

Principles of Macroeconomics

ECON2110G.M01.SP2026 – Syllabus

Dr. Meghan Downes

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1 Course Information

1.1 Instructor Contact

Dr. Meghan Downes

College of Business

New Mexico State University

Email: cmdownes@nmsu.edu

Office Phone: 575.646.3295

Cell Phone: 575.214.0365

Office: DOM224

Office Hours: BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Please email to ensure you have my time reserved and available to meet your needs. Office hours will be conducted over Zoom or in-person.

Communication Response Time: I will typically respond to communications within 24 hours.

1.2 Course Details

Course Number: ECON 2110G - M01

Credits: 4

Semester: Spring 2026

Duration: January 21 - May 8, 2026 (16 weeks)

Prerequisites: None

1.2.1 Course Meeting Times & Location

Format: Face-to-Face

Location: [Classroom TBD]

Meeting Times: Mondays & Wednesdays, 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Important Dates:

- Classes Begin: January 21, 2026
 - MLK Holiday: January 20, 2026
 - Spring Break: March 16-22, 2026
 - Classes End: May 8, 2026
 - Final Grades Due: May 16, 2026
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1.3 Course Description

This course introduces students to the principles of macroeconomics, including analysis of aggregate demand and supply, growth models, monetary policy, and fiscal policy. Through a combination of traditional lectures, interactive worksheets, hands-on experiments, and a capstone project, students will develop an understanding of how macroeconomic principles shape real-world policy decisions. The course emphasizes critical thinking, quantitative literacy, and practical application of economic theory.

Macroeconomics is the study of decision-making at the economy-wide level. How do economies grow? What determines price levels and inflation? How do governments and central banks influence economic outcomes? This course explores these big questions through 15 fundamental economic concepts.

2 Required Materials

2.1 Textbook

Modern Principles: Macroeconomics (5th Edition)

by Tyler Cowen & Alex Tabarrok

Published by: Worth Publishers

ISBNs:

- 9781319329618
- 1319329616
- 9781319482909
- 9781319329564
- 9781319245412

Format Options:

- Print textbook
- eBook (Brytewave App or other digital formats)
- Rental copies available

2.2 Follett ACCESS Program

Required course materials are provided digitally through the Follett Access program at a fixed rate, which is billed directly to your student account when you register for the course. These materials will be available via Canvas on the first day of class. The textbooks can be accessed digitally on the first day through the Follett My Materials link and the Course Materials module.

By enrolling in this course, you have been automatically enrolled in the NMSU Integrated Access Program. This means that your required course materials are being provided to you automatically for this class. The charge for this material has been added to your MyNMSU student account. If you have further questions about Follett Access at NMSU, please reach out to the NMSU Bookstore.

Your Opt-out deadline: 2/6/2026

The opt-out portal closes on: 2/6/2026

Opt-out Portal Link: <https://accessportal.follett.com/2218>

If you decide not to participate, you can opt out of this program once the opt-out portal opens through the above deadline. Once you opt out, you will be responsible for purchasing the materials listed below on your own. A link to the opt-out portal has been sent to your school mail account from noreply@follett.com and can also be found above.

If you have further questions, please email bookstore@nmsu.edu

Follett Access Support (NMSU Bookstore – Las Cruces/Main Campus)

Email: 2218txt@follett.com, 2218mgr@follett.com

2.3 Additional Required Materials

- 3-Ring Binder
- 3"x5" note cards
- 4 color writing instruments
- A dumb calculator (NO BLUETOOTH or WI-FI Connectivity, No Programming)
- Computer with reliable internet connection
- Access to R and RStudio (free, open-source software)

3 Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. **Understand Core Principles** – Grasp fundamental macroeconomic concepts including scarcity, opportunity cost, marginal analysis, and economic thinking
 2. **Analyze Economic Data** – Interpret and evaluate economic indicators, measurements of growth, and changes in price levels
 3. **Apply Growth Models** – Use the Solow model to understand long-term economic growth
 4. **Evaluate Macroeconomic Theories** – Compare and critique Keynesian, monetarist, and other economic perspectives
 5. **Assess Policy Options** – Analyze fiscal and monetary policy tools and their macroeconomic effects
 6. **Think Critically** – Make evidence-based arguments about complex economic policy questions
 7. **Communicate Effectively** – Present economic analysis clearly to diverse audiences
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4 Course Structure & Components

4.1 Interactive Worksheets (400 points)

20 in-class worksheets designed to reinforce key concepts through practical application and problem-solving. Each worksheet:

- Is named according to format: `MMDD-topic-ws.qmd`
- Worth 20 points each
- Completed during class time
- Focuses on a discrete economic concept with real-world applications

4.2 In-Class Experiments (100 points)

2 hands-on experiments allowing students to explore economic principles through direct experience:

- **Experiment 1 (Week 3):** Marginal thinking and decision-making
- **Experiment 2 (Week 6):** Growth and compound effects
- 50 points each
- Group participation required

4.3 Economics Notebook (100 points)

A semester-long reflective journal where you:

- Record insights and observations about economic concepts

- Connect course material to real-world examples
- Reflect on how economic thinking changes your perspective
- Submit three reflective entries totaling 100 points

4.4 Semester Project: *Let's Play Policy: Who's The GOAT?* (200 points)

A capstone project where you'll develop and present policy recommendations on a macroeconomic issue of your choice:

- **Group Size:** 2-3 students
- **Components:**
 - Policy brief (100 points)
 - Presentation (75 points)
 - Peer evaluation (25 points)
- **Due:** Week 15 (May 5-7, 2026)
- Presentations are mandatory

5 Grading & Assessment

5.1 Grade Distribution

Assignment	Count	Points Each	Total
Class Worksheets	20	20	400
Experiments	2	50	100
Notebook Reflections	3	~33	100
Semester Project	1	200	200
TOTAL	—	—	800

5.2 Grade Scale

Grade	Percentage	Points (out of 800)
A	90-100%	720-800
B	80-89%	640-719
C	70-79%	560-639
D	60-69%	480-559
F	Below 60%	Below 480

5.3 Grading Policies

- **Late Work:** Worksheets submitted after class receive 50% credit. Notebook entries and project materials are subject to the late policy outlined in course documents.

- **Incomplete Grade:** May be granted only in exceptional circumstances and requires prior approval from the instructor
 - **Grade Disputes:** Must be addressed within one week of grade posting
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6 Course Expectations & Policies

6.1 Class Attendance & Participation

- Regular attendance is essential for success
- Worksheets are completed during class; missing class means missing points
- Participate actively in discussions and group activities
- Inform instructor in advance of planned absences when possible

6.2 Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to New Mexico State University's academic integrity standards. This includes:

- Completing all work independently (unless group work is explicitly assigned)
- Properly citing all sources used in written work
- Not sharing completed worksheets or project materials with other groups
- Violating academic integrity policies will result in penalties up to and including failing the course

6.3 Classroom Conduct

- Arrive on time and come prepared with necessary materials
- Silence cell phones; minimize distractions
- Respect the views and contributions of classmates
- Participate constructively in group work and discussions

6.4 Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Students with documented disabilities who believe you may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact:

- **Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD)**
 - Contact SSD to discuss your specific needs and available accommodations
 - Accommodations will be provided in a timely manner
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7 Learning Resources

7.1 On Campus

- **Library:** Extended hours during midterms and finals
- **Writing Center:** Support for written work
- **Tutoring Services:** Math and economics-specific tutoring available

7.2 Online Resources

- Course website with all materials and schedule
 - Supplementary readings and data sources
 - Office hours (in-person and virtual options)
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8 Course Schedule Overview

The semester is organized around 15 core economic concepts:

1. Treasure Hunt & Scavenger Hunt
2. Scarcity & Limits
3. Opportunity Cost & Trade-Offs
4. Sunk Cost Fallacy
5. Marginal Thinking
6. Working with Units
7. Math in Economics
8. Measuring Wealth & Well-Being (GDP)
9. The Solow Growth Model
10. The Keynesian Model
11. The Monetary Model
12. The Dynamic AD/AS Model
13. A Game of Theories
14. Free Markets & Capitalism
15. Let's Play Policy (Project)

See Canvas for detailed week-by-week breakdown.

9 Communication

9.1 Email

- Response time: 24-48 hours during weekdays
- Include course number (ECON2110G) in subject line

9.2 Office Hours

- By appointment: Email to schedule
- Virtual options available

9.3 Course Announcements

- Check Canvas regularly for announcements
 - Important dates and changes will be posted prominently
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10 Course Policies

10.1 Changes to Syllabus

The instructor reserves the right to modify the course content, schedule, and policies as needed. Students will be notified of significant changes in advance.

10.2 Workload Expectations

As a 4-credit course, expect approximately 12 hours per week of total work (class time + outside preparation).

10.3 Technology Failures

- Save work frequently and maintain backups
 - Technical issues do not excuse late submission of work
 - Contact instructor immediately if experiencing significant technical problems
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11 Final Thoughts

Macroeconomics helps us understand the world we live in. You'll encounter economic principles in news headlines, policy debates, and your daily lives. This course is designed to give you the tools to think critically about these issues and develop evidence-based perspectives on complex economic questions.

I look forward to working with you this semester!

12 Contact & Support

Questions? Please reach out:

- **Email:** cmdownes@nmsu.edu
 - **Office Hours:** BY APPOINTMENT ONLY (email to schedule)
 - **Office:** DOM224, College of Business
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Last Updated: January 15, 2026