

Principles of Macroeconomics (Econ 112)
Spring 2011
Oxford College of Emory University
MWF 11:45-12:35 (Section A)

Instructor: Dr. Jasminka Ninkovic
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Office Hours:

MW: 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Th: 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. or by appointment

Book and Support Materials:

Required: N. Gregory Mankiw, *Principles of Macroeconomics*, 5th edition, South-Western, 2009 & Aplia access (see book buying options on the attached sheet)

Recommended: *The Economist*

I personally believe everybody should glance through *The Economist* every week. It is an excellent news source with well-written articles on a wide range of topics. Arguments are well organized and supported with evidence. (For an interesting exercise, compare it with the articles in *Time* or *Newsweek*.)

Overview of the Course:

The course focuses on the performance of the economy as a whole by discussing macroeconomic concepts such as unemployment, inflation, fiscal and monetary policy, budget deficit, income growth, banking institutions, interest rates, etc. Theory and measurement of key variables as well as policy issues are at the center of discussions.

Expected Student and Teacher Conduct:

Please be respectful toward your classmates and the teacher, honest in your work and prepared for class sessions. If there are any problems or suggestions about the course, please let me know.

Assessment and Grading Policies:

In this class emphasis will be on collaborative learning in permanent teams. Most group work will happen in class: in a form of learning activities and Readiness Assessments. There will be six short Readiness Assessments (RAs) given during the semester, one at

the beginning of each unit. The same test will be first taken individually and then as a group. Homework sets will involve concepts discussed in class and will be given weekly and assigned as on-line assignments. Lowest or one missed homework will not be counted towards your grade. You may discuss homework with your classmates but submit your knowledge. Weights of the individual components are as follows:

Individual Readiness Assessment	9.5 %
Group Readiness Assessment	9.5 %
Group Contribution (peer evaluated)	3.0%
Homework	10%
Midterm I	20%
Midterm II	20%
Final Exam	21%
Other in and outside the Class Work, Participation and Attendance	7.0%
Bonus points: extra assignments	up to 3.0%

RA 1, Jan 19
RA 2, Jan 26
RA 3, Feb 18
RA 4, March 14
RA 5, April 1
RA 6, April 17
Midterm I, Feb 14
Midterm II, March 28
Final Exam, TBA

Failure to take a test or RA will lead to a score of zero. No exception will be made except in medical emergencies where the other exams or RAs will be adjusted. Written verification is required in such cases.

Grades are not curved (60-69 is D, 70-79 is C, 80-89 is B and 90 and up is A with pluses and minuses in each range).

Paper assignments are due at the beginning of the class. Late assignments will not be accepted. You need to be in the class to submit an assignment.

Honor code:

Honor code is strictly enforced in this class. Examples of scholastic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) receiving or giving help on exams and plagiarizing or sabotaging another student's work. The usual penalty for violations of honor code is grade F in this course.

Communication and Attendance:

You are responsible for any announcements or assignments made in class.

Your homework assignments, class documents, as well as detailed weekly readings will be posted on Aplia.

I strongly encourage you to attend class, participate in class discussion, study regularly, and complete the assigned readings and assignments sets in a timely manner.

What is Aplia?

Aplia is an on-line product that contains homework practice and assignments and will be also used as our main communication tool outside the class. Please note that if you miss an Aplia problem set for whatever reason, I cannot let you take it once the deadline is past. We will also use the other tools on Aplia web-site (experiments, discussion board) to enrich learning experience in this class.

Students Athletes, Students with Accommodations and Religious Holidays

If there is an interference with your class schedule because of your athletic commitments or religious reasons, please inform your instructor a.s.a.p. Also, if you have accommodations for the class, you are expected to bring in a letter from the responsible college institution a.s.a.p.

Reading List and Class Schedule:

Textbook

1- Basic Economic Concepts, Production Possibilities and Comparative Advantage

Week 1 (Jan 12 – Jan 14)

Unit 1: **Introduction** (Ch 1 and Ch 2)

Week 2 (Jan 17 – Jan 23)

Unit 2: **Markets and International Trade** (Ch 3, Ch 4 and Ch 9)

Jan 17 MLK Holiday

Jan 19, RA on Unit 2

Week 3 (Jan 24 – Jan 30)

Unit 3: **Most Important Macroeconomic Concepts** (Ch 10, Ch 11 and Ch 15)

Jan 26, RA on Unit 3

Week 4 (Jan 31 – Feb 6)

Unit 3: continued

Week 5 (Feb 7 – Feb 13)

Unit 3: continued

No Class on Feb 9th

Week 6 (Feb 14 – Feb 20)

Midterm I, Feb 14

Unit 4: **Business Cycle and Economic Policy** (Ch 20 and Ch21)

Feb 18, RA on Unit 4

Week 7 (Feb 21 – Feb 27)

Unit 4: continued

Feb 25, Fed field trip

Week 8 (Feb 28 – March 6)

Unit 4: continued

Week 9 (March 7– March 13)

Spring Break

Week 10 (March 14 – March 20)

Unit 5: **Economy in the Long Run** (Ch 12 and Ch 13)

March 14, RA on Unit 5

Week 11 (March 21 – March 27)

Unit 5: continued

No class on March 25

Week 12 (March 28 – April 3)

Unit 6: **Money and the Economy** (Ch 16 and Ch 17)

Midterm II, March 28

April 1, RA on Unit 6

Week 13 (April 4 – April 10)

Unit 6: continued

Week 14 (April 11 – April 17)

Unit 7: **Open economy Macroeconomics** (Ch 18, Ch 19)

April 17, RA on Unit 7

Week 15 (April 18 – April 24)

Unit 7: continued

Week 16 (April 25)

Last class

April 27 – Reading Day

Final Exam – Comprehensive

Additional readings will come from newspapers and magazines and will be related to the current economic events.

Detailed weekly readings will be announced on Aplia.

Note: this syllabus is tentative and the instructor reserves the right to make any changes during the course as deemed necessary. These might include, but are not restricted to, addition or deletion of readings, assignments and changes in the schedule.