How do I Study for the Exams in EC 202?

The material in EC 202 is not particularly complicated, but it also not obvious. It can take time to make sense, but it will "click" if you keep at it. Students who do well tend to study early and often and have repeated interactions with the material. If you try and cram material in before the exam you will likely do very poorly.

The material you will be tested on is contained in the course lectures and any supplemental videos I post (if applicable.) So, you need to start with a clear strategy for organizing, learning, and reviewing this material. Here is one such strategy:

- For every course lecture, I will provide you with lecture slides, both in pdf and MS Word format. Find a way to use these lecture slides in your note taking. For example, you might take notes directly on the lecture slides during class. Or you might consolidate your in-class notes with the lecture slides after class.

- Dedicate time after each lecture (at least 1.5 hour per lecture) to go back through your notes and the lecture slides and identify areas for which you don't have a solid understanding. For these areas, write down specific questions you have. For example, "Why are imports subtracted off in the calculation of GDP using the expenditure approach?" Or "What exactly is the Aggregate Demand curve supposed to be measuring?" Then, revisit these problem areas using the posted recording of lecture and the textbook (if you purchased it) and see if you can answer your questions. If so, write an answer to the question in your own words. Keep all of your questions and answers organized in a centralized location. We'll call these your "problem-area questions."

- If you aren't able to answer your problem-area questions on your own, come to office hours and get them answered. There are lots of office hours scheduled for this class. Alternatively, you are always free to email me or the GEs with your questions. Afterwards, write an answer to the question in your own words.

- Every week I post practice problems that cover material from that week. These practice problems are examples of the types of multiple-choice questions that you will see on exams. Go over these practice problems prior to the start of the next week and identify questions that you are struggling to

understand. Add these to your list of problem-area questions. Using your lecture notes, the lecture recordings, book, and your instructors, get your questions answered. Write your answers to these problem-area questions in your own words.

- Keep a running list of equations and definitions and add to these each week. Make flashcards to review. Remember, the exams are closed book and closed notes, so you will need to have equations and definitions memorized.

  All of the above activities should be done *every week.*

When you are about a week out from the exam I recommend you:

- Go through your problem-area questions and review your answers. If there are any you haven't yet answered, get them answered.

- Review all your equation and definition flashcards. Practice using the equations. There should be many examples of using the equations on the weekly practice problems.

- If you are studying for the second exam or the final exam,

- I will post a practice exam on Canvas. When you are 2-3 days out from the exam, take the practice exam in "exam like" conditions. This means you don't use any notes or other resources and you give yourself the same time you will be allocated to take the exam in class. Grade the practice exam. For all the questions you miss, go back to the class notes to understand *why* you missed the question. Simply looking at the correct answers is not enough to understand why you answered incorrectly. You should also do a broader review of the topic that the specific question you missed was covering.

- From your practice exam, see if there is a pattern of certain topics that you are particularly struggling with. Dedicate additional time to studying those topics.