

**EC202 – Introduction to Macroeconomics  
Summer 2017**

Instructor: Riley Acton  
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**Course Description**

Welcome to EC202! This course will provide the foundation necessary to understand macroeconomic principles, problems, and policies. An emphasis will be placed on learning to “think like an economist” and understand basic economic analysis. Topics covered include: unemployment, inflation, economic growth, national income accounting, GDP, fiscal policy, monetary policy, and aggregate supply and demand.

**Course Time and Location** MWF 12:40pm – 2:30pm, 311 Ernst Bessey Hall

**Office Hours** MW, 9:00am – 10:30am, Old Botany 003 (or by appointment)

**Course Materials**

- *Principles of Macroeconomics* by N. Gregory Mankiw, 8th Edition – you are welcome to use a previous edition, however, please note that the chapter numbers may be different than those listed on the course schedule.
- Aplia, 1<sup>st</sup> Term Printed Access Card for Mankiw’s *Principles of Economics*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition – please see attached instructions for how to register with Aplia. Make sure to use your MSU email address when you register.

**Assignments**

**1. Exams (Midterm = 35% of grade, Final = 40% of grade)**

There will be 2 exams during the course of the semester: a midterm on Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> and a final on Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>. Both exams will be scored out of 100 points. Exams will be a combination of true/false, multiple choice, and short answer questions. The final exam will be cumulative with an emphasis on material covered after the midterm.

**Exam Make-Up Policy:** If extenuating circumstances arise that prohibit you from taking the exam in class, you must notify me **before 10:00am on the day of the exam** to arrange a make-up. I am willing to work with you, but I will not grant make-ups to anyone who contacts me after this time.

**2. Homework (20% of grade)**

Aplia homework assignments will generally be due on Mondays at 11:00pm and will cover the previous week’s lectures. These assignments are designed to reinforce concepts covered in class and help you practice for the exams. There will be a mix of question types (multiple choice, fill-in-the-blanks, graphical analysis, short answer) and, with the exception of short answer questions, you will be given 3 attempts to solve the problem correctly. The average score of your three attempts will be recorded.

**3. Class Participation (5% of grade)**

Students are expected to attend and participate fully in each class. There will be in-class activities throughout the semester that will contribute to your final course grade.

**4. Extra Credit (Up to 5 points available on each exam)**

Students are eligible to receive up to 5 points on both the midterm and final exams for the completion of a current events assignment (see “Current Events Extra Credit” sheet, distributed in class and posted on D2L in the “Assignments” folder).

**Grading**

I will use the following grading scale. I am happy to tell you your grade at any point during the semester if you send me an email or come see me in office hours. I will also post assignment grades on D2L.

Grading Scale	
90% & up	4.0
85 to 89%	3.5
80 to 84%	3.0
75 to 79%	2.5
70 to 74%	2.0
65 to 69%	1.5
60 to 64%	1.0
59% & below	0

**Course Policies**

**Communication:** Email is the best way to reach me. I will try my best to respond to your email within 24 hours, but an immediate response is not guaranteed. Please remember that if you email me after 5pm, or on a weekend, I may not reply to you until the next day.

**Punctuality:** I expect you to be on time for class and to complete assignments in a timely manner. I will endeavor to end class on time, but please refrain from packing up until class is completely done. Otherwise, you may miss important announcements – or worse, impose that costs on the students around you. If you know you will be needing to arrive late or leave early, please notify me ahead of time, sit near the door, and minimize disruptions as you come or go.

**Understanding:** If you become ill, experience a death of a loved one, or have a major life disruption that will negatively influence your participation in our class, please contact me as soon as possible so we can discuss your options. I can’t help you if I don’t know what’s going on. If unexpected events arise that prevent you from attending a lecture, be sure to get notes and other information from a trusted classmate and see me to find out what else you may have missed.

**Respect:** In the classroom, respect means paying attention and creating an environment that allows others to do so as well. Please keep your cell phones on silent and your laptops put away. If you need your phone or laptop for a compelling reason, please speak to me before class. **Inappropriate technology usage will result in a decrease in your class participation grade.**

**Tips for Success**

**Attendance:** COME TO CLASS EVERY SINGLE DAY. The material in this course will build on itself rapidly and missing a class will confuse you later on down the road. Due to the condensed nature of the

summer session, we will be moving very quickly through the material and missing a class will most likely result in missing an entire chapter.

**Participation:** Class participation is absolutely encouraged – an hour and 50 minutes is a very long time for me to be lecturing with no input from you! Please ask questions. They are not an imposition at all. In fact, they are welcome and make class more interesting for all of us. Chances are if you are having difficulty understanding a topic, so are your classmates and they will appreciate you asking. If you feel uncomfortable asking a question in class, please see me after class or come to my office hours.

**Readings:** Complete the reading assignments before class. Some of the topics we will cover are complex and will take several passes through the material to sink in. Knowing the basics before class will make my lectures much easier to follow.

**Review:** Go over your notes every day after class. I know it seems like a lot of work, but it will force you to review the material when it is fresh in your mind. When doing this, be sure to write down any questions you have and ask them before or during the following class.

**Homework:** Working through the problems on the homework assignments will tremendously help you understand the material covered in class. I recommend starting homework assignments as early as possible so that you can keep up with lectures and are able to ask me questions if needed.

**Study Groups:** I highly recommend that you form a small study group (2-5 students) with classmates who are willing to work as hard as you are. Explaining the material out loud is one of the best ways to learn!

### **Other Important Reminders**

**Academic Honesty:** The Spartan Code of Honor states, "As a Spartan, I will strive to uphold values of the **highest ethical standard**. I will practice honesty in my work, foster honesty in my peers, and take pride in knowing that **honor is worth more than grades**. I will carry these values beyond my time as a student at Michigan State University, continuing the endeavor to build personal integrity in all that I do." In addition, Article 2.III.B.2 of the Student Rights and Responsibilities (SRR) states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." The Economics Department adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in General Student Regulations 1.0, Protection of Scholarship and Grades; the all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades; and Ordinance 17.00, Examinations.

Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, classwork, and exams, without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Also, you are not authorized to use the [www.allmsu.com](http://www.allmsu.com) Web site to complete any course work in this course. Students who violate MSU academic integrity rules may receive a penalty grade, including a failing grade on the assignment or in the course. Please contact me if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work.

**Accommodations for Disabilities:** Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-RCPD or on the web at [www.rcpd.msu.edu](http://www.rcpd.msu.edu). Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a Verified Individual Services Accommodation ("VISA") form. Please present this form to

me at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (exam, homework, etc.). Requests received after this date may not be honored.

**Religious Holidays:** You may make up course work missed to observe a major religious holiday only if you make arrangements in advance with the professor.

**Participation in a Required Activity:** To make up course work missed to participate in a required activity for another course or a university-sanctioned event, you must provide the professor with adequate advanced notice and written authorization from the faculty member of the other course or from a university administrator.

**Learning Resource Center:** The Learning Resources Center (LRC) is a self-paced individualized learning center that assists MSU students who want to improve their academic performance. Its goal is to help students develop the strategies and techniques necessary to become successful students. The LRC uses three units to deliver its services: a professional staff located in the main office, an interactive learning lab, and evening tutoring services housed in residence halls. See their website for more information: <http://lrc.msu.edu/> or call (517) 355-2363.

### (Tentative) Course Schedule

Week		Topic	Assignments
<b>Week 1</b>			
M	5/15	Introduction; Chapter 1: Ten Principles of Economics	Pretest due Wednesday, 5/17 at 12:30pm
W	5/17	Chapter 2: Thinking Like an Economist	
F	5/19	Chapter 3: Interdependence & Gains from Trade	
<b>Week 2</b>			
M	5/22	Chapter 4: Supply & Demand	Homework 1 (Ch. 1, 2, 3) due Monday, 5/22 at 11pm
W	5/24	Chapter 4 Cont'd; Chapter 6: Government Policies	
F	5/26	Chapter 10: Measuring a Nation's Income	
<b>Week 3</b>			
M	5/29	<b>MEMORIAL DAY – NO CLASS</b>	Homework 2 (Ch. 4, 6) due Monday, 5/29 at 11pm
W	5/31	Chapter 11: Measuring the Cost of Living	
F	6/2	Chapter 15: Unemployment	
<b>Week 4</b>			
M	6/5	Flex Day & Midterm Review	Homework 3 (Ch. 10, 11, 15) due Monday, 6/5 at 11pm
W	6/7	<b>MIDTERM EXAM (covers Ch. 1-4, 6, 10-11, 15)</b>	
F	6/9	Chapter 12: Productivity & Economic Growth	
<b>Week 5</b>			
M	6/12	Chapter 13, 14.1: Savings, Investment, Financial System	Homework 4 (Ch. 12) due Monday, 6/12 at 11pm
W	6/14	Chapter 16: The Monetary System	
F	6/16	Chapter 17: Money Growth & Inflation	
<b>Week 6</b>			
M	6/19	Chapter 18, 19: Open Economy Macroeconomics	Homework 5 (Ch. 13, 14.1, 16, 17) due Monday, 6/19 at 11pm
W	6/21	Chapter 20: Aggregate Supply & Demand	
F	6/23	Chapter 21: Monetary & Fiscal Policy	
<b>Week 7</b>			
M	6/26	Macroeconomic Policy, Flex Day & Final Exam Review	Homework 6 (Ch. 18, 19, 20, 21) due Monday, 6/26 at 11pm
W	6/28	<b>FINAL EXAM (emphasis on Ch. 12-13, 16-21)</b>	

# How to access your Aplia course

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## EC202 Introduction to Macroeconomics

**Instructor:** Riley Acton  
**Start Date:** 05/15/2017

### What is Aplia?

In just 10 years, more than one billion answers have been submitted through Aplia, the premier online assignment solution. Millions of students use Aplia to better prepare for class and for their exams. Join them today!

### Registration

1. Connect to <http://login.cengagebrain.com/course/9UGF-LE4Y-3DSX>
2. Follow the prompts to register for your Aplia course.

### Payment

After registering for your course, you will need to pay for access using one of the options below:

**Online:** You can pay online using a credit or debit card, or PayPal.

**Bookstore:** You may be able to purchase access to Aplia at your bookstore. Check with the bookstore to find out what they offer for your course.

**Free Trial:** Your course enrollment includes a free trial period of up to two weeks. After the free trial ends you will be required to pay for access. (Please note: At the end of the free trial period, your course access will be suspended until your payment has been made. All your scores and course activity will be saved and will be available to you after you pay for access.)

If you already registered an access code or bought Aplia online, the course key to register for this course is: **9UGF-LE4Y-3DSX**

### System Check

To check whether your computer meets the requirements for using Aplia, go to <http://www.aplia.com/support/sysreq.jsp>