University of West Georgia

Principles of Macroeconomics Econ 2105 Syllabus Fall 2011

Course Information

Principles of Macroeconomics

Course Abbreviation: Econ 2105

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: You will need access to a computer that is capable of running Blackboard Learning System/CourseDen.

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 an online class. There will be two required face-to-face meetings for a midterm and a final exam.

Instructor Information

Name: Dr. Mary Mathewes Kassis

Office: Richards College of Business 1310

Instructor Contact Information

On Campus Office Hours: T/Th 8:45 am- 9:30 am and 10:45 am - 1:45pm, and by appointment.

Office Location: Richards College of Business 1310

Office Phone Number: 678-839-4777

Online Office Hours: Mondays 9:00am - 10:00am (beginning Aug. 29) and by appointment.

To talk with me during the online office hours, please click on “whose online” under Course Tools on the left hand side of your homepage and send me a chat invitation.

Email: There are two methods for contacting me by Email.
1. CourseDen mail found in your CourseDen course on the course toolbar.
2. UWG email: mkassis@westga.edu

**Please use CourseDen 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 Textbooks:** McEachern, *ECON Macro 2nd edition*, South-Western. In addition, the Tomlinson Economic Learning Path videos and the online program Aplia are also required for this course. The online version of the textbook, access to the videos, and Aplia can be purchased from the Aplia website by following the instructions found in CourseDen.

Online student resources such as practice quizzes, videos, and flashcards for each chapter are available at the textbook webpage. You will be sent an access code for the textbook webpage and the Tomlinson videos once you pay for your online 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)
- Demonstrate an understanding of the social, cultural, and / or political development of the people and institutions of the United States (US 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](http://www.westga.edu/econ/index_12904.php).

**Assessment**
You will be graded based on your performance on four online quizzes, a face-to-face midterm exam, a face-to-face final exam, CourseDen discussion assignments and syllabus quiz, Aplia homework, and a current economic summary and discussion assignment. Extra credit is not an option in this course.

**Face-to-Face Midterm and Final Exams:** There will be a face-to-face midterm exam and a face-to-face final exam. The exams will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false questions and short answer problems. The questions will be based on reading assignments, videos, online assignments, and Aplia homework. Each exam is worth 25% of your grade. You are responsible for bringing scantron sheets (Form 882-E) and a No. 2 pencil for each exam. Students will need to bring their UWG student ID card to check in for the exams.

**Examination Schedule:**

Midterm Exam - Thursday, October 6, 8:00am - 9:15am, RCOB Room 1308

Final Exam - Tuesday, December 6, 8:30am-10:00am, RCOB room 1308

**Online Quizzes** - There will be four 45 minute online CourseDen quizzes. The quizzes will be multiple-choice and must be taken between 7:00 am and 8:30 pm on the assigned dates. The quizzes are worth 15% of your grade. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

**Online Quiz Schedule:**

Quiz 1 - Friday, September 2 (must be taken between 7:00 am and 8:30 pm).

Quiz 2 - Friday, September 23 (must be taken between 7:00 am and 8:30 pm).

Quiz 3 - Friday, October 28 (must be taken between 7:00 am and 8:30 pm).

Quiz 4 - Friday, November 18 (must be taken between 7:00 am and 8:30 pm).

**Aplia Homework:** There will be assignments made on Aplia each week. The assignment week for this course 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 15% 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 Aplia can be found on the CourseDen homepage.

**CourseDen Discussion Assignments and Syllabus Quiz:** Students will be assigned discussion topics throughout the semester to be completed using the CourseDen discussion board. Discussion assignments will typically be due at 11:45 pm on the Sunday that ends the week they are assigned. During the first week of class, students will take a syllabus quiz in CourseDen. The grade for this quiz will count the same as a discussion assignment. These assignments are worth 10% of your final grade. The lowest discussion assignment grade will be dropped when
calculating the final discussion grade. Discussion assignments will not be accepted late – **no exceptions!**

**Current Economic Conditions Summary and Discussion Assignment:** Throughout the semester, students are expected to follow current economic events by 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 articles and narrated PowerPoint presentations will be available in CourseDen by November 11. The current economic conditions assignment will be submitted in CourseDen and will be **due by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, November 29.** The current economic conditions assignment is worth 10% of your grade.

**Makeup Tests** - Students will only be allowed to makeup missed exams in the case of DOCUMENTED medical emergencies. Students should contact the professor as soon as possible after missing the exam to make arrangements for a makeup test. Students who do not contact the professor within one week of missing an exam will not be allowed to makeup the exam. If students miss one of the online quizzes, then that quiz grade will be the quiz grade that is dropped.

**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.

**Blackboard Learning System/CourseDen**

Blackboard Learning System/CourseDen is the software used to deliver this online course. Please go to [http://westga.view.usg.edu](http://westga.view.usg.edu). Log in using your 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 Blackboard Learning System/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 Blackboard Learning System 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 after you contact the helpdesk.

Official Communication

All official communications from the university will be through campus email (MyUWG). The professor will use Blackboard Learning System/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
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<td>Tracking the U.S. Economy</td>
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<td>Unemployment and Inflation</td>
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<td>Chapter 9</td>
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<td>Chapter 10</td>
<td>Aggregate Expenditure and Aggregate Demand</td>
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<td>Fiscal Policy</td>
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<td>Federal Budgets and Public Policy</td>
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<td>Chapter 14</td>
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<td>Banking and the Money Supply</td>
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<td>Chapter 16</td>
<td>Monetary Theory and Policy</td>
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The schedule for each week (chapters covered, online material and videos, discussion assignments, and Aplia assignments) can be found in Blackboard Learning System/CourseDen under the link for Course Material.

_This course syllabus provides a general plan for the course. However, deviations may be necessary._