

Principles of Macroeconomics (Econ 112Q)
Spring 2014
Oxford College of Emory University
MWF 8: 15 – 9: 20 (Section A)

Instructor: Dr. Jasminka Ninkovic
Office: Seney Hall, 316
Telephone: (770) 784-4689
e-mail: jninkov@learnlink.emory.edu

Office Hours:

MW: 10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
Th: 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. or by appointment

Book and Support Materials:

Required: R. Frank and B. Bernanke, *Principles of Macroeconomics*, 5th edition, McGraw Hill, 2013& **Connect access**. Connect will provide students with on-line practice and graded homework assignments.

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.

What Is There in Q?

“INQ courses are designed to be both informative and transformative. Students not only learn the fundamentals, concepts, principles, assumptions, and terminology of a particular discipline, but they also learn to understand and question the ways in which knowledge is pursued”. (Statement about the Oxford College GEP – draft).

In this course, students are engaged on a daily basis in the learning process. Lecturing is minimal and instructor’s role is one of a facilitator of the process. Students will be responsible for acquiring information on facts, principles and concepts outside and before these are used in the class. The goals are to use classroom time to learn how to use information and knowledge in new situations (apply), to ask questions about implicit assumptions for our claims (analyze and evaluate) and to develop abilities to relate what they are learning in the classroom to a “wider world”. During the course, students will

progress from a stage with more guidance to more independence. More specifically, instructor will model these processes at the beginning of the course and ask students to do it more on their own as the course progresses.

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. ***Please do not use electronic devices unless specifically asked by the instructor.***

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 Connect web-site.

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

Goals and Pedagogy of the Course:

There are three important goals in this course:

- The emphasis is on learning theories and principles as currently understood by the mainstream economic thought (IDEA objective #22);
- Important goal is to learn to apply course material through development of problem solving skills (IDEA objective #23);
- Another important goal is to acquire skills in working with others as a member of a team (IDEA objective #25)

The pedagogy in this class aims at engaging students in the learning process on a daily basis. Teacher's role is to facilitate class discussions and lecturing is minimal as a way of acquiring knowledge. Team based learning (TBL) is a pedagogy that puts emphases on collaborative learning in permanent teams. Group work will mainly happen in class in a form of learning activities and readiness assessments. More about TBL at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=GKEeNbey8Wg.

Assessment and Grading Policies:

RA Individual: 9% (1.5% each)

RA Group: 15% (2.5% each)

Exam I: 17.5%, Feb 19th

Exam II: 17.5%, Apr 4th

Final exam: 20% (comprehensive), Friday, May 2nd, 2:00 – 5:00

Homework: 6 %

Other in Class Assignments/Quizzes, Attendance: 5%

Project: “Peak into Everyday Economic Statistics” 5%

Pear Evaluation; 5%

Bonus points: Other Assignments (News reporting, Participation, Events Attendance), up to 3%

Learn Smart assignments on Connect will be made available before reading assurance (RA) quizzes to help you understand readings and to learn basic concepts. After RAs, we will be working on applications of those concepts and go deeper into the exploration of the material in class. Homework sets will be given weekly and assigned as on-line assignments after we have had multiple opportunities to learn the material: through your reading, by practicing the material with Learn Smart, RAs, and applying it to specific problems and cases through application exercises in class. Lowest or one missed homework will not be counted towards your grade. You may discuss Learn Smart and homework with your classmates. The project “Peak into Everyday Economic Statistics” will help you to understand how indicators of a state of an economy are collected, how to interpret them and to learn some basic statistical facts about the american economy. Details will be provided later on Blackboard.

.....
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).

Turn-in 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.

Using Connect and Blackboard

Connect is an on-line product that contains practice and assignments. Our main communication tool and learning platform will be Blackboard. Please note that if you miss a problem set on Connect for whatever reason, I cannot let you take it once the deadline is past.

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:

Week 1 (Jan 14 – Jan 19)

Unit 1: Introduction & Review (Ch 1, Ch 2, Ch 3)

Week 2 (Jan 20- Jan 26)

Unit 2: Most Important Macroeconomic Concepts (Ch 4, Ch 5 and Ch 6)

Jan 24rd, RA I on Unit 2

Week 3 (Jan 27 – Feb 2)

Unit 2 continued

Week 4 (Feb 3 – Feb 9)

Unit 2 continued

Feb 7, RA II on Unit 3

Unit 3: Long-run Growth (Ch 7)

Week 5 (Feb 10 – Feb 16)

Unit 3 continued

Week 6 (Feb 17 – Feb 23)

Midterm I, Feb 19

Week 7 (Feb 24 – March 2)

Feb 24th, RA III on Unit 4

Unit 4: Saving and Financial Systems (Ch 8, Ch 9)

Week 8 (March 3 – March 9)

Unit 4 continued

Week 9 (March 10– March 16)

Spring Break

Week 10 (March 17- March 23)

March 19th , RA IV on Unit 5

Unit 5: Short-term Economic Fluctuations and Policies (Ch 10, Ch 11, Ch 12)

Week 11 (March 24 – March 30)

Unit 5 continued

Week 12 (March 31 – April 6)

Unit 5 continued

Midterm II, April 4th

Week 13 (April 7 – April 13)

Unit 6: Aggregate Demand, Aggregate Supply Model and Economic Policies (Ch 13 and Ch 14)

April 9th, RA V on Ch 13

Week 14 (April 14 – April 20)

Unit 6 continued

Week 15 (April 21 – April 27)

Unit 7: The International Economy (Ch 15)

April 21th, RA VI on Unit 7

Week 16 (April 28th) Last class

April 29th – Reading Day

Final Exam (comprehensive), Friday, May 2nd 2:00 – 5:00.

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

Detailed weekly readings and assignments will be announced on Blackboard.

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.

Please note that student work submitted as part of this course may be reviewed by Oxford College and Emory College faculty and staff for the purposes of improving instruction and enhancing Emory education.”