

Principles of Macroeconomics
Economics 2020-40
(Spring 2010)

Instructor: Dr. Kenneth Jameson

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Office Hour: Online Monday 10-11 AM and by Appointment

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All questions regarding the course content, quizzes, midterm scores, final scores, final grades, and so forth, should be sent directly to the instructor. I will check Blackboard/Vista e-mail daily, unless there are extenuating circumstances, so you should get good response time. I will also communicate with you on course questions and developments using Blackboard/Vista Mail, so either check it often or set up your “Profile” in the “Settings” to forward e-mail to an account that you check often.

Please note the following request: be specific about the question that you are asking. For example, if you have a question about timed quiz no. 7, question no. 11, make sure that you state enough information so that your question is clear, Econ 2010-Dixie, Quiz 7-Chapter 9 #143(each quiz is different so just giving me the number of the question on your quiz does not tell me which question it is). This will allow the response process to be much more efficient and minimize the chance that a query will end up in a spam box.

The online (WIMBA) office hour provides a good opportunity to ask specific questions on the course content. For example, we use many graphs in the course, and answering graphic questions through e-mail is much harder than through our online system. This allows us to utilize Blackboard/Vista’s whiteboard facility to sketch graphs. Within Blackboard/Vista you will see a WIMBA Classroom – depending on your Internet connection speed you might find this to be a good place to join office hours. If you would like to “meet” at another time, we can set that up as well.

Credits: 3 semester credit hours.

Prerequisites: An elementary understanding of algebra and geometry and Economics 2010, Principles of Microeconomics.

Description: This course is designed to introduce the student to the fundamental concepts of macroeconomic theory. The goal is to develop the student's ability to analyze social phenomena from the viewpoint of an economist. Furthermore, it provides the conceptual foundation for those majoring in business as well as economics. Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to use the basic tools of Macroeconomics to understand a wide range of world events as

described in business magazines and newspaper articles. Although the focus is on mainstream economic analysis, alternative theories and critical assessments have been included wherever relevant so as to help the student develop a more balanced picture of the economy and society. At this point, the major challenges to the U.S. economy are in the Macro realm and we will make every effort to help you interpret the current crisis, most directly through the audio introductions to each lesson.

System Requirements: This class can be "attended" from wherever there is an Internet connection. With the exceptions of the midterm and the final, all assignments are completed via the Internet. Students must take the midterm and final exams at an approved testing center. Competence in using an Internet browser is the only technical expertise required. There are optional videos included in most of the Learning Modules to assist students. These videos will play within most Internet browsers. Apparently Safari and Chrome are not fully supported in Blackboard, so beware.

Coursework: The course consists of fifteen Lessons or Learning Modules, each of which is associated with required readings from the textbook. An initial quiz covering Lesson #1 will be for practice and will not count in the final grade. You will take fourteen timed quizzes whose grades will count in your final grade, based upon the required readings associated with each remaining lesson (#'s 2-15). The quizzes are all taken online. You are also required to take a midterm exam and a final exam, both of which will be proctored through the Dixie State Testing Center.

Required Text, available in the Dixie Bookstore:

William A. McEachern

ECON Macro-2-Cengage Learning Publisher

2nd Edition ©2010

ISBN13: 978-0-538-75566-5

(Side note: the second edition is almost exactly the same as the first edition, with only updates on data. You might lose some points of quizzes by using the first edition, though not on the midterm or final. So if you are willing to take that risk, you can get the first edition quite cheaply).

Grading Policy: Grades will be based upon three components: the fourteen timed quizzes, the midterm and the final exam. Each component is weighted as follows.

14 Quizzes (each has 20 questions)	20%
Midterm Exam (has 50 questions)	40%
Final Exam (has 50 questions)	40%
Extra Credit	Up to 10%

Assignments (How to Complete the Course):

The course will be structured around Blackboard/Vista. The largest portion of the content is located under the "Course Content" link on the course homepage and the links to the course components on that page are the prime gateway to course materials.

To take advantage of the materials and perform well in the class, you should internalize the following course elements:

1. Follow the schedule: The schedule below provides you with a study schedule for the class and dates when assignments are due. The material covered each week is roughly comparable, so that you can allocate time evenly to all of the lessons. Two of the Lessons (#'s 10 and 12) cover two chapters. Even though there is a certain measure of flexibility in taking the quizzes, it is highly recommended that you follow the study schedule as closely as possible. It is easy to fall behind, but difficult to catch up. The schedule also lists the dates for the midterm and final exam, along with various school holidays.

2. Completing Lesson: By clicking on the "Learning Modules" link on the homepage, you will find a set of 15 "Lessons," some of which may not be available until we reach them on syllabus. There are a number of resources in each lesson that are designed to aid you in learning Macroeconomics.

- (1) Textbook Reading:** You should read the textbook material that corresponds to the particular lesson to be covered. The textbook is the only essential source of information for the course. You only need to complete the quizzes, midterm, and final to complete the course. And all the questions contained in those various examinations come directly from the textbook. Yet, for most students, the lecture notes, practice quizzes, and audio introductions, videos, and PowerPoint's can be very useful in reinforcing one's knowledge. Extra credit has the same purpose.
- (2) Lecture Notes:** You should read the lecture notes found within the lesson. The lecture notes are summaries of the material from the text and they serve as a good orientation and a good review. The modules will also contain an **Audio Introduction** to put the material in the context of current events that are relevant. This is my attempt to highlight the "forest" that overarches the "trees" of the course content.
- (3) Practice Quiz:** You should take the practice quizzes associated with the lesson. The practice quizzes are very similar to the actual quizzes that you will take. It is highly recommended that you take the practice quiz before taking the actual quiz, since it will give a good idea of whether the material is fully understood or requires more review. When you complete the practice quiz, you will immediately receive a result. The practice quizzes are not recorded and you can take them as often as you like. Some of the best performing students take them multiple times before taking the timed quiz.
- (4) Actual Timed Quiz:** You will take the timed quiz on each lesson (Lesson 1 quiz is for practice and not counted in grading) in order to complete the lesson. There are fourteen quizzes which are required and they will comprise 20% of the student's total score.
 - i) Note that the actual quiz is more difficult than the practice quiz and that the quiz is timed for 30 minutes and the student will be required to

answer 20 questions. ***Do not open the quiz before you plan on taking it!*** Once you begin a quiz, the timer starts and you will be unable to stop it. Make sure you are ready to take the quiz and you are in a stable computer environment before you start it. Blackboard is unavailable on Sunday morning when they do maintenance.

- ii) Actual quizzes are not restricted to closed-book tests. ***If you want to take them as open-book tests, you can do so.*** They are also unproctored and you could call a resource (Who Wants to be a Millionaire?). Be aware however that heavy reliance on book or other aids may affect your performance on the more heavily weighted exams where no aids are allowed. You will find that a number of the quiz questions cover narrow content, the trees rather than the forest. The true/false questions are examples of this. While the final goal of the course is that you have a broad understanding of the Macro economy, the information and data that you may be asked on the quizzes is a base for that more comprehensive knowledge.
- iii) All quizzes must be completed by midnight of the specified due dates. You can take the quizzes earlier than the deadline. But, once the deadline passes, you will not be able to access the quiz. Although you have a certain measure of flexibility in this respect, it is recommended that you follow the timetable given in the course outline below.

Deadlines for the Quizzes

Quiz	Week	Time and Date
Quiz (#1) - #3	Last Day of 3rd Week	Midnight, 1/31(Sun)
Quiz #4 - #5	`` of 5th ``	Midnight, 2/14(Sun)
Quiz #6 - #7	`` of 7th ``	Midnight, 2/28(Sun)
Quiz #8	`` of 8th ``	Midnight, 3/7(Sun)
Quiz #9- #10	`` of 10th ``	Midnight, 3/28(Sun)
Quiz #11- #12	`` of 12th ``	Midnight, 4/11(Sun)
Quiz #13- #14	`` of 14th ``	Midnight, 4/25(Sun)
Quiz #15	`` of 15th ``	Midnight, 5/2(Sun)

- (5) **Video:** Most Lessons will have links to videos. These videos are taken from telecourses and are not required for the course. However, they give you more exposure to material relevant to the particular lessons. If you watch them after reading the course materials, they will serve to highlight the most important elements of the lesson and to carry you further in your knowledge of Economics.
- (6) **PowerPoint Presentation:** each Lesson will have a link to a publisher-provided PowerPoint presentation for the relevant Chapter in the text. Some students may find these useful in reviewing or synthesizing the Lesson material.

3. The Midterm and Final Exams: Students will take a midterm and a final exam.

Both the midterm and final exams will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions. Students must take the midterm and final exams at Dixie State College's testing center. The instructions for registering are given below. The midterm and final must be taken on the dates listed in the calendar. Exceptions are allowed only with the permission of the instructor. According to the reasons of the request, the instructor will decide whether an exception is allowed or not. Incomplete Grades will not be allowed.

* Midterm Exam: Date: 9th week (March 16th, Tues./ March 18th/Thur.)
Range: Lesson # 2 - Lesson # 8.

* Final Exam: Date: 16th week (May 3rd/Mon.-May 4th /Tues.)
Range: Lesson #9 - Lesson # 15.

Preparing for the midterm and final: The midterm will cover the first seven lessons in the course (**Lessons #2 - #8**). The best method of preparation for the midterm is to reread all chapter summaries in the textbook focusing on the defined terms and the graphs used, retake all of the practice quizzes, and **know why the correct answers are in fact correct, and review all of the actual quizzes taken.** The midterm questions will be very similar to those found in the practice quizzes and quizzes, so those are the best sources of study material. However, they will concentrate on the most important themes, rather than on narrow facts and content. For example, there will be no true/false questions. For the final, follow the same procedure for the last seven lessons in the course (**Lessons #9 - #15**). Since the final is not comprehensive, the student should spend his or her time focusing on only the last seven lessons.

4. Extra Credit: during the semester, you can choose to sign up for "Extra Credit."

There will be four separate Extra Credit opportunities. You will be asked to look at and discuss contemporary issues using the threaded discussion tool in Blackboard. A question will be raised (or an assignment made) and you will take part in a threaded discussion on that question. You must take part in the discussion on the question to be eligible for the extra credit, and your contribution will be graded to determine the actual credit that you receive. Each will have a 2.5% weight.

5. Using the Discussion Board: One strong point of online courses is a certain amount of flexibility in time and space. Their main drawback is insufficient interaction or communication between the instructor and the students or among students. Active use of discussion board can address this weakness. **Whenever you have any questions about the course contents or quiz questions, ask them on the discussion board. Student-student interaction is one of the most effective ways of learning material. You might want to create a study group, and the discussion board could facilitate that.**

Grades:

Grades will be on an absolute scale, according to university requirements:

A: excellent performance, superior achievement (90/100 or above)

B: good performance, substantial achievement (80-89/100)

C: standard performance and achievement (70-79/100)

D: substandard performance, marginal achievement (60-69/100)

E: unsatisfactory performance and achievement (Below 60/100)

Note several things: the usual grade cutoffs are higher, e.g. 93% and above is the usual A cutoff, so my cutoffs are in your favor; in calculating final grades, I will give plus and minus grades around the cutoff points; I will also norm the quizzes, the midterm and the final to take account of its difficulty and of any less than satisfactory questions by taking into account the highest grade and whether anyone obtained 100%.

Course Outline: Although you have a certain amount of flexibility with respect to completing the lessons and quizzes, it is recommended that you follow the outline below so that an equal distribution of time is given to each lesson.

WEEK	LESSON	READINGS	TOPICS	CALENDAR
1st (1/11~)	1	Chs. 1-3	Micro Background	1/11 (Mon) - Classes Begin
2nd (1/19~)	2	Ch.4	Demand, Supply and Markets	
3rd (1/25~)	3	Ch. 5	Introduction of Macroeconomics	1/31 (Sun)-Deadline for Quizzes #1-3
4th (2/1~)	4	Ch.6	Productivity and Growth	
5th (2/8~)	5	Ch.7	Tracking the U.S. Economy	2/14(Sun)– Deadline for Quizzes #4 -#5
6th (2/16~)	6	Ch.8	Unemployment-Inflation	
7th (2/22~)	7	Ch.9	Aggregate Expenditure	2/28(Sun)– Deadline for Quizzes #6 -#7
8th (3/1~)	8	Ch.10	And Aggregate Demand	3/7(Sun)– Deadline for Quiz #8
Spring Break	3/8-3/12			Catch your Breath
9th (3/15~)				Midterm Exam (3/16-3/18)
9th (3/15~)	9	Ch.11	Aggregate Supply	
10th (3/22~)	10	Ch.12-13	Fiscal Policy, Federal Budgets and Public Policy	3/28(Sun)– Deadline for Quizzes #9 -#10
11th (3/29~)	11	Ch. 14	Money, the Financial System, Banking	

12 th (4/5~)	12	Chs. 15-16	The Money Supply Monetary Theory and Policy	4/11(Sun)– Deadline for Quizzes #11 -#12
13 th (4/12~)	13	Ch.17	Macro Policy Debate: Active or Passive	
14 th (4/19~)	14	Ch.19	International Finance	4/25(Sun)– Deadline for Quizzes #13 -#14
15 th (4/26~)	15	Ch. 20	Development	5/2(Sun)– Deadline for Quiz#15
16 th (5/3~)				Final Exam (5/3-Mon.- 5/4-Tues.)

Other tools on Blackboard-Vista: Below is a list of information concerning registering for the proctored exams and descriptions of the tools found on the homepage.

(1) The Midterm and Final Examinations: Each student is required to take both the midterm and the final examination. These timed exams are available online at Dixie State College's testing center and will be available during the 9th and 16th week of the class. Scrap paper and calculator are allowed. To take an exam you must access the class Blackboard/Vista website and logon using your personal username and password. After you enter the class website, click Assessments on the menu then select the appropriate exam you are taking. Next, you will be asked for a password. This is a special password that only the Testing Center can input. Violation of this procedure is cheating and will be dealt with accordingly. You are only allowed to access the exam on the testing center computer. You are NOT ALLOWED to access any other websites, including the course website, during the exam. Also, no emailing or cell phone calls. When you complete an exam and submit it, the computer will give you your score for that exam. Any scrap paper that you use for an exam MUST be turned into the testing center before you leave. YOU MUST NOT remove any material from the testing center that you used or created during the exam.

(2) Dictionary of Economics: By clicking on the dictionary of economics link, the students will find a listing of the most important terms used in the course. When completing a lesson, the student might wish to look up the terms again in the dictionary so as to reinforce those concepts.

(3) Economics Links: The student will find some links to economics sites on the web. It is just a small sample of the information regarding economics that can be found on the web. When clicking on a link, a new browser will be opened so that the student will be able to return to the course by simply closing the newly-opened browser.

- (4) **Calendar:** The calendar will have important dates relevant to the course listed therein. You may use it in addition to the syllabus.
- (5) **Discussions:** This tool is a standard bulletin board where topics may be posted. Students are encouraged to post questions there so that other students may respond with their opinions. In addition, we will use it for the extra credit.
- (6) **Mail:** This is a straightforward mail tool. Students can use this tool to contact the instructor. I will use it to make course announcements so be sure to check it often or to forward your mail (by editing your profile) to an account you check often.
- (7) **Learning Modules:** This is one way you can often access the actual quizzes. This also provides instructions for accessing completed quizzes.
- (8) **Media Library:** This is another way to see all terms under the dictionary of economics.
- (9) **Web Links:** This provides a collection of the web-links provided within this homepage. You can see every web-link for Economics web-site within "Economics Links" and for videos within "Lessons".

Disclaimers

"If you are a student with a medical, psychological or a learning difference and requesting reasonable academic accommodations due to this disability, you must provide an official request of accommodation to your Professor(s) from the Disability Resource Center within the first two weeks of the beginning of classes. Students are to contact the Center on the main campus to follow through with, and receive assistance in the documentation process to determine the appropriate accommodations related to their disability. You may call (435) 652-7516 for an appointment and further information regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 per Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973."

It is your responsibility to maintain your computer and related equipment in order to participate in the online portion of the course. Equipment failures will not be an acceptable excuse for late or absent assignments. Classroom equivalency: Discussion threads, e-mails, and chat rooms are all considered to be equivalent to classrooms, and student behavior within those environments shall conform to the Student Code.

Specifically:

Posting photos or comments that would be off-topic in a classroom are still off-topic in an online posting.

Off-color language and photos are never appropriate.

Using angry or abusive language is called "flaming", is not acceptable, and will be dealt with according to the Student Code.

Do not use ALL CAPS, except for titles, since it is the equivalent of shouting online, as is overuse of certain punctuation marks such as exclamation points !!!! and question marks ?????.

