

Macroeconomic Principles and Problems

Time: MWF 1:25 pm – 2:15 pm.

Place: MM 314

Instructor: Zhuo Tan

Email: ztancs@gmail.com

Office: Room 523-A, Jenkins Building, School of Business

Office Hours: Wednesdays from 2:30 pm -3:30 pm or by appointment

Office Phone: (305) 284-8307

Course Description

This course introduces students some basic tools to understand how the economy as a whole grows and changes. We will begin our study of macroeconomics by learning how we measure national economic activity, looking specifically into GDP, unemployment and inflation. After examining these measures, their strengths and weaknesses, and their relationship to the business cycle, we will put these measurements together and discuss long run economic growth, business cycles and government policies.

Textbook

Macroeconomics & MyEconLab Student Access Code Card, 3/E, Glenn Hubbard and Anthony O'Brien (2010). O'Brien, Prentice Hall

Homework

Homework will normally be assigned weekly. You are encouraged to study and work with your classmates on the problem sets. However, copying other's work is considered cheating. Late homework assignments will **NOT** be accepted. Please feel free to discuss with me during office hours any questions you would like to check.

Exams

Midterms: There will be 3 in-class midterm exams. Midterms are non-cumulative. The dates will be announced both in class and via email.

Final: The final exam is *cumulative*. The date for the final exam is determined by the University of Miami and cannot be changed. The final will be **in the regular classroom from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm on Wednesday, May 2th**. There will be **NO** make-up final. Please schedule your summer vacation departures accordingly.

All exams are closed book and in class. You may use a calculator during exams. However, you cannot use a graphic calculator, for example, your cell phone, PDA, etc.

Absence and Missed Assignments/Exams

The University only recognizes two valid reasons for absence from academic responsibilities:

1. Participation in an activity approved by the Academic Deans Policy Council, such as musical and debate activity, R.O.T.C. function, or varsity athletic trip; participation in a special academic activity such as a field trip or other special event connected with academic coursework. Verification of a student's participation shall be issued by the sponsor when authorized by the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost.

2. Observance of a major religious holy day. The University annually publishes a list of those dates it has designated as major religious holy days. Instructors and administrators shall endeavor not to schedule any examination or other graded class event, nor any major University activity, on a major religious holy day.

I will also accept absences due to medical emergencies or a death in the immediate family, **if the student presents proper documentation of the event**. These are the only valid excuses for missing an exam or failing to turn in an assignment and the **student must contact me by email prior to the missed class** in order to validate the absence. Makeup exams must be completed within one week of the scheduled exam date.

Grading Policy *

There will be about 11 HW assignments, 3 Midterms, and 1 Final Exam. The maximum number of points you can obtain is 100. The distribution of points is as follows:

| | |
|-----------|-----|
| Homework: | 20 |
| Midterm 1 | 25 |
| Midterm 2 | 25 |
| Midterm 3 | 25 |
| Final | 30 |
| Total: | 100 |

The worst out of the 3 Midterms will be dropped for the Final Grading. There are 5 extra credits based on class attendance and performance.

+/- grading will be used to record final grades for the University using the following scale:

| | | | |
|----------------------------|----|----------------------------|----|
| Grade \geq 97.5 | A+ | 77.5 \leq Grade $<$ 80 | C+ |
| 92.5 \leq Grade $<$ 97.5 | A | 72.5 \leq Grade $<$ 77.5 | C |
| 90 \leq Grade $<$ 92.5 | A- | 70 \leq Grade $<$ 72.5 | C- |
| 87.5 \leq Grade $<$ 90 | B+ | 60 \leq Grade $<$ 70 | D |
| 82.5 \leq Grade $<$ 87.5 | B | Grade $<$ 60 | F |
| 80 \leq Grade $<$ 82.5 | B- | | |

* I reserve the right to lower the cutoffs.

Note: I use the Blackboard System <http://www.courses.miami.edu> to keep track of your grades and send announcements to students. It's your responsibility to ensure that you are correctly linked to the Blackboard System so that you can conveniently receive email messages and check grades. You need a pin number to use the Blackboard System. Exam grades will be available one week after exam date.

Tentative Course Outline

1. GDP: Measuring Total Production and Income. Chapter 7.
2. Unemployment and Business Cycle. Chapter 8.
3. Economic Growth, Financial System, and Business Cycles. Chapter 9.

Midterm 1 – Feb 20, 2012

4. Long-Run Economic Growth: Sources and Policies. Chapter 10.
5. Aggregate Expenditure and Output in the Short Run. Chapter 11.
6. Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply Analysis. Chapter 12.

Midterm 2 – Mar 30, 2012

7. Money, Banks, and Federal Reserve System. Chapter 13.
8. Monetary Policy. Chapter 14.
9. Fiscal Policy. Chapter 15.
10. Macroeconomics in an Open Economy. Chapter 17.
11. The International Financial System. Chapter 18.

Midterm 3 – Apr 25, 2012

12. Inflation, Unemployment, and Federal Reserve Policy. Chapter 16. (ITA)

Final – May 2, 2012 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Academic Ethics

Cheating will be dealt with harshly. You must sign and uphold the Honor Code. Any student caught cheating will be given an F in the class and will be brought to the Honor Council for further penalties. Bottom line: **don't cheat.**

Disabilities

Reasonable accommodation will be made for those with disabilities. Contact Disability Services in the Academic Development Center, N201, Whitten University Center, for an evaluation, then make an appointment to see me, or stop by during office hours.

Notes on Textbook and MyEconlab

Homeworks will be assigned on MyEconlab throughout the whole course. Therefore you need to get a MyEconlab access code.

First you need go to www.pearsonmylabs.com to create a new student account. The ID number for this course is **tan62552**. Please refer to the registration instructions for further details.