

# Syllabus and The Class

# Plan for the Day

- Walk through the syllabus
- Walk through tools and resources

# Syllabus

You can find the syllabus here.

(<https://github.com/woodsjam/Course-Intro-Macroeconomics/blob/master/SyllabusEC202Woods.pdf> )

Almost all the slides will also be on github.

(<https://github.com/woodsjam/Course-Intro-Macroeconomics>)

- Download them before each class if you like, but they are not a substitute for coming to class.

# Intro Macro (Official)

A study of factors affecting the level of national income: the essentials of money and banking; the role of government expenditure and taxation in achieving economic stability, growth and development; international monetary issues including exchange rates and the balance of payments.

# Intro Macro (Unofficial)

- Talk many of you out of a business degree.
- Convince you that economics is not **just** about money or markets
- Make the news and politicians funnier.
- Talk some of you into being econ majors.

“Every man should have a built-in automatic crap detector operating inside him. It also should have a manual drill and a crank handle in case the machine breaks down.” – Hemingway

# Who Am I?

- Ph.D. Economist, UC Davis
- First generation college, like many of you.
- Background in energy and program evaluation consulting going back to the early 90s.
  - Projects were multidisciplinary. Rarely did a project not involve, economists, engineers and others.
- Former:
  - Oregon HECC commissioner
  - Parkrose School Board Chair
  - Multiple non-profit boards
  - County Budget Committees
  - Legislative Candidate.
- Hobbies: Painfully Stereotypical Portlander

# Warnings

- I'm Dyslexic. If you see a slide without a typo – be amazed.
- Don't think that you have to understand everything
  - You should read everything.
  - I usually read things over and over again and learn new things every time.
  - If you understand half – amazing.
  - The more you read, the easier it is to learn more. It really builds on itself.
- Don't be afraid to Google a picture or an article to help you understand something in class.
  - You need to learn how to help yourself.
  - Learned helplessness is a pet peeve of mine.

# Warnings (Con't)

- Do not wait till the last minute
  - Don't make an optimistic, tightly scheduled plans.
  - No plan survives contact with reality
  - Start everything as early as possible.



# Key Dates

- Final Exam: June 11th, 10:15-12:05
- Midterm 1: April 25th
- Midterm 2: May 21st

Exams will be given on those days and at those times only. I do not give make up, early or late exams. Get those on your calendars. Make sure you are not scheduled to work or deciding to fly somewhere.

DRC People: Schedule time slots in testing center so that you start at the same time as the rest of class.

## Contact Information

- My office is in CH 241-O.
- Drop in office hours are Tues 2:30-3:30 through the last week of class. There is no need to make an appointment for these hours – just come.
- If you can't attend regular office hours, please check my calendar <https://woods.j.youcanbook.me/>. I will make a limited number of 15 minute slots available each week. If you make an appointment and fail to show up without first canceling, I will penalize your final exam score two points.

## Contact Information (Con't)

- My in-person office hours may need to be moved to a different location because of construction in Cramer Hall.
- Meetings can be via phone or even the hangout/meet function in your pdx.edu email.
- I will also keep Slack up during office hours to answer questions.

# Slack

I avoid email since it is a trash heap and a constant distraction.

- The class will use slack <https://psuec202spring2019.slack.com>
- Handles direct messages, forum style responses.
- You should be able to sign up with your pdx.edu account
- Can access via webpage, apps in Android and iOS.
- Linked in d2l.
- Officially supported PSU software
- Common in industry
- Many of you already use it.

# Hints on Slack

- Prefer #general to direct messaging me.
  - Questions about course material is for #general
  - Questions about your grade or anything private is for @jamie woods
- “I can’t find it anywhere” is usually answered with:
  - A link to a google search.
- Don’t start and end with, “I got 7 but the key shows 245. What did I do wrong?”
  - Show your work. The fix is often a single parameter.
- Provide full text of the question you are working on.

In short, make it easy for someone to help you.

## More Slack Hints

- Rants and bellyaching put you at the bottom of the queue or off the queue.
- Night before the exam? You are on your own.
- Set personal Do Not Disturb times. It defaults to 10pm -8am

# Textbook

Krugman, Paul R., and Robin Wells. Macroeconomics ed. 5., Worth Publishers, 2018.(ISBN-10: 1-319-09875-4).

- This textbook is amazingly overpriced.
- Will not be assigning questions out of the book.
- Hint: You can rent an earlier edition for under \$20 just make it line up with the 5th edition readings.

# Exams

- Closed book, notes, internet, friend, etc.
- Mostly multiple choice but not, “what is the definition of ..” style.
- Possible Seating chart
- ID check
- Bags, phones, smart watches at the side or front of room.
- Many versions of the exam.



# In-class quizzes

- Could be one each class
- Check if you completed the reading
- Check if you reviewed earlier classes.
- Key will be emailed to your @pdx.edu account.
- Used to determine if you were in class that day.

# Why Is Taking Quiz Important?

- Together they count the same as a midterm.
- Students that miss more than 3 classes very rarely score more than 50% on the exams.
- Miss 4 quizzes – no problem.
- Miss 5 or more and you get zeros on all following assignments and exams including the final.

- If you miss class five times – drop the class to avoid an F on your transcript.
- If you have an extended illness or other difficulty, file a deadline appeal to have the course removed from your record and get your tuition returned. Note that deadline appeals require documentation.
- Do not attempt to use the allowed absences strategically.
- I will not adjudicate the worthiness of absences.
- If you decide to come to class only to take the quiz and leave, or do homework for other courses in class, congratulations, you have gamed the system.
- “But what if I can do well without attending class?” This is true for about one student in 300.

# Homework

- At most weekly.
- Due at noon (11:59 AM) Fridays.
- Turned in via D2L either as a D2L “quiz”, or as a pdf or word document through D2L “assignment” function.
- Do not write the assignments out by hand and then turn in a photo in pdf form.

I will assume you know how to work D2L.

- Calendar on left
- Links in the middle
- Content, Quizzes and Grades up top

# D2L Key Takeaways

- Homework is either an “assignment” or a “quiz” depending on if the homework is written or multiple choice.
- Both show in the calendar
- Typically due Friday at noon.
- At least a week notice

# Assessments and Grade Policy

- Final Exam (30%)
- Midterm 1 (20%)
- Midterm 2 (20%)
- In-class quizzes (20%)
- Homework (10%)

# Econ Break

We will look at these in greater detail later.

- Principle #1: Choices are necessary because resources are scarce.
- Principle #2: The true cost of something is its opportunity cost.
- Principle #3: “How much” is a decision at the margin.
- Principle #4: People usually respond to incentives, exploiting opportunities to make themselves better off.

Why did I allocate grades the way I did?



# Why from My POV?

- Principle #1: Choices are necessary because resources are scarce.
  - Had to add up to 100%
  - Only so much time I can grade.
- Principle #2: The true cost of something is its opportunity cost.
  - Focus on higher quality, in-class, information.
  - Making sure I am giving **you** the grade and not someone else.

## Why from My POV? (Con't)

- Principle #3: “How much” is a decision at the margin.
  - More on homework would mean less on exams or quizzes.
  - Balanced to achieve my objective – you knowing things and being able to do things.
- Principle #4: People usually respond to incentives, exploiting opportunities to make themselves better off.
  - I am manipulating you.
  - What am I trying to get you to do?

# Show up

(From Last Term)[MT2Analysis.pdf]

# Do your Own Work

- A few facts on scale.  
<https://www.plagiarism.org/article/plagiarism-facts-and-stats>
- How easy is it to outsource your class?  
[https://www.google.com/search?q=take+my+online+class+for+me&rlz=1C1GGRV\\_enUS751US753&oq=take+my+online+class+for+me&aqs=chrome..69i57.4986j0j4&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8](https://www.google.com/search?q=take+my+online+class+for+me&rlz=1C1GGRV_enUS751US753&oq=take+my+online+class+for+me&aqs=chrome..69i57.4986j0j4&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8)

# Stop Procrastinating

- Plenty of studies show that at least 2/3rds of you procrastinate.
- Regular interaction, to create habit, is supposed to help.

<http://success.oregonstate.edu/learning/stop-procrastinating>

# What am I trying to get you to do?

- Come to class.
- Do your own work.
- Work with the material regularly – several times a week – so you don't procrastinate.

## Bonus Question

Principle #2: The true cost of something is its opportunity cost.

- Final Exam (30%)
- Midterm 1 (20%)
- Midterm 2 (20%)
- In-class quizzes (20%)
- Homework (10%)

So ...

- What is most important?
- Do the 'points' fully describe the opportunity cost?

# Looks like the Final but it isn't

- What is the opportunity cost of not coming to class?
  - Can't take the quiz
  - You only get the slide version of the lecture, not the full version.
  - The first four are free, but after that it costs you an F.
  - Do you think you can do well on the homework and exams without attending class?

The most expensive part of a meal is not always the best part. Price, the financial part, does not always indicate quality or importance.



## So about you business majors

“With a five-year 31% underemployment rate according to Burning Glass, and a massive 601,092 degrees passed out in 2016, business and related majors produced a staggering 186,339 people with a degree and no corresponding college-level job. Counting the initial underemployment rate for business and related majors of 47%, a whopping 282,513 were underemployed in 2016.”

– Strada Institute for the Future of Work

# What are your local economists working on?

- Randy Bluffstone: Ethiopia and Nepal stoves.
- Sahan Dissanayake: How to preserve forests and farmland
- John Gallup: Estimating income inequality when data is not great
- John Hall: Heterodox
- Hiro Ito: Trade imbalances and key currencies, and resiliency after natural disasters.

## More local economists

- Arnab Mitra: Lab experiments on dishonesty.
- Cesar Rodriguez: Effects of financial openness on exchange rates
- Rajiv Sharma: Did Obama-care increase discrimination
- Sarah Tinkler: Rajiv and her are coauthors on many papers.

# More

- Forrest Williams: How you get people to donate more
- ME: How do you get more energy efficiency and what else do you get with it.
- Grade Arnold: Does lack of abortion access make people act more 'responsibly'?
- Riju Joshi: How do you know cause rather than just correlation.

## How to Study: Hints from a successful student

# Class Notes

- If you only write down what I write or what is on the slides – you are not taking notes.
- The things I say are important too
  - If it wasn't, why come to class?
  - I could post the slides
  - Better, put them up and set a 1 min slide advance

# What Should be in Your Class Notes

- The usual, facts, diagrams, definitions, quotes
- Questions as they occur to you.
  - My notes have a lot of questions
  - Cross them off as they get answered
  - If one lingers too long – ask.
- Criticism
  - If something doesn't sound right, note it.
  - All models are limited and can handle everything.
- Emotional reaction
  - My notes have a lot of swearing in them.
  - It's like Morse code

# Class Notes are Not Course Notes

- Use the notes you take in class to build notes for the course
- I often took notes on the paper towels from the bathroom.
- Notes should be recopied and reorganized before you go to bed, or at least when you get up the next morning.

They should include:

- Clarifications from the text
- Worked examples
- Organized how you think of them. It could be different than mine.
- Highlights of key concepts, equations, figure
- References to earlier notes



# Course Notes

I can, and do still do, read mine more than 25 years latter.

Can your read yours from last term?

Hint: Everyone in my graduate cohort created course notes from class notes.

- Those are, by definition, very successful students
- Was done even when the weekly homework for a single class takes 20 hrs.
- You always have time to save time.

# Course Notes are Not Study Notes

- Don't study by turning pages.
- Start early.
  - The weekend before the exam is not early, that is late
  - Review for exam is continuous.
- Study notes contain:
  - What you don't understand yet
  - What you definitely need to know
- You revise them down as you learn things
  - My goal was always to get them down to one side of a note card the day of the exam.
  - One good exam I had, "Nachos", on the card. Nothing to do with the class but I was well prepared.

# Come to Office Hours

Early 90s I had two classes of 20

- At *least* 30 would come to each office hour.
- Two hours a week, Ten weeks
- $30 * 2 * 10 = 600$  student contacts

NOW

- Two or three students two or three times
- 10 student contacts

# Observation

- I give pre-tests in my other courses to see how much students remember about prerequisites.
- Younger student that took prerequisites a year ago, remember almost nothing.
- Older students that took prerequisites more than 30 years ago, remember a lot more.

# Get a Group

Clarification: Get a *good* group

How to tell that you have a good group:

- Everyone is sure they are the idiot of the group.
- They call you out when you are not doing your work
- Someone can explain everything, but it isn't the same someone every time.
- Those pose course questions that you didn't think of – and can explain the answers.
- When you fall, and you will, the group will pick you up.

# Group Hints

- This is the 21st century, you don't have to gather in the library.
- If people can study together for the Master Sommelier exam through Skype, you can study econ.
- If someone is not pulling their weight – ditch them.
- Groups are for mutual benefit.

# Study Every Day

You have a marathon in June. How do you train?

- Run for 60 hrs straight in the four days before
- Run every day, with break days, building up to a good performance.

Just schedule an hour a day for this class. Make it a habit.

# Learn How to Read

It is a multipass system.

- Read the Title and abstract (Papers)
- Read the section headings
- Read the introduction
- Read the conclusion
- Look at the figures
- Look at the equations
- Skim the whole thing
- Read it but don't freak out if you don't get everything.
  - Keep notes on your reactions, how the topic connects back and questions
  - Repeat as time allows.

You, and the author, will never fully understand the paper/chapter.



# The Summary of Hints

- Class notes should be way more than what is on the board or slides.
- Class notes are not course notes.
- Make course notes **THAT** day.
- Make study notes from course notes.
- Study notes get shorter the closer you get to the exam.
- **EVERY DAY** and don't skip leg day.
- Come to office hours, but come with purpose. Don't show up and say you came because I told you.
- Get a *good* group
- Learn to multipass read and read a lot.