

# University of West Georgia

## Principles of Macroeconomics Econ 2105 Syllabus Spring 2020

### 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 D2L/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 proctored exams (a midterm and a final exam).

### Instructor Information

**Name:** Dr. Mary Mathewes Kassis



**Office:** Miller Hall 1310

### Instructor Contact Information

**On Campus Office Hours:** Tuesday 9:00 am – 11:45 am, 12:45 - 3:00 pm, and by appointment.

If you are planning to come to my face-to-face office hours, please email me ahead of time, so I can reserve that time for you.

**Office Location:** Miller Hall 1310

**Office Phone Number:** 678-839-4777

**Online Office Hours:** Tuesday 9:00 am – 11:45 am and 12:45 - 3:00 pm, Thursdays 9:30 am - 11:00 am, and by appointment.

To talk with me during the online office hours, please send me an email in CourseDen to let me know you want to meet and then we can set up a time to meet in the CourseDen chat room, talk on the phone or video chat through skype. To schedule an appointment for online offices hours at another time, please email me.

**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 Textbook:** ECON MACRO, 6th edition with MindTap Printed Access Card (ISBN 9781337408738). The textbook package can be purchased directly through the link in CourseDen. You will need to purchase a new textbook, so you will have the access code needed for MindTap.

The materials required for this class and any others using Cengage products are included in ONE Cengage Unlimited subscription. For \$119.99 per semester, you get access to ALL your Cengage online textbooks, and access codes, in one place. \$7.99 hardcopy textbook rentals are also available for select titles. Download the free [Cengage Mobile App](#) to get your Cengage Unlimited online textbooks and study tools on your phone. Ask for Cengage Unlimited in the bookstore or visit [Cengage Unlimited](#).

If you are a dual enrolled high school student, you will get your textbook through the bookstore.

## 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)
- Be able to apply macroeconomic models such as aggregate supply and demand to the analysis of current economic issues (LG4, LG7, LG9)
- 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: The Economics Department's website has a complete list of the [Economics Department's Learning Goals](#).

### **Student Responsibilities in an Online Course**

Many students find the student responsibilities and expectations for online courses to be different from student responsibilities and expectations for traditional classroom courses. The following statements identify your responsibilities in this course. If you are not able to agree to all of the statements, perhaps you should re-consider taking this course in an online format.

1. I will read the syllabus carefully and will purchase the required textbook package the first week of class.
2. I will ask questions if I do not understand the course material or if I need clarification about the assignments.
3. I will manage my time in a way that allows me to thoughtfully and thoroughly complete assignments. I will not try to complete a week's worth of assignments in one rushed day.
4. I will be responsible for keeping up with assignment due dates and submitting them on time.
5. I understand that technical problems with my personal computer or network connection are not an acceptable excuse for failing to turn in assignments. I have an emergency alternative computer access plan (college computer lab, library, workplace, friend's house, etc.) that I can use if my personal computer equipment is not working.
6. I understand that technical problems with CourseDen require that I contact the helpdesk by phone: 678-839-6248, or by e-mail: [distance@westga.edu](mailto:distance@westga.edu). For problems with Aplia or the online textbook material, I should contact Cengage customer support and file a tech support ticket using the Cengage Technical Support Link in CourseDen.
7. I agree to check into our CourseDen classroom at least 3-5 days per week and understand that I am expected to be working online a minimum of 8 hours per week.

### **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 conditions 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 a No. 2 pencil for each exam. Scantron forms and a simple calculator will be provided. (If you take the exam at an off-campus testing center you are responsible for bringing your own simple calculator.) Students will need to bring their UWG student ID card or a driver's license to check in for the exams.

### **Examination Schedule:**

Midterm Exam - Wednesday, February 19, 8:00am-9:15am, Miller Hall 1201 (Lecture Hall)

Final Exam - Wednesday, April 22, 8:00am-9:15am, Miller Hall 1201 (Lecture Hall)

If you cannot make the scheduled times above, on-campus proctoring is also available through the economics department for the midterm exam on Friday, February 21, between 9:00 am and 12:00 pm, and for the final exam on Friday, April 24, between 9:00 am and 12:00 pm. Students who need to schedule their exam during one of the Friday proctoring periods **MUST** make arrangements with me at least one week before the exam.

Course exams will be administered during the proctored times listed above at the UWG Carrollton campus free of charge. Alternatively, students can choose to take the exams at an approved off-campus (non-UWG) testing site (for a fee paid to that site -- fees may vary anywhere from \$10 to \$50 or higher). All off-campus testing requires both approval by me and a minimum of a two-week notice to coordinate. UWG Online has a [list of Approved Off-Campus Exam Sites](#). Student who will be taking their exam at an off-campus testing center **MUST** fill out the [Online Student Exam Request Form](#) at least one week before the exam is scheduled. This is a paper exam, so online proctoring is not an option.

**Online Quizzes** - There will be four 45 minute online open book/open notes CourseDen quizzes. The quizzes will be multiple-choice and will be available for a 24 hour period (from Thursday at 7:00 pm until Friday at 7:00 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 – 7:00 pm on Thursday, January 23 – 7:00 pm on Friday, January 24.

Quiz 2 - 7:00 pm on Thursday, February 13 – 7:00 pm on Friday, February 14.

Quiz 3 - 7:00 pm on Thursday, March 26 – 7:00 pm on Friday, March 27.

Quiz 4 - 7:00 pm on Thursday, April 16 – 7:00 pm on Friday, April 17.

**Aplia (MindTap) 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 11:59pm on the Sunday that ends the week, unless the professor notifies you otherwise. The grades on the Aplia homework will be worth 17% of your 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!** Aplia is included as part of MindTap in your online textbook package.

**CourseDen Discussion Assignments and CourseDen Homework Quizzes:** Students will be assigned discussion topics and homework quizzes throughout the semester to be completed in CourseDen. Homework quizzes will be due on Sunday nights at 11:59 pm. For discussion assignments, initial discussion posts are typically due by 11:59 pm on the **Wednesday** of the week the discussion is assigned. Your responses to other students' posts are typically due at 11:59 pm on the Sunday that ends the week they are assigned. These assignments are worth 12% of your final grade. The lowest discussion assignment/homework quiz grade will be dropped when calculating the final discussion/homework quiz grade. Discussion assignments and homework quizzes will not be accepted late – **no exceptions!**

**Current Economic Conditions 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 read an article assigned by the professor on the current U.S. economy. Students then will have to write a response to questions related to the article. The link to the article will be available in CourseDen by March 30. The current economic conditions assignment will be submitted in CourseDen and will be **due by 11:59 pm on Sunday, April 12**. The current economic conditions assignment is worth 6% 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.

## **Netiquette Policy**

Netiquette is online etiquette. It is important that all participants in online courses be aware of proper online behavior and show respect to each other.

Use appropriate language for an educational environment:

- Use complete sentences
- Use proper spelling and grammar
- Avoid slang and uncommon abbreviations
- Do not use obscene or threatening language
- Avoid using all capital letters AS IT CAN BE INTERPRETED AS SHOUTING

## **Smarthinking Online Tutoring**

Student in this class will have access to free online tutoring through Smarthinking. The link to access this service can be found in the Smarthinking and Other Resources module in the content section of the CourseDen homepage.

## **WOLF PACT**

*The Wolf Pact is a commitment by the Richards College of Business family to honesty, integrity, professionalism, accountability for ethical behavior, and to respect for the rights, differences, and dignity of others.*

*We are committed to a culture of academic integrity, where members adhere to our shared values in all academic and non-academic endeavors.*

*We believe these values are essential to student development; whether personal, academic, or professional. Most importantly- establishing yourself as an honest person of integrity, who acts in a professional and ethical manner- will be as important as the academic skills you learn in the Richards College of Business.*

## **Academic Honesty Guidelines**

Any quiz or exam, given online or in class, is an individual assignment where collaboration is not allowed. All written assignments should be written in the student's own words and all sources should be cited. Using another person's words or ideas without citing them is plagiarism. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please review the information about [plagiarism](#) from the UWG Writing Center.

## **Grading Scale**

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| A | 90-100       |
| B | 80-89        |
| C | 70-79        |
| D | 60-69        |
| F | 59 and below |

## **D2L/CourseDen**

D2L/CourseDen is the software used to deliver this online course. Please go to the [UWG CourseDen login page](#). Log in using your user name and password. From this page you can also use the "System Checker" tool (located below the login box), which is a useful utility if you're ever having trouble with D2L/CourseDen.

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

If you experience problems using CourseDen, don't panic! Please use the [D2L Help center support link](#).

UWG strives to solve all CourseDen related problems within 48 hours. While UWG will do their part to help you resolve problems and other situations 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 D2L/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](mailto:distance@westga.edu). If it's after office hours you can go to the [D2L Help center support link](#) or call 1-855-772-0423 (toll free) for additional support.
  - b. Notify me via email or phone after you contact the helpdesk.

## **Cengage Customer Support**

If you are having problems with Aplia or the online textbook material (as opposed to CourseDen), please contact Cengage customer support by calling 1-800-354-9706 or using the Cengage Technical Support link in CourseDen.

## **Official Communication**

All official communications from the university will be through campus email (MyUWG). The professor will use D2L/CourseDen for general class announcements.

## **Student Rights and Responsibilities:**

Please carefully review the information at the [UWG Student Information Link](#). The document at this link contains important information pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester.

## 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  | Tracking the U.S. Economy                  |
| Chapter 7  | Unemployment and Inflation                 |
| Chapter 8  | Productivity and Growth                    |
| Chapter 9  | Aggregate Expenditure and Aggregate Demand |
| Chapter 10 | Aggregate Supply                           |
| Chapter 11 | Fiscal Policy                              |
| Chapter 12 | Federal Budgets and Public Policy          |
| Chapter 13 | Money and the Financial System             |
| Chapter 14 | Banking and the Money Supply               |
| Chapter 15 | Monetary Theory and Policy                 |

The schedule for each week (chapters covered, online material and videos, discussion assignments, and Aplia assignments) can be found in CourseDen under the content link.

*This course syllabus provides a general plan for the course. However, deviations may be necessary.*