

# Economics 202: Introduction to Macroeconomics

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## **What is Macroeconomics?**

Macroeconomics is concerned with some of the most important questions in economics:

What causes recessions?

Why do prices tend to rise every year?

Why is there unemployment?

Can we use government policy to lower unemployment?

## **Why Should We Care About It?**

The issues that macroeconomists study affect a large number of people and have enormous implications for the well-being of the citizens of a nation.

# What Is This Class About?

- This course is only an introduction to macroeconomics.
- We will cover a variety of topics but only at a relatively superficial level.
- There will be math, and there will be models, but they will be relatively unsophisticated.
- Hopefully, you will walk away from this class with a better understanding of macroeconomic topics.

- Office hours are Monday and Wednesday: 3 – 3:50 pm. My office is PLC 407.
- I strongly encourage students to come to office hours if they're struggling with the course material.
- I will not empathize with students who performed poorly but never came to class or requested help in office hours.

# Prerequisites and other things

- **Prerequisites** Though no prerequisites, if you are not comfortable with college level math, this course will seem tough.
- **Textbook:** *Principles of Macroeconomics*, 1st edition, by Lee Coppock and Dirk Mateer. There is no required textbook for this class, but I will follow the textbook closely.
- **Canvas:** I will use Canvas to post announcements, problem sets, share links to articles or podcasts that relate to topics covered in class, and posting grades.

# Class and Discussion Sections

- Though class attendance is not mandatory, if you choose to attend please show up on time and stay for the entire class. Additionally, please put cell phones and laptops on silent and keep their use to a minimum.
- There are weekly discussions for this class. The discussions will be used to review and discuss concepts presented in lecture, as well as give you an opportunity to ask questions about the material.
- Discussion leader will also go over potential quiz questions so it is in your best interest to attend.

- In each class, I will bring activity sheets. The activity sheets are to give you space to work through examples of concepts during lecture.
- They do not need to be turned in—ever. They are for your benefit.
- After working on your own and with your neighbor we'll work through the activities together in lecture.
- Solutions will not be printed or provided on Canvas. If you miss lecture come to office hours for the activity sheet and a discussion of how to work through the activities.

- The relative importance of the grade categories: Canvas Quizzes are 15%, Problem Sets are 15%, Midterm is 30%, Class Participation are 5%, and the Final Exam is 35%.
- **Problem Sets:** There will be two problem sets. Problem sets have to be submitted in class at the beginning. Late problem sets will not be graded.
- **Midterm:** Wednesday May 1. It will cover everything up until the last class before it. No make-up midterms will be given. If you miss it for an unforeseen reason then I will count your final grade in place of the midterm.
- **Final Exam:** The final is comprehensive. The final exam will be given on Thursday June 13 at 2:45p.m.



# Canvas Quizzes

- There will be an online canvas quiz most weeks to test whether you are keeping up with the material (about seven canvas quizzes in total).
- Quizzes will be posted on Friday by 1:00 p.m. and are due by midnight on Sunday.
- Although completed outside of class, I expect you to complete each quiz without outside help (textbook, class notes, classmates, etc.).
- Quizzes will be timed so make sure you are fully prepared to take them before clicking start.
- Your two lowest quizzes will be dropped. No make-up quizzes will be given for any reason. Two lowest score quiz are dropped precisely to account for the fact that there may be lapses in memory, occasional technical glitches, or unexpected life events.

# Class Participation

- During each class, I will ask some questions related to the material discussed in that class or to be discussed in class. You need to participate in TWO separate classes during the course to get the full 5%.
- Also, make sure to come to me after that class to tell me your name so I can give you credit for that day's participation.
- If you feel you are struggling to participate in class, please come to my office hours with course (or problem set) related questions to get credit for participation.

# Academic Dishonesty Policy

- You may work with your classmates to figure out answers to problem set questions, but I expect your answers to be your own work. This also applies to Googling the question to find the answer or pulling the answers from a solution manual. If I find that two students gave identical answers to a question, or I notice that your answer is the same as the answer the publisher gives, I will give all parties involved a zero on the assignment. If it happens again you will receive an F in the class and the situation will be reported.
- During exams you are allowed to have on your desk pencils, pens, and a **NON-PROGRAMMABLE CALCULATOR**. If I catch you with anything else on your desk or in your lap you will receive an F in the course and the situation will be reported - that means if I see a TI-83 or similar calculator on your desk during an exam you will receive an F in the course. Additionally if caught copying off of a neighbor you will receive an F in the course and the situation will be reported.

- Students with documented disabilities who will need accommodations please make those arrangements as soon as possible. Please have the counselor for students with disabilities send me a letter letting me know what accommodations are required.
- In general, I encourage all students to inform me of things in the structure of class that are getting in the way of their learning and I'll take it under consideration.

- I believe that students can't truly learn concepts and material without practice. I've tried to build a lot of practice into this course.
- I understand the workload of this course may be unpopular but by the end of this course you will be proficient in all of the learning goals as long as you make an effort.

- The midterm and the final are meant to provide assessments of how well you understood the main concepts from the course.
- On the short answer portion of the exams, students may leave parts of questions blank for 40% of the score. These aren't "free points", but more so rewarding students for knowing what they don't know.

# How to do well in this course

- 1) Attend the lectures. Though lectures slides will be posted on canvas, activity sheets and other review questions that we do in class will not be posted.
- 2) Go to discussion sections on Fridays. Discussion leader will go over potential canvas quiz questions.
- 3) Read the course announcements on canvas. I will periodically send announcements about problem sets, course material, and other things.
- 4) Do all of the canvas quizzes and problem sets on your own.
- 5) Utilize my office hours especially if you are struggling with the course material.