**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO**
**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS**

**ECON 1A – Introduction to Macroeconomic Analysis**  
**SPRING 2011**

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**Instructor:** Kristin Van Gaasbeck  
ev-mail: kavan@csus.edu  
**Course web page:** [http://econ.aplia.com/](http://econ.aplia.com/)  
**Aplia course key:** FU2L-6J57-VH9N

**Office:** Tahoe 3015  
**Office phone:** 278-6194  
**Office Hours:** Mon. 11:00am-12:45pm, Wed. 8:30-9:45am, or by appt.

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**General Information**  
Lecture: MWF 10-10:50 a.m.  
Section: 02  
Cal No.: 34193  
GE Area: D1a

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**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.

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**Scope 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 use models developed this semester to:

(i) understand how key macroeconomic variables are measured,  
(ii) identify the sources of economic growth and explain differences in standards of living across countries,  
(iii) examine potential causes of short-run economic fluctuations, and  
(iv) analyze how policy affects the economy as a whole.

**Required Textbook**  
(available online)  

You are required register for this course online through Aplia. Your registration includes an online version of the textbook. You may order a hard copy of the textbook through Aplia (for an additional fee) if you prefer, but the hard copy is not required.

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**Grading**  
Homework 26%  
Experiments 6%  
Term exams 38% (19% each on two highest exam scores)  
Comprehensive final exam 30%

Grades will be distributed according to the following scale (approximately):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 or above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>79-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>68-78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>57-67</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Less than 57</td>
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Assignments, Exams, and Experiments

- Homework will be completed in an online interactive format and will require reliable (high-speed) internet access. Assignments will be completed at the Aplia website. I encourage you to use the on-campus computer labs or other source with a high-speed internet connection. Computer problems are not an excuse for missing assignments.

- **No late homework will be accepted.** Due dates for all assignments are posted on Aplia in advance. It is not possible to extend time for assignments after the due date. If you add the course late in the semester, you cannot make up work you have missed.

- Give yourself ample time to complete the assignments. These assignments are challenging and important both for your homework grade and your performance in the class. Most assignments have accompanying optional practice problem sets. I encourage you to spend time working through them carefully and to seek out help from me, a classmate, or an economics tutor when you encounter problems.

- Answer keys for all material will be available online on Aplia.

- Your homework grade is based on the percentage correct on each chapter’s assignments, regardless of each assignment’s length.

- Exams are closed book and given in class. All exams are comprised of written response and multiple choice questions.

- Free peer tutoring for this class is available in the Department of Economics. Tutoring hours are posted in the Department office during the first week of classes.

- Experiments are held during class meeting time. You will need a reliable internet connection to participate and receive credit. Computer labs are available at: MND 2003, 2004, 2007, 2008; LIB 2000; and ARC 2000. Your in-class participation grade is based on your participation in experiments.

Policies

1. Academic honesty is expected. I encourage you to work together on problem sets and study in groups, however, work submitted for a grade must be that of the individual student. You will receive a mark of zero on any work where cheating or plagiarism occur. Students suspected of cheating will be reported to Judicial Affairs.

2. You are responsible for bringing a scantron form (#882-E or similar) on the day of exams. Exams will be closed book and given in class.

3. There will be **no makeup examinations.** Exam dates are given in the course outline below and are on posted online. This is to avoid any potential conflicts.

4. Attendance is highly recommended. If you miss a class, be sure to check with your fellow classmates, and the course web page to see what material you missed.

5. Come to class on time; you will not be given extra time if you are late for an exam.

6. You are **required** to register for Aplia at [http://econ.aplia.com/](http://econ.aplia.com/). Registration includes the textbook for the course.

7. If you decide to withdraw from this class, make sure you do so with the registrar. If you withdraw without permission, you will be assigned a failing grade. Once a student submits work for a grade, he/she will not receive a grade of “WU” under any circumstances.

8. Keep mobile devices off during class, including laptops. If you wish to use your laptop during class, please come speak with me.

9. **You may not** use your phone/MP3 player as a calculator on exams. You may use a calculator **without programming capabilities.**

10. **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.
**Course Outline**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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| Week 1       | Jan. 24 – 28                                                          | Lecture 1: Introduction to Economics  
Lecture 2: Thinking Like an Economist | Chapter 1  
Chapter 2 |
| Week 2       | Jan. 31 – Feb. 4                                                      | Lecture 2, continued  
Lecture 3: Interdependence and Gains from Trade | Chapter 3 |
| Week 3       | Feb. 7 – 11                                                           | Lecture 4: The Market Forces of Supply and Demand  
*** Experiment #1: Demand and Supply (Friday, Feb. 11) | Chapter 4 |
| Week 4       | Feb. 14 – 18                                                          | Lecture 4 continued & Exam review  
Exam #1: Lectures 1-4 (Friday, February 18) |  |
| Week 5       | Feb. 21 – 25                                                          | Lecture 5: Measuring the Nation’s Income | Chapter 5 |
| Week 6       | Feb. 28 – Mar. 4                                                      | Lecture 6: Measuring the Cost of Living | Chapter 6 |
| Week 7       | Mar. 7 – 11                                                           | Lecture 7: Production and Growth  
*** Experiment #2: Production and Labor (Friday, Mar. 11) | Chapter 7 |
| Week 8       | Mar. 14 – 18                                                          | Lecture 7 continued  
Lecture 8: Savings, Investment, & the Market for Loanable Funds | Chapter 8 |
|              | Mar. 21 – 25                                                          | **Spring Break** (No Class) |  |
| Week 9       | Mar. 28 – Apr. 1                                                      | Lecture 8 continued & Exam review  
Exam #2: Lectures 5-8 (Friday, April 1) |  |
| Week 10      | Apr. 4 – 8                                                            | Lecture 9: Unemployment and its Natural Rate  
*** Experiment #3: Unemployment Compensation (Friday, Apr. 8) | Chapter 10 |
| Week 11      | Apr. 11 – 15                                                          | Lecture 10: The Monetary System | Chapter 11 |
| Week 12      | Apr. 18 – 22                                                          | Lecture 11: Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply | Chapter 15 |
| Week 13      | Apr. 25 – 29                                                          | Lecture 11 continued & Exam review  
Exam #3: Lectures 9-11 (Friday, April 29) |  |
| Week 14      | May 2 – 6                                                             | Lecture 12: The Influence of Monetary and Fiscal Policy on AD/AS  
*** Experiment. #4: Fixed vs. Flexible Prices (Friday, May 6) | Chapter 16 |
| Week 15      | May 9 – 13                                                            | Lecture 12 continued and Final Exam review |  |
| Week 16      | Mon., May 16                                                          | **Final Exam** (Comprehensive, Lectures 1-12)  
10:15am – 12:15pm |  |
How to access your Aplia course

ECON 1A: Intro to Macroeconomic Analysis, Sp. 2011

Instructor: Kristin A Van Gaasbeck
Start Date: 01/24/2011
Course Key: FU2L-6J57-VH9N

Registration

Aplia is part of CengageBrain, which allows you to sign in to a single site to access your Cengage materials and courses.

2. If you already have an account, sign in. From your Dashboard, enter your course key (FU2L-6J57-VH9N) 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: FU2L-6J57-VH9N. Continue to follow the on-screen instructions.

Payment

Online: Purchase access to your course (including the digital textbook) from the CengageBrain website for US$90.00.

After paying, you will have the option to purchase a physical book from the Aplia website at a discounted price. If you choose to pay later, you can use Aplia without paying until 11:59 PM on 02/13/2011.