

Economics 2301.01W
Principles of Macroeconomics
Spring 2020 (Jan 13 – May 8)
Syllabus

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Campus/Commerce Office Hours: Tues & W 9:30 – 11:30 and by appointment

ABOUT THE COURSE –

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Introduces the student to the workings and interrelationships of the U.S. and world economies. Principles of economic analysis including measurement of aggregate economic activity, national income determination, money and banking, monetary and fiscal policy, and business fluctuation. Emphasis is given to analyzing real world problems such as poverty, inflation, unemployment, and economic instability.

REQUIRED TEXT: There is not a required text (to purchase directly) for the course. Included in the course (and course fee) is access to an e-text: [MyLab Economics Pearson eText](#)—Essentials of Economics, latest ed., by Hubbard and O'Brien.

Class Meetings/Online Sessions (webinars): An online session in YouSeeU is scheduled for each Thursday, January 16 through May 30, 2020 (with the exception of March 12, which falls during Spring Break) from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, Central Time. **It is strongly recommended that you participate in the online sessions if at all possible.** However, in case you are unable to participate at the scheduled time, the sessions are recorded and you can access them at any time after it is completed. **In case you do miss an online session, it is important that you access the recorded session as soon afterward as possible—sooner is preferable to later.** The purpose of the online sessions is to provide perspective relative to the material, to focus on and emphasize major topics and concepts, and to present and answer questions on the material. Failing to attend and/or access the online sessions does not absolve you of the responsibility to understand the material and/or keep up with assignments.

Assignments—Assignments will be announced/assigned in the “Week-by-Week” section at the course D2L website. **Check that column regularly 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 D2L Content, you will find that checking the “Week-by-Week” column regularly 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.

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes:

Successful students will be able to accomplish these objectives toward understanding the economy:

1. Explain how choices and trade improve welfare.
2. Be able to use the supply and demand model to describe individual decision makers, an industry, and the economy as a whole.
3. Be able to calculate features of the economy given a simplified dataset. Be able to discuss the limitations and benefits of using each construct to describe the economy.
4. Model the effects on society for changes in macroeconomic variables.

Successful students will be able to accomplish these objectives as critical thinkers:

- A. Identify assumptions used in models
- B. Identify information and data that is relevant to an economic problem.
- C. Be able to identify alternative solutions to an economic problem.
- D. Be able to relate and explain economic topics to economic models.
- E. Identify the societal and/or civic issues that are relevant to an economic problem or event.
- F. Use critical thinking skills (creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis of information) to propose solutions to selected economic problems or events.

COURSE GRADE:

There will be four exams—consisting of three unit exams and an optional comprehensive final exam. Each unit exam will cover materials for a specified unit (e.g., Exam 1 will cover materials in Chapters 1-4 of eText; Exam 2 will cover material in Chapters 8-13; Exam 3, Chapters 14, 15 and 17 – with exact coverage *subject to modification during the semester*). The final exam will cover material from all chapters (and other assigned work) covered during the semester. All exams will be accessed through the MyLab Eco portal.

Each student will be permitted one retake on one exam of his/her choice. Additionally, you may either opt out of the final exam, or take it and substitute that grade for your lowest exam grade. Each exam will be worth 100 points. **That means that each student will have three exam scores—worth a possible 300 total points. The three exam scores will constitute 75% of your course grade.**

(Note: if you decide to retake an exam you MUST notify me of that decision within one week of the close of that exam. However, please note that that deadline may be shortened regarding retakes of exam three. The retake grade is the one that will be recorded and used to calculate your course grade.)

In addition to the aforementioned exams there will be at two written assignments to be submitted during the term. These assignments, coming at varying times during the semester, will constitute the remaining 25% of the course grade. These assignments will take various forms, but will be aimed at developing and applying analytical and critical thinking skills.

And Finally: From time to time, there may be opportunities to earn bonus points, which will be added to the unit exam scores. Such opportunities will be announced orally during the online sessions and/or through the D2L Week by Week vehicle. Most bonus assignments will be required to be submitted to a designated slot (drop box), but some may be handled through regular email. Any bonus project not received by the announced/specified deadline will not be graded. If you did not learn of the bonus assignment because you missed the online session and did not view the recorded session before the submission deadline, you just missed that bonus opportunity. No special makeup provision will be offered on bonus projects.

Exams and other assignments (and thus the course) will be graded on the following basis:

- A = 90 - 100
- B = 80 – 89
- C = 70 – 79
- D = 60 – 69
- F = below 60

Re: Late work – Exams and other assignments must be completed and/or submitted no later than the date specified in the syllabus, assignment document and/or D2L. Mark assignments and exam dates on your calendar as soon as they are announced. Unless extenuating circumstances arise, late work will not be accepted. Please note that “extenuating circumstances” do NOT cover forgetting, being “confused” about the deadline, having technical difficulties, needing “extra” time because of assignments/exams in other classes, or otherwise “running out of time.” The evaluation of extenuating circumstance is judged on a case-by-case basis. Documentation must be provided in a timely manner. Your failure to plan does not constitute an extenuating circumstance.

HINTS FOR MAKING A GOOD GRADE IN THIS COURSE

1. Attend the online sessions if at all possible—come prepared, ask questions if you do not understand the material and/or assignments, stay alert and take notes. If unable to participate in the online sessions, access and work through the recorded session as promptly as possible following same. It helps neither of us for you to do poorly on an exam and then tell me that you didn’t understand the material.
2. Check D2L weekly assignments schedule in Week-by-Week regularly to make sure that you are staying abreast of assigned readings and required work.
3. 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.
4. Take advantage of any and all bonus opportunities.
5. 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.
6. Turn in all projects and take exams on time.
7. All assignments--tests and projects--are individual (not group) assignments. Make sure that the materials you submit reflect your (exclusive) work.

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE

Week Beginning		Subject(s)
Jan 13	Chapter 1	About the Course; Intro; Some econ basics
Jan 20	Chapter 2	Trade-offs, Comparative Advantage and the Market System
Jan 27	Chapter 3	Supply, Demand, Market price determination
Feb 3	Chapter 3	Continuation of Chapter 3 materials
Feb 10	Chapter 4	Legal price floors, ceilings
Feb 17	First Exam	Chapters 1-4
Feb 24	Chapter 8	GDP, Measuring aggregate econ activity
Mar 2	Chapter 9	Unemployment and inflation

Mar 16	Chapter 10-11	Econ growth, business cycles—Long run growth
Mar 23	Chapter 12-13	Aggregate Expenditures and Output
Mar 30	Exam Two	Chapters 8-13
Apr 6	Chapters 14-15	Money, banks, Federal Reserve, monetary policy
Apr 13	Chapter 17	
Apr 20	Exam Three	Chapters 14, 15, 17
Apr 27	All Chapters	REVIEW/OVERVIEW WEEK
May 4	FINAL EXAM	COMPREHENSIVE

* This outline/schedule is subject to change! You are required to follow up with changes, discussions and assignments.

Please note: This syllabus should be considered a guideline, NOT a contract. As such it is subject to change as circumstances warrant—at this discretion of the instructor.

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