

**Principles of Macroeconomics (Econ 112)**  
**Spring 2013**  
**Oxford College of Emory University**  
MWF 8: 15 – 9: 20 (Section A)  
Course # 4708

**Instructor:** Dr. Jasminka Ninkovic  
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**Office Hours:**

MW: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.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*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, McGraw Hill, 2013 & **Connect access** (see registration instructions on the last page of the syllabus)

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 #2);
- Important goal is to learn to apply course material through development of problem solving skills (IDEA objective #3);
- Another important goal is to acquire skills in working with others as a member of a team (IDEA objective #5)

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](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 20<sup>th</sup>

Exam II: 17.5%, April 5<sup>th</sup>

Final exam: 20% (comprehensive), Wednesday, May 1<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 – 5:00

LearnSmart 5%

Homework: 6 %

Other in Class Assignments/Quizzes, Attendance: 5%

Pear Evaluation; 5%

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

Learn Smart assignments on Connect will be assigned before RA quizzes to help you understand the readings and to learn the basic concepts. After RAs, we will be working on applications of these 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.

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*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.*  
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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.*

## **What is Connect?**

Connect is an on-line product that contains practice and assignments and will be also used as our main communication tool outside the class. Please note that if you miss a problem set 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 15 – Jan 20)

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

*Week 2* (Jan 21- Jan 27)

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

**Jan 25<sup>rd</sup>, RA I on Unit 2**

*Week 3* (Jan 28 – Feb 3)

Unit 2 continued

*Week 4* (Feb 4 – Feb 10)

Unit 2 continued

**Feb 8, RA II on Unit 3**

**Unit 3: Long-run Growth** (Ch 7)

*Week 5* (Feb 11 – Feb 17)

Unit 3 continued

*Week 6* (Feb 18 – Feb 24)

***Midterm I, Feb 20***

*Week 7* (Feb 25 – March 3)

**Feb 25<sup>th</sup>, RA III on Unit 4**

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

*Week 8* (March 4 – March 10)

Unit 4 continued

*Week 9* (March 11– March 17)

**Spring Break**

*Week 10* (March 18- March 24)

**March 20<sup>th</sup>, RA IV on Unit 5**

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

*Week 11* (March 25 – March 31)

Unit 5 continued

*Week 12* (April 1 – April 7)

Unit 5 continued

***Midterm II, April 5<sup>th</sup>***

*Week 13* (April 8 – April 14)

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

**April 10<sup>th</sup>, RA V on Unit 6**

*Week 14* (April 15 – April 21)

Unit 6 continued

*Week 15* (April 22 – April 28)

Unit 7: **The International Economy** (Ch 15)

**April 22<sup>th</sup>, RA VI on Unit 7**

*Week 16* (April 29<sup>th</sup>) Last class

April 30<sup>th</sup> – Reading Day

**Final Exam** (comprehensive), Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Connect.

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.”**