

SACRAMENTO STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
Fall 2010

ECON 1A: INTRODUCTION TO MACROECONOMIC ANALYSIS

Class Information

Fall 2010 Session: MoWe 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm, Alpine Hall 138

Lecture Dates: Aug. 30, 2010 – Dec. 10, 2010

Call No.: 85976, GE Area: D1A, Section: 04

Professor

Esen Onur

Office: Tahoe 3021

Office Phone: 916-278-7062

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Office Hours: T,TH 2:30pm – 4:00pm or email to make an appointment

Catalog Description:

Introductory inquiry into the workings and interrelationships of the aggregate economic system. The primary focus is on total production and its distribution, employment and price levels, and the forces influencing them. Other considerations are the roles of government, the monetary sector, and related areas. 3 units.

Scopes and Objectives:

Macroeconomics is the branch of economics that deals with the economy as a whole. This is the broad field that focuses on economic issues you've seen discussed in the media: unemployment, GDP, inflation, and interest rates. Macroeconomics is often at the heart of political debates and affects our everyday lives. Changes in macroeconomic conditions affect various gender, ethnic, and socio-economic groups differently. Policy decisions have important implications for these groups and the economy as a whole. These choices influence business cycles and long-term economic growth

At the end of this course, you should have a general understanding of macroeconomics and how to apply economic thinking to everyday decisions. You should be able to:

- i. have a general understanding of the unique perspective taken by macroeconomics in its study of society and human behavior,
- ii. understand the inquiry methods used by economists and know how to apply economic thinking to everyday decisions,
- iii. understand the diversity that exists in human societies,
- iv. understand the contributions to human society of women, ethnic, and socio-economic groups

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Required Online Aplia Account

All students are required to register for an Aplia account at <http://www.cengagebrain.com> using the course key **DYV3-UQS6-JR75**. All course materials, including textbook, announcements, practice problems, homework assignments, and homework submissions will occur through this on-line account. The cost of this account, bundled with electronic textbook, is \$80.00.

Electronic Textbook (Aplia)

"Brief Principles of Macroeconomics" by N. Gregory Mankiw, 5th edition (South-Western Cengage Learning). Electronic access to this textbook is included in the \$80.00 Aplia fee.

Paper Textbook

If you try using the online textbook and decide you would also like a physical textbook, you can order one from Aplia for \$35.00 plus shipping and handling. Please note that if you decide to order the actual textbook from other vendors, it will not come with Aplia access. You must still purchase additional Aplia access and that still costs \$80.00.

Grading:

Problem Sets: 15%

Midterms: each 25%

Final Exam: 35%

Actual letter grade you earn in this course will be based on one of the two grading methods: 1) a weighted average of the grades from all exams (two midterms and the final exam) administered throughout the semester (weights specified above) or 2) the score from your final exam counts for 85% of your final grade in the class. As an act of generosity characteristic of Turkish people, **you will be given the higher of the two grades. You have to be present at all three exams (both midterms and the final exam) to benefit from this grading scheme.** In the event that you miss any of the exams due to a legitimate reason (as specified on the next page), you forfeit your right to this grading scheme and the weight of the exam you miss will be added on the weight of your final exam. In that event, your grade will be calculated using method (1) only. In terms of letter grades, a grading scale will be determined *after the final exam*. This scale will probably not resemble the 10-point scale many of you are used to (e.g., 90-100% is some sort of A, 80-89% is some sort of B, etc...) because I curve the grades in every class I teach. I will provide more information throughout the semester about how to interpret your homework and exam scores. Also note that there is no class on the exam day. All exams are in-class.

Other Important Information:

Problem Sets:

In order to complete the homework assignments during this course, you will be required to access the Aplia website mentioned above. For more information about Aplia, also see the last page of this syllabus. Please register to Aplia during the first week of class.

There is a grace period (**through 09/19/2010**) during which you can use the site for free, so please register even if you are not ready to pay.

Also note that I give you one “free-pass” with your homework scores. I will drop your lowest semester at the end of the semester. The first time you fail to submit an assignment due to technical difficulties or unforeseeable circumstances, you basically use up your “free-pass”. The remaining Aplia assignments (those not dropped) will receive equal weight in your homework grade. **All graded Aplia assignments are due by 11:00pm on the evening of the stated deadline.** The Aplia system will not allow you to submit or change graded assignments after the stated deadline and neither will I. I will not grant any extensions and I will not entertain any excuses (even technical problems with your computer or internet connection).

Exams:

There will be two midterms and one final exam. The midterm exams will be on **October 6th and on November 10th**. Midterms will be held in class during scheduled class time. The *comprehensive* final exam will be on **Wednesday, December 15th from 3:00pm to 5:00pm**. If you miss the midterm due to a legitimate reason (illness documented by a doctor, family emergency such as loss of a family member, university related travel, etc.,) and if you notify me of that fact **24 hours prior to the exam**, the weight of that midterm will be added to the weight of your final exam. I will not give out any make-up midterms and you **can not** miss the final exam.

You are responsible for bringing a scantron form (882-E), a pencil, and a non-cell-phone calculator to all exams. Exams are all closed-book, closed-note, and closed-friend/neighbor.

Also note that you have one week after the return of your graded midterm to appeal for a grade change. I will only entertain appeals if they are due to a technical problem related to your midterm.

If you have a learning disability or a physical disability that requires accommodation, please let me know as soon as possible. All needs that have been verified through the Services to Students with Disabilities (Lassen Hall) will be accommodated.

Attendance:

Attendance at lecture is left up to your discretion, although I obviously believe that coming to class will have a positive effect on how much you learn and your final grade. I will not take roll.

If you choose to attend, I do request that you be on time and also do not leave the class room before the lecture is over. If you are not on time or if you leave early (or if you

don't come to class at all), you are likely to miss important material. It is **your responsibility** to get all the material you miss. I do not hand out or lend lecture notes under any circumstances, so I recommend you find a study-buddy in the class. Any handouts distributed in class will also be posted on the Aplia class website, so check there frequently.

Adjunct Course:

A supplemental credit / no credit one unit course led by an adjunct (TA) is available for this class. It is strongly recommended, but not required, that you register for this course. The TA, an advanced graduate student of economics, will review and clarify concepts from class, answer questions about Aplia homework questions and help you prepare for exams. This adjunct course does not only serve the purpose of improving your understanding of the course material, it is also likely have a positive effect on your overall performance in my class.

Advice:

Every student in class has a different level of academic preparedness for this class or for college in general. On top of that, activities outside the classroom might also be very taxing on your time. I plan to make some general remarks in terms of how to succeed in this class and it is up to you to follow my advice or not.

First of all, realize that the amount of time you put in a class is not always highly correlated with your final grade in the class. Some students may study for an hour a week and still get an A in the class and others spend 10 hours a week studying and may still barely pass. It is up to you to realize how much effort you should put into this class to walk away with the grade you desire. **Do not assume** that studying many hours qualifies you for a good (or even passing) grade.

My general advice for doing well in a class is as follows:

Come to class. Even if you feel like you learn better when you study the material by yourself, coming to class familiarizes you with the topics I deem more important. I am more likely to test you on topics I care about.

Work in groups. Best way to test whether you have learned a material is to try to teach it to someone else. Working in groups allows you to figure out which parts of the material you may need to pay more attention to. Group study is useful but make sure you do (and turn in) your own work.

Get your hands dirty. Do not assume that you can learn how to solve a problem or how to draw a graph by just watching me do it on the board. Get your hands dirty and make sure you work out those problems by yourself and that you draw those graphs perfectly. Setting aside time to solve extra questions (not just looking at their answers) is also useful.

Be proactive. When you begin to feel lost, contact me. Come talk to me after class, stop by my office or simply send me an email. This is a crowded class and I can't always detect who is feeling lost and who is not. I can only help you if you ask for it. And finally,

Do not cheat. Neither of us wants to have to deal with this situation. If you cheat, I will assume you know zero and that is precisely the grade you will get.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE			
Week	Starting		Mankiw Chapter(s)
WEEK 1	Aug. 30	Going over the syllabus	
		What is economics	CH 1
WEEK 2	Sept. 6	How people make (economic) decisions?	CH 2
		The idea of opportunity cost	
WEEK 3	Sept. 13	Specialization and gains from trade	CH 3
WEEK 4	Sept. 20	How markets work	CH 4
		Demand and supply	
WEEK 5	Sept. 27	Measuring a nation's income	CH 5
		Review session for midterm I	
WEEK 6	Oct. 4	Midterm I (Oct. 6)	
		Measuring the cost of living	CH 6
WEEK 7	Oct. 11	Measuring the cost of living continued	CH 6
WEEK 8	Oct. 18	Production and growth	CH 7
WEEK 9	Oct. 25	Saving, investment and the financial system	CH 8
WEEK 10	Nov. 1	Unemployment	CH 10
		Review session for midterm II	
WEEK 11	Nov. 8	Midterm II (Nov. 10)	
		The monetary system	CH 11
WEEK 12	Nov. 15	The monetary system continued	CH 11
WEEK 13	Nov. 22	Aggregate demand and aggregate supply	CH 15
WEEK 14	Nov. 29	Aggregate demand and aggregate supply continued	CH 15
WEEK 15	Dec. 6	Monetary and fiscal policy	CH 16
		Review for Final Exam	
WEEK 16	Dec. 13	FINAL EXAM	

How to access your Aplia course

Econ 1A, Sect 4, Intro Macro Analysis, Fall 2010

Instructor: Esen Onur

Start Date: 08/30/2010

Course Key: DYV3-UQS6-JR75

You can begin working on your homework as soon as you register!

- In this course, you will use a textbook and Aplia's website.
- In most cases, you can save money if you buy Aplia and your textbook together. See payment options below.
- You will have access to a digital version of your textbook on Aplia through the end of this course.
- Aplia is part of CengageBrain, which allows you to sign in once and access your materials and courses.

Registration

1. Connect to <http://login.cengagebrain.com>.
2. **If you already have an account, sign in.** From your Dashboard, enter your course key (**DYV3-UQS6-JR75**) in the box provided, and click the *Register* button.

If you don't have an account, click the *Create an Account* button, and enter your course key when prompted: **DYV3-UQS6-JR75**. Continue to follow the on-screen instructions.

Payment

After you register for your course, you will have a variety of payment options. If you choose to pay later, you can use Aplia without paying until 11:59 PM on 09/19/2010.

Option 1: Digital Textbook with Aplia Access

- **From CengageBrain:** Purchase access to your course from the CengageBrain website for US\$80.00.

Option 2: Physical Textbook with Aplia Access (also includes digital textbook)

- **From CengageBrain:** Purchase access to your course for US\$80.00 on the CengageBrain website. On your Aplia Course Home page, you can then purchase a physical book for a discounted price.
- **From Bookstore:** Purchase a physical book bundled with an Aplia Access Card from your campus bookstore.