

Intermediate Macroeconomics
Econ 212 – Tu, Th 11:50- 1:30
Oxford College of Emory University
Fall 2012

Instructor: Dr. Jasminka Ninkovic

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Office Hours: MWF: 10:30 – 11:30 or by appointment

Textbook

Required: Andrew Abel, Ben Bernanke, and Dean Croushore, *Macroeconomics*, seventh edition, Pearson/Addison-Wesley, 2011

Subscription to MyEconLab (MEL) supporting the book.

Please, take a look at the buying options for the book and MEL at the end of the syllabus.

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

This course examines functioning of aggregate economy, including the determinants of long-run growth and the nature of business cycles. A major goal is to introduce students to the dominant classical and Keynesian models through which macroeconomic behavior and policy can be analyzed. More specifically, we will use framework developed in the course to analyze economic growth, productivity, full employment, and price stability in national economies. Attention will also be devoted to international economic issues, like international trade and international finance. Furthermore, relevant events from the real world will be discussed.

In addition to exploring how individual economies function we will discuss implicit assumptions and questions that arise from our analysis. For example, gross domestic product (GDP) – yearly production of final goods and services is considered to be one of main indicators of the health of an economy. Growing GDP implies more consumption and higher living standards. These higher living standards are often equated with “living better”. However, very rarely in an economics class we come to a point to think that more consumption is directly related to more time spent working and less time for other types of human activity that enrich our lives. A step further would be to ask if there is a need for a balance between consumption and other activities that are allowing us to live better lives? In other words, a question is if higher GDP and economic growth should always be a goal to strive for if we want to live “A Life in Balance”?

Prerequisites: Econ 101, 112 or permission of instructor.

Grading and Tests

Exam I: 20%,

Exam II: 20%,

Exam III 20%

Homework: 15%

Participation, attendance, news discussion, other assignments 20%

Debate: 5%

Bonus points: up to 3%

There are no make-ups for homework. One missing HW will not be counted towards your grade or lowest HW score will be dropped. There are no make-up assignments for quick quizzes or any other assignments.

Failure to take a test will lead to a score of zero for that test. No exception will be made except in medical emergencies where the other exams 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). Students may earn bonus points, however, to improve their grades. Bonus points are given for pop up or quizzes, take-home assignments and similar. Assignments will not be accepted late. You need to be in the class to submit the assignment. Homework will be assigned on MEL. Missed assignment can't be made-up.

Homework

Weekly problem sets will be assigned on MyEconLab web-site. (MEL terminology for the assignments is Test/Quizzes). If you have a new copy of the book there is an access code that you need to use when accessing MEL. If you purchased used book you will need to buy on-line access to MEL at www.myeconlab.com or from the bookstore. You can also buy access to MEL with homework and an e-book.

Participation, Attendance, News....

I strongly encourage you to attend class, participate in class discussions, and complete the assigned readings because it will determine how well you will be doing not only in this part of the course but in the class as a whole.

Most Thursdays we will discuss current macroeconomic news in the class. Students will be responsible for reading, summarizing, presenting and discussing news in the class. Your summaries will be due before the class, posted on Blackboard.

One of the goals for this class is to get acquainted with “real world” data. Students will learn to identify sources and analyze data on economic concepts and theories studied in class. These types of assignments will be due usually on Tuesdays. Details about the assignments will be explained in class and/or posted on BlackBoard.

Attendance will be taken on random dates.

Macro Policy Debate

At the end of the course students will participate in a debate on a topic(s) of current macroeconomic interest. Specifically, two teams will take opposing sides on a question such as:

- Is the current CAD (current account deficit) in the USA a serious problem?
- Should Social Security be transitioned to a system of private accounts?
- Is more spending on infrastructure the key to economic growth?
- Does the U.S. economy benefit from foreign trade?
- Should U.S. financial markets be more regulated?
- Is offshore outsourcing negative?
- Should we fear China's economic progress?

Each side would give a short presentation of its case and have the opportunity to point out weaknesses in the opposing side's arguments. Grades would be based on how well students demonstrated knowledge of the issues, as well as the clarity and general strength of the presentation. Details about format, teams and topics will be made available later in the course.

Expected Student Conduct

- be on time
- participate in class discussion
- read over the assigned material before the class
- study on regular basis

Please discuss with me any problems any problems you may have in the course or any suggestions to improve the course

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 or homework and plagiarizing or sabotaging another student's work. The usual penalty for violations of honor code is grade F in this course.

Communication

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

Your homework assignments will be posted on *MyEconLab* (MEL), an on-line product accompanying the book.

Documents related to the class such as syllabus, as well as discussions/questions will be communicated through *Blackboard*.

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

Tentative reading list is as follows. Weekly readings will be announced on Blackboard.

I - Intro to Macro and National Income Accounting

Week 1	Chapter 1: Introduction to Macroeconomics
Week 2	Chapter 2: The Measurement and Structure of the National Economy

II-Markets and Long-run Economic Performance

Week 3	Chapter 3: Productivity, Output and Employment
Week 4	Chapter 4: Consumption, Saving and Investment
Week 5	Chapter 5: Saving and Investment in the Open Economy
Week 6	Oct 4th Exam I
Week 7	Chapter 6: Economic Growth
Week 8/Week 9	Chapter 7: The Asset Market, Money and Prices
Week 9	Chapter 8: Business Cycle

III-Short-run Fluctuations

Week 10	Chapter 9: The IS-LM/AD-AS Model
Week 11	Nov 8th, Exam II
Week 12	Chapter 10: Classical Business Cycle Analysis
Week 13/Week 14	Chapter 11: Keynesianism: The Macroeconomics of Wage and Price Rigidity
	Thanksgiving break

IV-Macroeconomic Policy

Week 15	Selected sections: Chapter 12 Unemployment and Inflation and Chapter 13 Exchange Rates, Business Cycles, and Macroeconomic Policy in the Open Economy and the debate
Week 16	Dec, 11th last class, Exam III

V- Fed and Government – Macro Policy Institutions

Depending on time availability: Chapter 14 Monetary Policy and the Federal System (sections) & Chapter 15 Government Spending and its Financing (sections) will be included.

This schedule and the course content are tentative and the instructor reserves the right to make any changes during the course as deemed necessary.

Book buying options

1. New copy of the text with MyEconLab access – check with the bookstore about the price.
2. If a student purchases a used copy they can purchase access online at www.myeconlab.com
Without an eBook, the online price of MyEconLab is \$50.
3. For students who want to buy MyEconLab with an eBook in lieu of a physical book, the cost is \$100. They purchase access right at www.myeconlab.com.

How students enroll in MyEconLab

To enroll in a typical course, a student needs to have a:

- **Student access code, a valid credit card, or a PayPal account**– Students get an access code with a new book purchase or by buying the code separately in a student access kit/card at the campus bookstore. Students can also buy access to a course online with a credit card or PayPal account while they are enrolling.

The student access code is nontransferable and can be used only once.

If a student is waiting for financial aid, they can access your course without payment. This option grants a student temporary access to your course for 17 days. For more information, see [To request temporary access](#).

- **Course ID – *ninkovic97978***
- **Email address** - The student's registration and enrollment confirmation will be sent to this email address. This address is also available to you, the instructor, for course-based communications.

A student who does not already have a Pearson account and is enrolling for the first time should follow the registration instructions from the Students area of the MyLab and Mastering website.

To assist these students, print the instructions and distribute them, along with the course ID for your course.

A student who already has a Pearson account performs the steps in [Registering and Enrolling in a New Subject](#) below to enroll in a new course.