Principles of Macroeconomics Econ 2105 Syllabus Spring 2011

Course Information

Principles of Macroeconomics

Course Abbreviation: Econ 2105

Class Time and Location: T/Th 9:30-10:45 RCOB Building 1201

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: You will need access to a computer that is capable of running CourseDen (WebCT Vista).

Course Description: A study of the economy as a whole including production, economic fluctuations, inflation, unemployment, public policy, and international economics. The course is intended to introduce students to concepts that will enable them to understand and analyze economic aggregates and evaluate economic policies.

Class Type: This is a hybrid class. Approximately 85% of class meetings will be face-to-face while 15% will be online.

Instructor Information

Name: Dr. Mary Mathewes Kassis

Instructor Contact Information

On Campus Office Hours: T/Th 9:00am-9:30am, 12:15pm–3:15pm, and by appointment

Office Locations: Richards College of Business 1310

Office Phone Number: 678-839-4777

Email: There are two methods for contacting me by Email.

1. WebCT mail found in your WebCT Vista course on the course toolbar.

2. UWG email: mkassis@westga.edu
Please use WebCT mail for all course correspondence. My UWG email should be used in emergencies only. I will NOT respond to course related questions sent to my UWG email.

Response Time: I will respond within 1 business day (M-F) to all emails unless I inform you of any exceptions. I will expect the same response time from you.

Required Text

Required Textbook: McEachern, ECON for Macroeconomics 2nd Edition, and the online program Aplia, which is bundled with the textbook. Instructions for registering for Aplia can be found at the end of this syllabus and in CourseDen.

You will also need an I-Clicker for this course. The link to register your I-Clicker can be found on the CourseDen homepage. When registering your I-clicker, please use your 917 number as your student ID.

A link to the PowerPoint slides that will be used during the lecture can be found on the WebCT course homepage.

Online student resources such as practice quizzes, videos, and flashcards for each chapter are available at the textbook webpage. To access the textbook webpage, go to http://login.cengagebrain.com/. A link to this website is available in the CourseDen homepage. Access to these resources is only available when you purchase a new textbook.

Expected 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, students will:

- Be able to describe basic economic concepts such as scarcity and opportunity costs (LG4, LG7, LG8)
- Demonstrate a basic knowledge of macroeconomic concepts such as gross domestic product, inflation and unemployment (LG4, LG7)
- Demonstrate a basic knowledge of international economics including concepts such as exchange rates and net exports (LG4, LG5, LG7, LG8, 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 the effectiveness of fiscal and monetary policy in combating inflation or unemployment (LG4, LG7, LG10)
- Be able to apply macroeconomic models such as aggregate supply and demand to the analysis of current economic issues (LG4, LG7, LG9, LG10)
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](http://www.westga.edu/econ/index_12904.php).

**Attendance**

Students will be asked to fill out a seating chart on the third day of class (January 13) based on the seat that they have chosen for that day. Students will be asked to sit in the same seat every class period following.

Although class attendance and participation are essential to success in the class, the professor will not drop students from the class due to nonattendance. Students who wish to withdraw from the class must do so by contacting the registrar’s office directly. The last day to withdraw with a grade of W is March 2.

**Assessment**

You will be graded based on your performance on three tests, the final examination, Aplia homework, a current economic conditions summary and discussion assignment, and in-class/I-Clicker exercises as described below. Extra credit is not an option in this course.

**Tests and Final Exam** – There will be three tests and a final exam. The tests will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false questions and short answer problems. The questions will be based on reading assignments, lectures, in-class exercises, Aplia homework and class discussions. Each test is worth 20% of your grade. The final exam will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. The final exam will NOT be comprehensive and is worth 20% of your grade. You are responsible for bringing scantron sheets (Form 882-E) and a No. 2 pencil for each exam.

**Examination Schedule:**

Exam #1 – February 1
Exam #2 – March 3
Exam #3 – April 5
Final Exam – Thursday, May 5, 8:30am-10:00am

**Aplia Homework** – There will be assignments made on Aplia each week. The Aplia week begins on Monday and ends on Sunday. The due date for Aplia assignments for each week is 11:45pm on the Sunday that ends the week, unless the professor notifies you otherwise. The grades on the Aplia homework will be worth 10% of you final grade. The three lowest assignment grades in Aplia will be dropped when calculating your final Aplia homework grade. **Aplia assignments will not be accepted late – no exceptions!** Instructions for how to register for and use Aplia can be found at the end of the syllabus and in WebCT.
**Current Economic Conditions Summary and Discussion Assignment:** Throughout the semester, students are expected to follow current economic events by participating in class discussions, watching the news, and reading newspaper and internet stories about the U.S. economy. At the end of the semester, students will be required to watch an online presentation on the current economy and read an article assigned by the professor on the current U.S. economy. Students then will have to write a response to questions relating the presentation and article to the material covered in class this semester. Links to the article, the narrated PowerPoint presentations, and discussion questions will be available in CourseDen by March 25. Your response to the current economic conditions questions must be typed in paragraph form and will be due in class on Tuesday, April 19. The current economic conditions assignment is worth 5% of your grade.

**In-Class/I-Clicker Exercises** – Each class will include I-clicker questions and/or in-class group assignments. These will be worth 5% of your final grade.

**Makeup Tests** – Students will only be allowed to makeup missed tests in the case of DOCUMENTED medical emergencies. Students should contact the professor as soon as possible after missing the test to make arrangements for a makeup test. Students who do not contact the professor within one week of missing a test will not be allowed to makeup the test.

**Academic Dishonesty**

Cheating and plagiarism are violations of the University’s Honor Code. The penalty for academic dishonesty may include an F in the class. Having another student use your I-Clicker to answer questions for you will be considered an honor code violation.

**CourseDen (WebCT Vista)**

CourseDen (WebCT Vista) is the software used to deliver the online portion of this course. Please go to www.webct.westga.edu and then click on "CourseDen - Login" on the left side of the page. Log in using the default user name and password. From this page you can also use the "Check Browser" tool, which is a useful utility if you're ever having trouble with CourseDen.

**Help! I can't get CourseDen to work!**

If you experience problems using CourseDen don't panic! Please use the support link below: [http://d2.parature.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=8075](http://d2.parature.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=8075)

UWG strives to solve all CourseDen related problems within 48 hours. While UWG will do their part to help you resolve problems and other situation regarding CourseDen, you do have some responsibilities.

1. You must seek help. See the link above.
2. Don’t wait 2-3 days to report a problem. Do it immediately!

3. Notify me if your problems haven't been resolved within 2 business days.

4. Have an alternate computer access plan. If your ISP suddenly goes out of business, or your disk crashes, or your puppy chews up your modem, or you experience some other personal hardware issue, you are responsible for having an emergency alternative computer access plan. Know in advance where you can go (library, Internet cafe, friend's house, workplace) if your primary system fails!

5. If you are experiencing technical issues with CourseDen (not your computer /ISP) that are preventing you from turning in an assignment, responding to mail/discussions, or taking an assessment you have 2 responsibilities:

   a. Contact the helpdesk by phone: 678-839-6248, or by e-mail: distance@westga.edu. If it's after office hours you can go to http://d2.parature.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=8075 for additional support.
   b. Notify me via mail, personal email, or phone

**Class Cancellation**

In the event that classes are canceled, please check the CourseDen class homepage for assignments and course announcements. If classes are cancelled on the day of an exam or that the current economic conditions assignment is due, the exam will be given or the assignment will be due on the first class meeting following the cancellation.

**Official Communication**

All official communications from the university will be through campus email (MyUWG). The professor will use CourseDen for general class announcements.

**Americans With Disabilities Act Statement**

If you are a student who is disabled as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act and requires assistance or support services, please seek assistance through the Office of Disability Services. A ODS Counselor will coordinate those services. See http://www.westga.edu/studentDev/index_8884.php

**Equal Opportunity Statement:**

No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex, religion, creed, national origin, age, or disability, be excluded from employment or participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity conducted by UWG.
Affirmative Action Statement:

University of West Georgia adheres to affirmative action policies to promote diversity and equal opportunity for all faculty and students.

Course Outline

Chapter 1    The Art and Science of Economic Analysis
Chapter 2    Economic Tools and Economic Systems
Chapter 3    Economic Decision Makers
Chapter 4    Demand, Supply, and Markets
Chapter 5    Introduction to Macroeconomics
Chapter 6    Productivity and Growth
Chapter 7    Tracking the U.S. Economy
Chapter 8    Unemployment and Inflation
Chapter 9    Aggregate Expenditure
Chapter 10   Aggregate Expenditure and Aggregate Demand
Chapter 11   Aggregate Supply
Chapter 12   Fiscal Policy
Chapter 13   Federal Budgets and Public Policy
Chapter 14   Money and the Financial System
Chapter 15   Banking and the Money Supply
Chapter 16   Monetary Theory and Policy

The Schedule for each week (chapters covered and Aplia assignments) can be found in your CourseDen calendar. Please click the calendar tool on the CourseDen course toolbar.

*This course syllabus provides a general plan for the course. However, deviations may be necessary.*
How to access your Aplia course

Kassis, ECON 2105, Principles of Macro-Spring 2011

Instructor: Mary Kassis
Start Date: 01/05/2011
Course Key: 3FTF-FRLC-JT3X

Registration

Aplia is part of CengageBrain, which allows you to sign in to a single site to access your Cengage materials and courses.

1. Connect to http://login.cengagebrain.com/
2. If you already have an account, sign in. From your Dashboard, enter your course key (3FTF-FRLC-JT3X) in the box provided, and click the Register button.
   If you don't have an account, click the Create a New Account button, and enter your course key when prompted: 3FTF-FRLC-JT3X. Continue to follow the on-screen instructions.

Payment

Online: Purchase access to your course (including the digital textbook) from the CengageBrain website for US$70.00.

Bookstore: Purchase access to Aplia from your bookstore. Check with the bookstore to find out what they offer for your course.

After paying, you will have the option to purchase a physical book from the Aplia website at a discounted price. If you choose to pay later, you can use Aplia without paying until 11:59 PM on 01/25/2011.