ECO 1110 Current Economic Problems

Baruch College ||Fall 2020

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| Instructor | | Email | Class Schedule |
| **Aman Ojas Desai** | aman.desai@baruch.cuny.edu | | MW 2:30 pm – 3:45 pm,  Room: TBA |

# General Information

## Course Description

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|  | This course examines the historic and political backgrounds of economic thought, the concepts and tools of micro-economics, the measurements and policies of macro-economics, their limitations, and the evolution of current economic discourses. This course will view issues and methodologies through the lens of American economic development, and selected world economic experience. Students will be expected to present and discuss readings and cases concerning assigned texts and materials. |

## Learning Outcomes

The objective of the course is to provide students enough economic background so that they will be able to

* Master the basic terminology of the field and explain the fundamental concepts
* Use the tools learnt in the class to analyze the economic phenomenon
* Form their own opinions about the critical issues that American economy faces today
* Being up to date with recent economic development by consulting the economics and financial press on a regular basis
* Understand the market mechanism with agents such as consumers, producers, and the government.
* Obtain basic knowledge of market system and role of the government in the welfare of the economic agents

# Course Materials

## Recommended Book

* Principles of Macroeconomics, N. Gregory Mankiw, 7th Edition (previous editions are also fine)

## Optional Material

Apart from the text mentioned above, I will upload the notes on the blackboard if required. The assignments will be regularly uploaded on the blackboard with the due date mentioned.

# Lecture Schedule

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Content** |
| 27th Jan | Ch1 |
| 29th Jan | Ch1,2 |
| 3rd Feb | Ch2 |
| 5th Feb | Ch2 |
| 10th Feb | Ch3 |
| 12th Feb | No Class |
| 17th Feb | No Class |
| 19th Feb | Ch4 |
| 24th Feb | Ch4,5 |
| 26th Feb | Ch5 |
| 2nd March | Ch6 |
| 4th March | Ch6 |
| 9th March | Review |
| 11th March | Review |
| 16th March | Midterm Exam |
| 18th March | Ch10 |
| 23rd March | Ch10 |
| 25th March | Ch10 |
| 30th March | Ch11 |
| 1st April | Ch11 |
| 6th April | Ch12 |
| 7th April (Classes follow Wednesday Schedule) | Ch13 |
| 8th April | Spring Recess  No Classes |
| 13th April |
| 15th April |
| 20th April | Ch14 |
| 22nd April | Ch14 |
| 27th April | Ch15 |
| 29th April | Ch15 |
| 4th May | Ch16 |
| 6th May | Ch16 |
| 11th May | Essay Submission |
| 13th May | Review |

# Additional Information and Resources

**GRADES**

There will be two exams (one midterm and one final exam). The final exam **will not be cumulative**. The assignments will be due before the start of the class. I will announce via Blackboard and email if there is any change on due dates. **Also note that there will be no extra credit assignments.**

Course Evaluation will be as follows:

Attendance 10%

Assignments 20%

Midterm Exam 20%

Class Participation 10%

Essay and Opinions 10%

Final Exam 30%

**Grading System**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Grade | Points | Percentile Rank |
| A | 4.0 | 93.0-100.0 |
| A- | 3.7 | 90.0-92.9 |
| B | 3.0 | 83.0-87.0 |
| B+ | 3.3 | 87.1-89.9 |
| B- | 2.7 | 80.0-82.9 |
| C | 2.0 | 73.0-77.0 |
| C+ | 2.3 | 77.1-79.9 |
| C- | 1.7 | 70.0-72.9 |
| D | 1.0 | 60.0-67.0 |
| D+ | 1.3 | 67.1-69.9 |
| F | 0.0 | below 60.0 |

**ESSAY AND OPINION WRITING**

1. You will be assigned topics to research and will be expected to write an essay on it. The essay should be no longer than 3 pages. (I will give you more details on this in the second half of the semester after the midterm exam.)
2. In the assignments, I will also ask explanation and opinion on articles from the Wall Street Journal. This will continue throughout the semester and will help you to cultivate the habit of forming your opinion using the tools you learn in the class.

**POLICIES:**

Attendance and appropriate classroom participation are critical factors for a profitable production of good grades in this class. Cellphones, beepers, late entrances and early departures, talking to your classmates while the teacher is talking—all create negative externalities.

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. In such a case, **you will receive a grade of F for the course.** This also includes talking and looking around during the exams.

If you miss any exams without a valid proof of absence your grade will suffer a score of zero. **Written documentation of a valid excuse gives you the opportunity to take a make-up exam.** (Note that flight tickets, hotel reservations do not count as valid proof)

If you have a special condition or an urgency that prevents you to attend a class session or submit an assignment on due date, notify me via email in advance. Otherwise you will get score zero.

If you are a differently abled student, please feel free to contact me early in the semester for any help or accommodation you may need.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

It is each student’s responsibility to fully understand academic policies of the College and its rules and regulations on grades, dropping courses, cheating and plagiarism, deadlines, etc. Knowing them well will allow you to proceed to graduation efficiently and with a strong transcript. Study carefully everything in Baruch’s brochure on Academic Honesty. If you do not have a copy, please go to the Baruch College homepage at http://www.baruch.cuny.edu where the “Academics” tab at the top gives a pull-down menu that includes “academic honesty.”