ECONOMICS 2105
CRN: 10361. Section: 06
T, Th: 12:30pm – 1:50pm. Room: RCOB 1309
TERM: SPRING 2012
COURSE TITLE: PRINCIPLES OF MACROECONOMICS

Instructor: Salvador Lopez, Ph.D.
E-mail: slopez@westga.edu
Office phone: 678-839-4778. Room: 1317
Office hours: M,W: 8:30am-10:30am. T, Th: 8:30am-11:30am.


PREREQUISITE: A 2.0 minimum GPA

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 achieve this end, upon completion, students will:

- Be able to describe basic economic concepts such as scarcity and opportunity costs (LG4, LG7). Chapter reference: 1-2.
- Be able to summarize in writing the key macroeconomic concepts contained in an article from a business periodical such as the Wall Street Journal (LG1, LG4, LG7, LG8). Chapter reference: 5-16, 18.
- Demonstrate a basic knowledge of macroeconomic concepts such as gross domestic product, inflation and unemployment (LG4, LG8). Chapter reference: 5-8.
- Demonstrate a basic knowledge of international economics including concepts such as exchange rates and net exports (LG4, LG5, LG7, LG10). Chapter reference: 18-19.
- Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the banking system, the impact of the Federal Reserve on the economy, and government taxation and spending policy (LG8). Chapter reference: 12-16.
- Be able to analyze the effectiveness of fiscal and monetary policy in combating inflation or unemployment (LG4, LG8, LG11). Chapter reference: 12-16.
- Be able to apply macroeconomic models such as aggregate supply and demand to the analysis of current economic issues (LG4, LG8, LG10, LG11). Chapter reference: 9-11.

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

ASSESSMENT: You will be evaluated based on your performance on two regular tests, in-class (clicker) participation, and a final exam. Bonus points, added to the tests, will be given to students who properly summarize (in one page) current-news articles that illustrate concepts covered in class. If the students present their summaries orally, another bonus point would be added. These presentations can be made at the beginning of
every class. There will be a limit of three different presentations and 3 minutes maximum per article per session.

Tests: During the semester, you will take two tests and a final exam scheduled as shown below. To each test, you must bring a simple calculator (no text capability) and a business-school scantron (882-E). YOU CANNOT USE CELL PHONES AS CALCULATORS.

Important note: Most test questions are based on material discussed in class through different methods such as videos, current economic news, and lecture discussions. In other words, to get a good grade, you need to attend classes, pay attention, and take “smart” notes.

Cheating Policy
If a student is found cheating while taking any test, he/she will receive a warning from the instructor. If he/she continues cheating during the same test or another one, he/she will be dropped from the course and automatically will receive a failing grade (F). This policy also applies to students who use another student’s clicker to submit clicker answers. In such case, both students will receive a warning. Cheating includes, but it is not limited to, seeking or giving information from or to other students, or using prohibited means to obtain information such as written notes or electronic devices with text capability (cell phones, MP3s, PDAs, smartphones, etc.).

Test behavior rules: If you have a question, raise your hand and wait until the instructor approaches you. DO NOT TALK while taking a test and DO NOT make any loud comments about the test neither inside the classroom nor its vicinity.

DO NOT WEAR ANY KIND OF HAT WHILE TAKING A TEST.

Activities, dates, and corresponding weights of final grade:
Clicker Questions: every session, all chapters in the course (15%)
Test 1: Thursday, February 9th. All material covered since day one (25%).
Test 2: Thursday, April 5th. All material covered since Test 1 (30%).
Final Exam: Thursday, April 26th (11am). All material covered since Chapter 5 (30%).

Make-up Policy: If you have a valid, verifiable, and justifiable excuse (medical excuse, police report, etc.) that contains relevant dates, you can take a make-up test the day after your excused dates end. If you anticipate that you will miss a test, please contact your instructor and present or send your valid excuse as soon as possible. Phone calls or e-mail messages can be used to let the instructor know that you have an unusual situation (sickness, accident), but they ARE NOT valid excuses. If you miss a test and do not have a valid excuse, your grade will be a zero.

In-class (clicker) assignments: During the term, you will be required to participate by responding to clicker questions related to current material. Each answer you respond will receive a value of one point. Each right answer will count for 1.50 points. Your clicker grade will be estimated as a proportion of points earned in relation to the highest number
obtained by your classmates. If you forget to bring the clicker, your grade for the session will be a zero. **No exceptions.** You are responsible for the proper function of your clicker. You should always carry additional batteries and, if possible, a spare clicker. In case your clicker stops working in the middle of a session, the instructor will not make an adjustment to your grade. You are encouraged to consult with classmates, as long as you DO NOT say letter answers out loud.

**Attendance and tardiness:** You are responsible for all announcements and material covered in every session. If you do not attend classes, you will receive little consideration in regard to individual instruction, borderline grade decisions, etc. Classes will begin promptly at the scheduled time. As a sign of respect to your instructor and classmates, you are expected to be on time. If tardiness becomes too disruptive, your instructor will post a sign outside the classroom indicating that class has already started and that you should not enter.

**Cell Phones and Laptops:** Turn cell phones off before class starts and place them inside your bags or purses. If you need to send/receive a text message or call somebody, please step outside the classroom. However, leaving the classroom before class ends is considered a disruptive behavior that can only occur during emergencies or very special events. Whenever possible, please let your instructor know that you might receive an urgent call or message.

If you want to use a laptop computer for taking notes, please let the instructor know in advance. You can be authorized only if it is for such purpose, and you must sit on the first row.

**BEHAVIOR:** Arriving late, leaving early, leaving and returning to the classroom, talking during lectures, yawning loud, using profane language, and using your cell phone (phone rings, phone calls, text messages) while in class, are some of the most common ways students may interrupt a class, disrespect others and, worst of all, encourage other students to do the same. If you consistently show a disruptive behavior as described above or on the Student Code of Conduct found in the UWG Student Handbook, you will receive a verbal warning from the instructor. If your behavior continues, you will be dropped from the course with an F.

**STUDY GUIDES:** The instructor will provided you with a list of relevant topics and questions for each chapter covered. All your test questions will be based on those guides and previous clicker questions. These and any other aid (like Power Point slides) will be available on CourseDen.

**GRADE POSTING:**
Grades will be shown on CourseDen within 24 hours after every test. If your name does not appear, you need to contact your instructor immediately.

**CHAPTER COVERAGE:**
1, 2, 4, 5-16, 18, 19. Deviations may occur.