheating

Anyone found cheating on a quiz or the final will receive a zero on that exam. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, copying from another student, using unauthorized resources, and changing answers after quizzes have been returned. Further cheating will be referred to the Assistant Dean for Student Academic Affairs.

Outline

The following is a preliminary outline of the material to be covered in the course. If the schedule changes for any reason, I will post an updated version on CTools.

Date(s)	Topic	Chapter(s)
May 6	Introduction: What in the world is going on? A look at housing	-
May 8	GDP (and other data) recessions, long run vs. short run	10
May 11,13	Money and banking	16
May 15	Savings and loanable funds	13
May 20,22	Inflation	11,17
May 27	Interest rates, present value	14,17
May 29, June 1	Unemployment	15
June 3	Aggregate demand and supply	20
June 5	Monetary policy	21
June 8	The national deficit, debt, and stimulus (fiscal policy)	21
June 10	Social Security, Medicare, and health insurance	-
June 12	Unemployment/Inflation: the Phillips Curve	22
June 15	Growth	12
June 17,19	International macroeconomics	18,19