ECON 2105: PRINCIPLES OF MACROECONOMICS

UWG Spring Semester 2011

TIME/LOCATION: MW 12:30 - 1:45 p.m./ RCOB 1308

INSTRUCTOR: Melanie Hildebrandt

CONTACT INFO: Please use CourseDen for all official communication

For emergencies use mhildebr@westga.edu

678-839-0628

OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Fri 9am-4pm by appointment only, Honors House


PREREQUISITES: Overall 2.0 GPA

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

The overall objective of this course is for you to learn basic economic concepts, specifically macroeconomics, and more about the economic system in which we live. To this end, upon completion of the course you should be able to:

- Be able to describe basic economic concepts such as scarcity and opportunity costs (LG8)
- Demonstrate a basic knowledge of macroeconomic concepts such as gross domestic product, inflation, and unemployment (LG7)
- Demonstrate a basic knowledge of international economics including concepts such as exchange rates and net exports (LG9)
- Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the banking system, the impact of the Federal Reserve on the economy, and government taxation and spending policy (LG7)
- Be able to analyze at a basic level the effectiveness of fiscal and monetary policy in combating inflation or unemployment (LG7)
- Be able to apply macroeconomic models such as aggregate supply and demand to the analysis of current economic issues (LG7)
- Students demonstrate an understanding of the social, cultural and/or political development of the people and institutions of the United States (U.S. Perspectives Core Overlay)

Note: A complete list of expected learning goals (LG) for the Economics Department can be found at the department web site (http://www.westga.edu/econ/index_12904.php).
EVALUATION: Grading will be on a point system based on your performance on four exams, online assignments and in-class exercises. The assessments will be based on the assigned readings, lectures, assignments and exercises.

Exams: There are four required exams each worth a total of 100 points. There will also be an optional comprehensive final exam worth 100 points. Students can elect to take the optional final exam and I will drop the lowest exam score.

*THERE WILL NOT BE A CURVE ON ANY EXAM*

Online Assignments: There will be several online assignments and each must be completed through CourseDen. The dates and material covered for each will be announced throughout the semester during class and also posted online in CourseDen.

In-class Assignments: These will not be announced in advance and may not be made-up.

REQUESTS FOR MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE REVIEWED BY THE INSTRUCTOR ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS AND WILL ONLY BE GRANTED WITH VERIFIABLE DOCUMENTATION IN EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES.

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<th>Point Allocation:</th>
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<td>Exam 1</td>
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ATTENDANCE: Attendance is not mandatory and you will not be dropped from the class due to nonattendance. It is the student’s responsibility to withdraw from the class by contacting the registrar’s office directly. The last day to withdraw with a grade of W is March 2, 2011.

CANCELLATION: In the event that class is cancelled, any relevant assignments or course announcements will be posted on CourseDen.
COURSE SCHEDULE:

Jan. 5th - Chapter 1: The Art and Science of Economic Analysis
Jan. 10th - Chapter 1 Appendix: Math Review
Jan. 12th - Chapter 2: Economic Tools and Economic Systems

Jan. 17th - MLK Holiday (No Classes)
Jan. 19th - Chapter 3: Economic Decision Makers
Jan. 24th - Chapter 4: Demand, Supply, and Markets
Jan. 26th - Chapter 4 (continued)

Jan. 31st - Online Review (NO CLASS)

Feb. 2nd - EXAM 1 (Chapters 1-4)
Feb. 7th - Chapter 5: Introduction to Macroeconomics
Feb. 9th - Chapter 6: Productivity and Growth
Feb. 14th - Chapter 7: Tracking the U.S. Economy
Feb. 16th - Chapter 7 (continued)
Feb. 21st - Chapter 8: Unemployment and Inflation
Feb. 23rd - Chapter 8 (continued)
Feb. 28th - Review

Mar. 2nd - EXAM 2 (Chapter 5-8)
*Last Day to Withdraw with grade of W*

Mar. 7th - Spring Break (No Classes)
Mar. 9th - Spring Break (No Classes)
Mar. 14th - Chapter 9: Aggregate Expenditure
Mar. 16th - Chapter 9 (continued)
Mar. 21st - Chapter 9 (continued)
Mar. 23rd - Chapter 10: Aggregate Expenditure and Aggregate Demand
Mar. 28th - Chapter 11: Aggregate Supply

Mar. 30th - Honors Convocation (Classes cancelled from 1-4pm)

Apr. 4th - Review
Apr. 6th- EXAM 3 (Chapters 9-11)

Apr. 11th- Chapter 12: Fiscal Policy

Apr. 13th- Chapter 14: Money and the Financial System

Apr. 18th- Chapter 16: Monetary Theory and Policy

Apr. 20th- Chapter 20: Developing and Transitional Economies

April 25th- Review

April 27th- EXAM 4 (Chapters 12, 14, 15, 16, and 20)

May 2nd- COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM (11am-1pm)

NOTE: This schedule provides a general plan for the course. However, deviations may be necessary depending upon the progress of the class.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Cheating on any assessment will result in a zero on the assessment, an F in the course and will be reported to Student Services for appropriate disciplinary action by the University. Students not familiar with what constitutes academic dishonesty should refer to the Student Handbook.

Punctuality and Consideration for Others:

Like most professors, I expect you to behave professionally in this course, which means considering the effect that your behavior will have on other people involved in the course.

- Please come to class on time, and do not leave early. If you must come to class late, enter as quietly as possible to avoid disrupting class.

- Turn off cell phones and do not use them in class. This includes texting or using the internet during class.

- Please be sensitive of the perspectives of your classmates. Vigorous discussion of controversial issues is terrific, but we ought not to belittle the opinions of others. I expect you to disagree with me and with one another, but do so in a respectful manner.

Accessing Course Den:

You will need to access Course Den for this course. You can access Course Den from any computer that has Internet access, on or off campus. If you need help accessing Course Den, you may come to me for help, or you may contact the Distance Learning helpdesk (678)839-6248.

NOTE: I reserve the right to make alterations in the syllabus as and when I deem necessary. You will be notified of any changes in advance either in class or online via CourseDen. Students are responsible for any changes made to the syllabus or course schedule.