

Econ 2301
Principles of Macroeconomics
Fall 2017
(ONLINE)

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Office Hours: Online

or in SHB237A

Tue/Thu 2:00-3:00 pm

or by appointment

Course Catalog Description: The economic role of government, public finance and taxation, unemployment and inflation, national income theory, money and banking, economic fluctuations and growth, and international trade and finance.

Learning Objectives: This course is intended to help you learn the fundamental principles, generalizations, and theories of macroeconomics and apply these concepts to critically evaluate economic issues. By the end of this course, a successful student will be able to:

- understand and illustrate the fundamental principles and concepts of macroeconomic theory;
- explain and analyze the main indicators of macroeconomic activity;
- list and analyze the causes of economic growth and fluctuations, and explain the institutions and policies responsible for growth;
- define and explain the organization and functioning of the financial and monetary systems of the United States and the role of policymakers in influencing the economy.

Course Textbook: Bade and Parkin, **Foundations of Economics**, 8th Edition (ISBN: 978-0-13-346240-1). You do not need to purchase a hard copy, unless you want to. If you want to, I encourage you to look for an older, used edition online as they are generally much cheaper than the brand new versions.

There is a FREE electronic version of the text that you can use, along with multiple other online learning resources (lesson plans, practice exercises and tests, quizzes, etc.) on the MyEconLab platform. To register, you will have to access their website at www.myeconlab.com and register as a student for this course. The course ID number is **radoias58835** and the access code that will give you free access is **HSCTEE-SMELL-BAUTH-SKEAN-COLZA-ROUSE**. MyEconLab is a great tool that can significantly improve your learning process and it would be a shame if you don't use it, particularly since we are able to provide you with free access.

Lecture Notes: The main learning tool for this course is the set of lecture notes posted on Blackboard under each learning unit. The lecture notes follow the textbook material to some degree, but not in exact order. The lecture notes are designed to concentrate the material into the very most important issues needed to be successful in this course, and they are often presented in a language that more closely relates to normal people, rather than well trained economists. It is essential you study them until you understand everything. The material in the textbook tends to be longer and often times more complicated than it needs to be. You can read the book chapters in their entirety for your own curiosity, but make sure you study the lecture notes first and put emphasis on those parts of the book that relate to what the lecture notes present you.

Requirements and Expectations:

- **PROCTORFREE:** The University uses a software "ProctorFree" to monitor the exams and quizzes and ensure the integrity of this online course. You will not be able to take the tests without accessing them through ProctorFree and without having a computer with a working webcam and a working microphone. You will not be able to take exams on iPads, smartphones, and other similar devices. If you access the exams from any other place rather than through proctorfree, your grades will be nullified at the end of the semester.
- **SIMPLE MATH:** You are expected to come in knowing some basic mathematical knowledge. At a minimum, you should be somewhat comfortable with simple calculations, the order of operations (PEMDAS), and dealing with percentages. While this is essentially 5th grade math, I realize that some of you might have

forgotten some of these concepts. It is important though that you go and review these as needed during the semester. I will help you as much as possible if you ask me, but being an online course with limited interaction, it might be hard for me to properly convey certain issues and so the responsibility will fall on you.

- **ELECTRONICS:** Basic calculators are allowed during exams and quizzes. The use of cellphones or scientific or graphic calculators during exams or quizzes is completely prohibited. The use of any sort of headphones or other audio/video devices is also prohibited. You will be recorded during exams and using such devices will result in an automatic F and reporting to the Dean of Student's office. Before each exam starts, you will be asked to pan the camera around your work station. There should be nothing else around other than a calculator, a pen, and scratch paper (if you need it). If you want to use scratch paper, you need to clearly show both sides of the paper to the camera before the exam starts. You can use whatever tools you want during homeworks.
- **EXAM POLICY:** Since this is an online course, you will have plenty of time to complete all assignments, quizzes, and exams at your own convenience. Therefore, there will be no late submissions accepted and no makeups. Please check the course outline and arrange your schedules in such a way that you won't miss anything. Start working on assignments and exams early so you avoid last minute glitches.
- **ASSIGNMENTS:** There will be multiple online assignments posted on Blackboard, one at the end of each unit. The assignments and lecture notes for each unit will be available well in advance of their due date, so you can work through them at your own pace. These assignments are the best tool to prepare you for your exams. The questions are similar in nature and coverage to what you will see on exams. Furthermore, you have three tries for each individual assignment so you can get more practice and also improve your grade. Only the best out of three tries will count for your final grade.
- **ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION:** This is an online course so attendance cannot be taken. That being said, you are expected to participate in all online activities and complete the assignments by their due time. You are also encouraged to interact with each other and myself on the discussion board, which can also help your learning process.

Grading: There will be 2 partial exams, 2 quizzes, 10 assignments at the end of each unit, and a comprehensive final exam. They will count towards your final grade as follows:

- Exams 60% (3 x 20%)
- Quizzes 10% (2 x 5%)
- Online Assignments 30%

Note: All exams, quizzes, and homeworks will be a combination of multiple choice questions and some calculate and fill in the answer problems. It is in your best interest not to miss anything and prepare yourselves properly for exams. The quizzes will occur a few days before each partial exam and will cover less material. They are designed to give you a practice round before the actual exam. Both quizzes and the exams will be open for 24 hrs, but they will be timed (once you start you need to finish in the allotted time) and proctored (you will have to use proctorfree and have a computer with a working webcam and microphone to be able to take them).

The homeworks will not be timed nor proctored as they are primarily designed to help you learn and prepare. Treat them very seriously, however. They not only provide you with a chance to earn "easy" points, but they are also the best practice for the exams. There is no reason you cannot be successful in this course if you do the assignments properly and learn from them. If you get stuck on assignments or something does not make sense to you, do not hesitate or wait until the last minute to ask me for help. I am usually quick to respond to emails, but if everyone waits until the last moment and I get 150 emails the morning of the exam or right before a homework is due, I will not be able to help you.

Final letter grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

A	90 – 100%
B	80 – 90
C	70 – 80
D	60 – 70
F	0 – 60%

Note: these are rigid thresholds! If you don't reach the threshold, you don't get a bump to the higher grade just by rounding up (89.9 is a B, not an A)! Also, in order to preserve fairness, there will be no individual extra credit. All the extra credit opportunities (if any) will be offered to everyone in class, at the discretion of the instructor.

Email Communication: The preferred method of communication is email. I usually respond fairly quickly to non-abusive and considerate emails. Email me if you need anything or have any concerns or suggestions about the course. Your feedback is very important for your overall experience because many times I cannot anticipate your needs and struggles without the usual face to face interaction. Email is also the standard way that I will communicate things to you. Please check your campus mail on a regular basis and make sure your inbox is not full or you might miss important announcements regarding exams/assignments/etc.

Face to Face Interaction: Although this is an online course, I am available for those who are on campus for face to face meetings. The Economics Department is also offering free tutoring during weekdays (I will announce the exact location and times after the first week of classes). If at any point during the semester you are struggling with the material and your geographic location allows you to be present on campus, do not hesitate to stop by for a tutoring session or visit my office for questions regarding the material.

ECON2301 - Principles of Macroeconomics

Fall 2017

Course Outline

Calendar Week	Dates	Unit to Cover	Textbook Reference	HW Due
Week 1	Aug 23rd - Aug 25th	Intro and Syllabus		
Week 2	Aug 28th - Sep 1st	Unit 1A - Demand & Supply	Chapter 4.1, 4.2	9/8/17
Week 3	Sep 5th - Sep 8th	Unit 1B - Market Equilibrium	Chapter 4.3	9/8/17
	Friday, Sep 8th	HW 1 Due		
Week 4	Sep 11th - Sep 15th	Unit 2 - GDP	Chapter 21	9/15/17
	Friday, Sep 15th	HW 2 Due		
Week 5	Sep 18th - Sep 22nd	Unit 3 - Unemployment	Chapter 22	9/22/17
	Friday, Sep 22nd	HW 3 Due		
	Friday, Sep 22nd	QUIZ 1 - Covers Units 1-3		
Week 6	Sep 25th - Sep 29th	Unit 4 - Inflation	Chapter 23	9/29/17
	Friday, Sep 29th	HW 4 Due		
Week 7	Oct 2nd - Oct 6th	Unit 5 - Economic Growth	Chapter 25	10/6/17
	Friday, Oct 6th	HW 5 Due		
	Friday, Oct 6th	EXAM 1 - Covers Units 1-5		
Week 8	Oct 9th - Oct 13th	Unit 6A - The Financial System	Chapter 26	10/20/17
Week 9	Oct 16th - Oct 20th	Unit 6B - Basics of Finance	Lecture Notes	10/20/17
	Friday, Oct 20th	HW 6 Due		
Week 10	Oct 23rd - Oct 27th	Unit 7A - The Monetary System	Chapter 27.1, 27.2	11/3/17
Week 11	Oct 30th - Nov 3rd	Unit 7B - Monetary Policy	Chapter 27.3, 27.4	11/3/17
	Friday, Nov 3rd	HW 7 Due		
Week 12	Nov 6th - Nov 10th	Unit 8 - The Open Economy	Chapter 34	11/10/17
	Friday, Nov 10th	HW 8 Due		
	Friday, Nov 10th	QUIZ 2 - Covers Units 6-8		
Week 13	Nov 13th - Nov 17th	Unit 9A - AD-AS Model	Chapter 29.1, 29.2	11/21/17
Week 14	Nov 20th - 21st	Unit 9B - AD-AS Model	Chapter 29.3	11/21/17
	Tuesday, Nov 21st	HW 9 Due		
	Nov 22nd - Nov 26th	THANKSGIVING BREAK		
Week 15	Nov 27th - Dec 1st	Unit 10 - Public Policy	Lecture Notes	12/1/17
	Friday, Dec 1st	HW 10 Due		
	Friday, Dec 1st	EXAM 2 - Covers Units 6-10		
FINALS WEEK	Monday, Dec 4th	COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM		

Other Disclaimers and University Policies:

Academic Integrity: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

Absences on Religious Holy Days: Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20". A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/861001.pdf>

Students with Disabilities: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/7ff819c3-39f3-491d-b688-db5a330ced92.pdf>

Visitors in the Classroom: Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

Student Evaluations: Student evaluations of this course play a crucial role in my delivery. This semester, all course evaluations will be administered online during the last two weeks of the course. You will receive an email with a link to the website with directions on how to access the survey. It is vitally important that you complete the survey as I use the results to modify the course and assess my teaching and the University uses the results to address technology and facility needs. You can be assured that your responses will be confidential as the results will be transmitted to me after the grading period and they will not include any identifying information.

Keys and Strategies for Success:

- Understand the course requirements and rules of the game and don't try to find cracks to squeeze through.
- Be serious! Set goals early and often, do your best to achieve them, and (if you fail) figure out why you failed!
- Start fast and avoid procrastination! It is hard to climb out of a hole as the difficulty will increase as we move through the material. You can make your life easy at the end of the course by working hard at the beginning!
- Work as much as YOU need to! There is no universal number of hours worked that will translate to success. It depends on your goals and personal situation. Be honest with yourself when deciding if you need more work or not! Understand that I cannot grade you based on effort, but only on performance.
- Understand that some learning methods won't work well for this type of class. Mechanic memorization in particular, will only take you so far in this class. Try instead to have a more analytical approach to learning.
- Don't be afraid to ask for help! I'm here to facilitate your learning, but please understand that I'm only half of the equation. Do the work and let me know early if you're struggling.