

**Economics 331.01W**  
**Intermediate Macroeconomics**  
**Spring 2018**  
**Syllabus--Preliminary**

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**Campus/Commerce Office Hours:** Tues & W 9:30 – 10:30 and by appointment

**ABOUT THE COURSE** - GENERAL FOCUS: Macroeconomics deals with the **aggregate** level of economic activity. Intermediate Macroeconomics focuses on several central questions. This course consists of four general topic areas.

- 1) Measuring and assessing macroeconomic activity (variables/indicators)
- 2) Constructing macroeconomic (income determination) models
- 3) Countercyclical policy formulation, implementation and impact (monetary/fiscal)
- 4) Business cycles and economic growth

**REQUIRED TEXT:** There is not a required text. Required materials will be posted in DocSharing at the eCollege course website or else a link will be provided. For background and review purposes, **if needed**, I recommend a basic Macro principles text such as McConnell, McConnell-Brue, or McConnell-Brue-Flynn. (It's a McGraw-Hill text. There are now about 20 editions of the text and the particular edition you consult is not important.) For those who like to have an intermediate level macro text for reference purposes I recommend Macroeconomics: Policy and Practice by Frederic Mishkin (Prentice Hall, ISBN-13:9870321436337).

**Nature of the Course/Material**

Keep in mind that Economics 331 is a upper level course in aggregate economics. Macroeconomic Principles (Econ 2301) is a prerequisite for Economics 331. Please note that the concept of “prerequisite” is not about a check mark—it **has to do with one’s background regarding preparedness to handle the material**. It is extremely helpful if you have a general familiarity with and understanding of the basic terminology and tools of macroeconomic analysis before you start this course. In case you have not taken any economics in several years it would serve you well to check a modern principles text to update yourself on what is included in a macro principles course. It is imperative that you do the readings, study, turn in assignments and take tests on schedule. Keep in mind that Economics 331 is an upper level economics course, and the performance requirements will be commensurate with same.

**Webinars:** A Webinar is scheduled for each Thursday, January 18 through May 2, 2018 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, Central Time. Details concerning connectivity requirements and access/procedures to follow. It is strongly recommended that you participate in the webinar sessions. However, in case you are unable to participate at the scheduled time, the Webinars will be recorded and you can access it (again: access details to follow) at any time after it is completed. **In case you do miss a webinar, it is important that you access the recorded session as soon afterward as possible—sooner is preferable to later.** The purpose of

the Webinars is to provide perspective relative to the material, to focus on and emphasize major topics and concepts, and to answer questions on the material.

**Assignments**—Assignments will be announced/assigned in the “Course Home” section at the course eCollege site. Check that column each week for reading/study assignments as well as any assignments required to be submitted. Additionally, that is where you will find items such as suggestions for study, recommended special interest readings, and reminders of upcoming deadlines. Inasmuch as most assigned readings will relate to materials included in Doc Sharing, you will find that checking the “Course Home” column each week will be the easiest and best way of making sure that you are keeping up and that you don’t miss an assignment or deadline. **Mark assignments and exam dates on your calendar as soon as they are announced. “Forgetting,” being “out of town” and/or “confused” about the time that an assignment is due or that a test must be taken is not an acceptable excuse for missing it.**

#### **COURSE GRADE:**

**Components**-- There will be five components to your course grade— four unit exams (each counting 20% of the course grade) and a number of assigned short papers or problems. Total points scored on the short papers will comprise the remaining 20% of the course grade. Exams and Papers are graded on a 10-15-15-10 grading scale so that 90-100 = A; 75-89 = B; 60-74 = C; and 50-59 = D. Exam dates will be announced in webinars and also in Course Home at least two weeks in advance of the exam dates.

Additionally, there may be a **bonus** problem or short paper or two during the term. If and when these bonus opportunities are presented, they will be relatively quick turn-around assignments—due within a week. If you miss a class, be sure and check assignments (again, see eCollege Course Home column), as makeups will not be provided for any bonus assignments. Points earned on bonus assignments will be added to exam scores.

**My “Negative” Note:** I do not like to hear students whine. (It makes me crazy.) I prefer to see my students perform. “Need” is not a factor in determining course grades, so please do not call or e-mail me telling me how much you need to make a certain grade. I also do not care what grade you made in all your other courses, nor do I care if you are allowed to work in “teams” in all your other classes and/or if you are awarded “participation” points in other courses. Grades are to be earned, not gifted.

#### **Suggestions for submitting written assignments:**

1. Written assignments are intended to be learning exercises. Put the assignment in your own words—DO NOT SEND ME ANY CUT AND PASTE PAPERS. I do not care to read National Bureau of Economic Research generated material about the NBER (relative, for example, to an assignment regarding business cycles). Tell me what **you** have to offer—but stick to facts and analysis, not unsupported opinion.
2. Put the assignment in your own words—DO NOT SEND ME A PAPER THAT IS IDENTICAL TO THAT SUBMITTED BY YOUR FELLOW CLASSMATE. The assignments are not group projects.
3. Treat each submission as a university, graduate level assignment—not a text message to a pal. Keep in mind that in a formal setting:
  - a) grammar and spelling matter (and may be held against you);
  - b) 2 and 4 are Arabic numerals, not prepositions;
  - c) U and R are letters of the alphabet, not pronouns, verbs or contractions;
  - d) “there” and “their” are not interchangeable words;
4. In general, ask yourself if your submission is of a quality and maturity that you would submit to an employer—assuming that you would like to keep your job and advance with the company.

### **HINTS FOR MAKING A GOOD GRADE IN THIS COURSE**

1. Note the prerequisite requirements. If you do not have the background for the course, make sure you have a good Principles (such as referenced above) to use for “catch-up” purposes.
2. Check the eCollege “Course Home” weekly assignments schedule regularly to make sure that you are staying abreast of assigned readings and required work.
3. Attend webinar sessions if at all possible—come prepared, ask questions if you do not understand the material and/or assignments, stay alert and take good notes. It helps neither of us for you to do poorly on an exam and then tell me that you didn’t understand the material.
4. When you don’t understand material, ASK QUESTIONS—either by email, phone, or even make an appointment to come by my office. As soon as you realize that you are having problems in the course, contact me then.
5. Take advantage of any and all bonus opportunities.
6. Read and study materials when assigned. Falling behind in this class can be fatal (grade-wise, of course). Additionally, class lessons/lectures make more sense if you come to class prepared.
7. Turn in all projects and take exams on time—and in proper form.
8. I am never favorably impressed when I receive an e-mail beginning with “I know you don’t like to hear students whine, but.....”

### **REQUIRED STUFF**

#### **Texas A&M System Statement re: Campus Concealed Carry**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

#### **Students with Disabilities:**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with

disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

**Texas A&M University-Commerce**

**Gee Library**

**Room 132**

**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**

**Fax (903) 468-8148**

**[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)**