

## ECONOMICS 202: PRINCIPLES OF MACROECONOMICS

Section 7D1, Spring 2019 – CRN 11912

**Instructor: Alexandre (Alex) Scarcioffolo**

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**The best way to contact me is through email. I will do my best to answer your emails within 24 hours.**

**WHY ECON 202?:** To learn about inflation, unemployment, the banking system, exchange rates, the business cycle, the Federal Reserve, government budget deficits, and how economists analyze the effect of government policy on the economy as a whole. Obtain a richer understanding of key issues facing you as a citizen of the world's pre-eminent economic power in a time of global imbalances.

**PREREQUISITE: ECONOMICS 201. For questions about enrolling, see Karen Smith in B&E 419.**

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

**Cengage MindTap Online Courseware (required):** Contains Weekly homework exercises.

**Textbook:** N. Gregory Mankiw, *BRIEF PRINCIPLES OF MACROECONOMICS*. This textbook is *recommended*

An online version of the text is included as part of the *required* MindTap package.

You may also purchase a hard copy. Any edition of the book will do; the 8<sup>th</sup> is the most recent edition.

The textbook with a MindTap Access Code card is also available at the Student Book Store.

**SCHEDULE:** *All Due Dates are FIRM.* NO MAKEUPS. Exercises and Exams will not be reopened for any reason.

- All homework exercises and discussions are due **Friday at 8:00 PM.**
- Each chapter is accompanied by practice problem sets that do not count towards your grade.
- Each chapter is accompanied by homework problem sets
- **Each Module is accompanied by a set of questions for online discussion.**
- Homework and discussion do count towards your grade.

### **Schedule**

Modules	Duration	Contents	Reading from Mankiw
Module 1	Week 1 (7 Jan – 11 Jan)	Manipulating Economic Models	Ch 2
	Week 2 (14 Jan – 18 Jan)	Manipulating Economic Models	Ch 4
Module 2	Week 3 (21 Jan – 25 Jan)	Measuring a Nation's Income	Ch 5
	Week 4 (28 Jan – 1 Feb)	Measuring the Cost of Living	Ch 6
	Week 5 (4 Feb – 8 Feb)	Unemployment	Ch 10-1
<b>Midterm 1 (1 Feb, 8:00 PM to 3 Feb, 8:00 PM Eastern Standard Time, EST)</b>			
Module 3	Week 6 (11 Feb – 15 Feb)	Unemployment	Ch 10-2 through 10-6
	Week 7 (18 Feb – 22 Feb)	Production and Growth	Ch 7
	Week 8 (25 Feb – 1 Mar)	Saving and Investment, and Financial System	Ch 8

Module 4	Week 9 (4 Mar – 8 Mar)	Basic Tools of Finance	Ch 9
	9 Mar – 17 Mar	Spring Recess	
	Week 10 (18 Mar – 22 Mar)	The Monetary System	Ch 11
<b>Midterm 2 (22 Mar, 8:00 PM to 24 Mar, 8:00 PM Eastern Daylight Saving Time, EDT)</b>			
Module 5	Week 11 (25 Mar – 29 Mar)	Money, Growth and Inflation	Ch 12
	Week 12 (1 Apr – 5 Apr)	Open economy Basics	Ch 13
Module 6	Week 13 (8 Apr – 12 Apr)	Aggregate Demand and Supply	Ch 15
	Week 14 (15 Apr – 19 Apr)	The Influence of Monetary and Fiscal Policy on Aggregate Demand	Ch 16
	Week 15 (22 Apr – 26 Apr)	Revision	All Chapters
<b>Final Exam (26 Apr, 8:00 PM to 28 Apr, 8:00 PM Eastern Daylight Saving Time, EDT)</b>			

**GRADING:**      **Two Midterms** (80 Points Each), **Cumulative Final Exam** (80 Points)  
**Online Homework** (190 Points), **Online Discussions** (30 Points).

- Grades are based entirely on exam scores, homework, and participation in online discussions. Exams will consist entirely of multiple choice questions. **Online homework** exercises are due 8:00 PM EST on Friday (after 11<sup>th</sup> March it will be 8:00 PM EDT), but you may complete them early if you like. **Exams** are available for 48 hours on mentioned dates, but you will have only **1 hour and 30 minutes** to finish it once you start. There is a total of 460 points for the course.
- Letter grades are based on the following scale: **F** is 0-276; **D** is 277-322; **C** is 323-368; **B** is 369-414; and **A** is 415-460. I give pluses and minuses at my own discretion. My grading policies give you plenty of opportunity to do well and recover from setbacks, but I stick to them inflexibly.
- **Purchase of Cengage MindTap courseware is required for this course.** The sooner you register in eCampus for MindTap, the better. **SEE PAGE 4 OF THIS SYLLABUS FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT MINDTAP.**
- **Videos** on some of the class materials will be posted on eCampus or links will be provided. There will be video from some module that discuss particular topics covered in that module. The main goal of these videos is to help students focus on the key issues related to a module, especially the issues that students most often find confusing.
- **Homework:** Register for and access the Cengage MindTap homework through links in eCampus. Homework counts approximately 41% towards the final grade and generally consists of one problem set per chapter: Problems and Applications do not count towards your grade Homework does count towards your grade. Homework exercises are due 8:00 PM on Fridays, but I suggest you complete them much earlier.
- **Online Discussions:** Each MODULE contains a discussion section. You must post at least two substantive comments on each question. A substantive comment contains a coherent thought that adds to the discussion, and often will be accompanied with links to data or other information that you find online. You can use other's opinion in your discussion thread, but try to use your own word (do not copy and paste). These online discussions count approximately 7% of the grade. Discussions close at 8:00 PM EST in the following dates (Last day of each Module):

Discussion	Due date
Module 1	1/18/2019
Module 2	2/8/2019
Module 3	3/1/2019
Module 4	3/22/2019
Module 5	4/5/2019
Module 6	4/19/2019

- **Online Modules:** These modules have been developed by WVU professors to aid your understanding of the textbook material and to emphasize certain points from the text. Please read each module carefully and thoroughly. Never hesitate to contact me any time you are stuck with an issue. Write me an email whenever you face difficulties understanding the materials. We can communicate online, and I will respond to your emails within 24 hours.
- **Technical Problems:** Your internet connection is your responsibility, and I will not forgive a late or missing homework assignment because of technical difficulties. Do not sign up for this class if your internet connection is unreliable. I recognize that unavoidable technical problems will occur; this is why I urge you to begin your assignments early. If you have a technical problem during an exam, fully document it by providing me with screenshots (use Shift-Command-3 for Mac computers, or the “Snipping Tool” with Windows computers) that clearly show the problem. As you can appreciate, if I am to be fair to all students I can only consider giving special treatment to a student if I have clear and prompt evidence of an unavoidable problem.
- I am determined to provide an environment that encourages you to learn, regardless of your race, gender, religion, political views, sexual preference, disabilities, age, etc. You should feel that you have an **equal opportunity** to learn. If you feel discriminated against, left out, or abused in my class, by me or your classmates, **in any way, let me know and I will fix the problem.**
- **Contact Disability Services (304-293-6700) if you are having (or anticipate having) difficulty due to a DISABILITY. Also, please contact me and I will try to accommodate you in any way that I can.**
- **IF YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE** please send me an email and we can meet in my office for a talk. Also, you should email me any time you have a question or a problem. Normally, I will answer you within 24 hours. The most useful thing for most students is to **do practice problems, and study.**
- **Extra Credit:** If 80% or more of the class fills out the student course evaluations at the end of the semester, another 5 points (1% of the possible 460 points for the course) will be added to everyone's score.
- I reserve the right to make changes on this syllabus as needed.

### **Contacting the Instructor:**

- When sending an email, please compose it in a professional manner using complete sentences. To avoid it being sent to my spam box, please also ensure that **“Econ-202” is in the subject line**. It is also very important that you **provide your full name**, as many of your email addresses do not tell me who you are.

**DESIRED STUDENT OUTCOMES FOR ECON 202.** After you finish this course you should be able to:

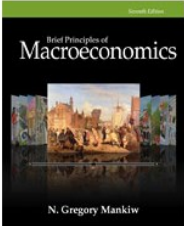
1. Explain how GDP, the unemployment rate, inflation, interest rates, and economic growth are measured, distinguish between real and nominal variables, and explain the significance of these measures.
2. Analyze and differentiate among the problems created by high, low, and unexpected inflation.
3. Describe and assess the role the financial system plays in the economy.
4. Analyze the determinants of long-run variations in national economic growth rates, wealth, and income.
5. Analyze the determinants of short-run fluctuations of economic variables over the business cycle.
6. Identify the factors determining aggregate demand and aggregate supply, and apply the AS/AD model to analyze macroeconomic conditions.
7. Identify the policy tools available to fiscal and monetary authorities, and analyze how these tools, including automatic fiscal stabilizers, might be used to address the goals of monetary and fiscal policy.
8. Apply the Keynesian multiplier model to policy analysis, and describe its strengths and weaknesses.
9. Identify and analyze both short-run and long-run effects of fiscal and monetary policy.

## Registration for Cengage MindTap

The first time you click on a link to MindTap you will get a page that looks like this:

### Pay for your Course

**Selected Title**



Brief Principles of Macroeconomics, 7th Edition  
N. Gregory Mankiw  
Textbook ISBN-10: 1-285-16592-6  
Textbook ISBN-13: 978-1-285-16592-9

**Econ 202 Principles of Macroeconomics**

The payment grace period for your course will expire on July 15, 2014. You will not be able to access your course when the grace period expires, but all your scores and course activity will be saved and accessible after you submit your payment.

**How would you like to pay?**

☒ Pay online with a credit or debit card or PayPal  
☐ Redeem Access Code

**I'll pay later**

☐ Go to my course

[Continue](#) [Cancel](#)

## Payment

Follow the directions and pay for the course, using either a card or the access code that you purchased from the bookstore. Bear in mind that the purchase price includes an ebook copy of the textbook, so you need not buy a hard copy of the textbook.

After paying, you will have the option to purchase a physical book at a discounted price. If you pay later, you can use Mindtap without paying for two weeks. Once you have paid, you will need to provide MindTap with some information. Please enter this information accurately.

## OBTAINING AND USING CENGAGE MINDTAP COURSEWARE:

- You **MUST** buy Cengage Mindtap for this class. It includes an online copy of the textbook, and homework exercises that count 20% of the grade. The purpose is to give you a chance to review, apply, and engage with the material. You won't learn the subject unless you practice, and MindTap exercises provide an opportunity to practice.
- BE SURE TO DO ALL OF THE PROBLEM SETS ON TIME.** Each week, there will be problem sets that must be completed by 8:00 PM on Friday. **I will not extend due dates or times for any reason.**
- I will not give you extra time or extra credit due to a computer malfunction!** Start early and you'll be able to cope with computer problems and get your work done on time. This is your responsibility, not mine.