

Department of Economics

College of Management

North Carolina State University

EC 202 Principles of Macroeconomics
Section 003
Cox 209

Robert Dinterman
Spring 2011
10:15 – 11:05 MWF

Contact: Office Location: Nelson Hall Room 4145
 Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30 – 3:00 and by appointment
 E-mail: rdinter@ncsu.edu (Google Apps @ NC State)

Course Information

This is an introductory course on macroeconomics, the study of the aggregate behavior of an economy. The goal of the course is to introduce basic macroeconomic concepts. This course uses Modern Principles: Macroeconomics by Tyler Cowen and Alex Tabarrok which is available at the bookstore or online as an etextbook (www.worthpublishers.com). At the end of this course, students should be familiar with questions such as:

- Why is it that there are rich and poor countries?
- What is economic growth? And what causes economic growth?
- What causes inflation and unemployment?
- Why do most economies experience recurrent booms and recessions?
- What tools does the government have to affect the economy?

Students are encouraged to ask questions about the material and current macroeconomic problems. This course is designed to combine the macroeconomic concepts learned with current economic conditions. Discussing current economic conditions helps students apply concepts to the real world and gives a better understanding of the material. Students are not responsible for current events, only for the concepts learned.

Grading Policy

There will be a total of four exams, three midterms and the final. The three midterms will only cover material for that section of the course and are worth 20% each. The final will be cumulative and is worth 30% of your grade. The dates for the exams and their weight in the class are:

First	Monday, February 7 th	20%
Second	Wednesday, March 2 nd	20%
Third	Wednesday, April 13 th	20%
Final	Friday, May 6 th (8:00 AM – 11:00 AM in Cox 209)	30%

In addition to exams, there will also be online quizzes that make up 10% of your grade. These quizzes will be on moodle.wolfware.ncsu.edu . The two lowest quiz grades will be dropped at the end of the semester. The grading breakdown is as follows:

Average	Letter Grade
96.5 – 100	A+
92.5 – 96.4	A
89.5 – 92.4	A-
85.5 – 89.4	B+
80.5 – 85.4	B
77.5 – 80.4	B-
74.5 – 77.4	C+
69.5 – 74.4	C
67.5 – 69.4	C-
64.5 – 67.4	D+
59.5 – 64.4	D
57.5 – 59.4	D-
00.0 – 57.4	F

Make-up exams will only be given for university approved excused absences. These can be found in your student handbook and also in the University Policy section of the syllabus.

Attendance Policy

In the unlikely event that I am late, please wait 10 minutes before choosing your next best use of time. Attendance in class is strongly correlated with final grades in EC 202, the more one attends class the higher their final grade is expected to be. I do not believe in punishing students for not attending, I do believe in rewarding those that attend. If a student has perfect attendance, they will receive 3 additional points to their final grade. If a student misses one class, they will receive 2 additional points to their final grade. If a student misses two classes, they will receive 1 additional point to their final grade. Tardiness is counted as an absence in receiving additional points.

I do not plan to waste your time so you should not waste my time. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated in class and you will be asked to leave if I, or other students, deem your behavior disruptive. Disruptive behavior includes but is not limited to cellphone use, inappropriate computer use, and off-topic conversations.

University Policy

1. Excuses for anticipated absences must be cleared with the instructor before the absence. Examples of anticipated situations where a student would qualify for an excused absence are:
 - a. The student is away from campus representing an official university function, e.g., participating in a professional meeting, as part of a judging team, or athletic team. These students would typically be accompanied by a University faculty or staff member.
 - b. Required court attendance as certified by the Clerk of Court.
 - c. Religious observances as verified by Parents & Constituent Services (515-2441). For more information about a variety of religious observances, visit the [Diversity Calendar](#).
 - d. Required military duty as certified by the student's commanding officer.
2. Excuses for emergency absences must be reported to the instructor as soon as possible, but not more than one week after the return to class. Examples of emergency absences are:
 - a. Illness or injury when certified by an attending physician. Physicians on the Student Health Service staff do not provide written excuses. Because of student confidentiality, information can only be released directly by the Counseling Center or Student Health Services in case of crisis or with the student's written authorization.
 - b. Death or serious illnesses in the family when documented appropriately. An attempt to verify deaths or serious illness will be made by Parents & Constituent Services (515-2441) at the request of the instructor.

For a full statement of the University Attendance Policy, see http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/pols_regs/REG205.00.4.php

Disabled Students: In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (“Rehab Act”), the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (“ADA”), and state law, North Carolina State University (hereinafter NC State) is required to accommodate an otherwise qualified individual with a disability by making a reasonable modification in its services, programs, or activities. This regulation addresses the eligibility of students for academic accommodations in educational programs, services, and activities at NC State, as well as the provision of such accommodations to students with various types of disabilities. For a full review of NCSU’s policy toward students with disabilities, please see: http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/courses_undergrad/REG02.20.1.php

Academic Integrity/Student Conduct: This course will be held in accordance with the University’s academic integrity standards as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct. Please review the Code in its entirety at: http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/student_services/student_discipline/POL11.35.1.php.

Schedule

Week Of	Readings	Topics
Jan – 10	Syllabus, Ch. 5	Introduction, GDP
Jan – 17	Ch.6	*No Class Jan 17 th (MLK Day) Growth Overview
Jan – 24	Ch. 7	Solow Growth Model
Jan – 31	Ch. 10	Unemployment
Feb – 7	Ch. 11	Exam 1 on Feb 7 th Inflation
Feb – 14	Ch. 12	Business Fluctuations, Real Business Cycles, New Keynesian Model
Feb – 21	Ch. 13, Ch. 8	Shocks, Market for Loanable Funds
Feb – 28	Ch. 8	Exam 2 on Mar 2 nd Financial Institutions
Mar – 7		*No Class, Spring Break
Mar – 14	Ch. 14, Ch. 15	Federal Reserve, Money Supply
Mar – 21	Ch. 15, Ch. 16	Monetary Policy, Applications of Monetary Policy
Mar – 28	Ch. 16, Ch. 17	Role of Government, Fiscal Policy
Apr – 4	Ch. 17	Fiscal Policy, Applications of Fiscal Policy
Apr – 11	Ch. 18	Exam 3 on Apr 13 th International Trade
Apr – 18	Ch. 18, Ch. 19	International Trade, International Finance
Apr – 25	Ch. 19	International Finance, Special Topics, Review (Dead Week)
May – 2		Final Exam May 6 th at 8:00 – 11:00 AM in Cox 209

Google Calendar:

www.google.com/calendar → left side “other calendars” click on “Add” → “Add by URL” → type in the URL:

http://www.google.com/calendar/ical/ncsu.edu_ncp0b3qbpfv05ab7irh6a34sk0%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics

****Schedule is tentative and subject to change****