

# ECON 1A: Introduction to Macroeconomic Analysis

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**Class Meetings:** Mon 5:30-8:20 pm  
**Office Hours:** Mon 4:20-5:20 pm  
**Class Number:** 84942

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**Course 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. Because this course serves as a General Education course for Area D1, we will discuss how society is influenced by economic theories. At the end of the course, you should: (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, and (iv) understand the contributions to human society of women, ethnic, and socio-economic groups. This course will include written essay questions on exams and homework assignments required by lower division General Education courses.

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 analyze how policy affects the economy as a whole.

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**Required Textbook (On-line):** *Brief Principles of Macroeconomics* by N. Gregory Mankiw, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition.

You are required to register on-line at Cengage to access the textbook and homework for this course. Your registration includes an online version of the textbook. You may voluntarily choose to order a hard copy of the textbook directly through Cengage (for an additional fee) or obtain a used copy elsewhere on your own accord. You will do your required homework on-line through Cengage.

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<b>Grading:</b>	Homework	40%
	Exam I	20%
	Exam II	20%
	Final Exam	20%

The actual letter grade you earn will be based upon the following scale: 100%-90% will be some sort of A, 89%-80% will be some sort of B, and 79%-70% will be some sort of C. Depending on particular circumstances, I may curve the final grading scale, any of the individual exams, or assigned homework. If that occurs, I will announce the outcome so you will be able to have an idea of what your grade is as the semester progresses.

**Important Note: Performing well on homework assignments is a requirement to obtain a passing grade in this course.**

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## **Assignments and Exams:**

**Exams:** The dates of the exams are final! Make-up exams will not be available. If there is a schedule conflict, you will need to advise me of such in advance and arrangements can be made for you ahead of time to take the exam. Few excuses for an absence on the day of the exam would be acceptable. A documented serious illness or documented death in the family would be accepted. However, pre-planning of anticipated schedule conflicts are not a problem.

Exams will consist of true/false, multiple choice, and short-essay questions. They will be closed-book, closed-note, and closed-neighbor. You will need to bring a pencil and a calculator. You may not use a cell phone or other electronic device to calculate. Test questions will come from the textbook, homework, and class lectures. Bring Scantron sheet (Form No. 882-E) with you to record your answers.

**Homework assignments:** Homework will be completed in an online interactive format and will require reliable (high-speed) internet access. Assignments will be completed at the Cengage web site. 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.** The due dates for all assignments are posted on Cengage 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. The assignments have accompanying optional practice problem sets. I encourage you to spend time working through them carefully and to seek out help from a classmate, an economics tutor, or me.

The answer keys for all material will be available online on Cengage immediately after the due date and time. Please be sure to review your problem sets before exams. 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.

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## **Miscellaneous:**

**Do not cheat:** I do not want to deal with this type of situation and you will not either. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated, will be reported to Judicial Affairs, and will result in a failing grade.

**Disabilities:** If you have a learning or 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) at 916-278-6955 will be accommodated.

**Disruptions:** Please remember to turn off cell phones and other devices for class. If you arrive late, please just make your way into class as inconspicuously as possible. Showing up late for class is better than being absent.

**Attendance & Participation:** I recommend you attend class because it will have a positive effect on your understanding of the course material. If you miss class, check with a classmate to possibly copy their lecture notes. I expect you to pay attention and actively participate by asking questions, answering questions, making appropriate and topic-relevant comments, or telling a good clean joke.

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**Student Registration & Payment for course on Cengage:** Registering on Cengage requires 2 steps: (1) registering on the website by creating a login account and (2) paying a \$93.60 fee. Cengage does allow a 14-day grace period so that you can access my course, the homework, and textbook without paying the registration fee. However, when the grace period ends, you will be locked out of the website until you pay the fee.

In order to register for the course, you will need to:

1. Connect to: <https://www.cengage.com/dashboard/#/course-confirmation/MTPNW5LNGWZF/initial-course-confirmation>
2. Follow the prompts to register for the course.

**Course Name:** Econ 1A, Fall 2019

**Start Date:** 08/26/2019

**Registration URL:** <https://www.cengage.com/dashboard/#/course-confirmation/MTPNW5LNGWZF/initial-course-confirmation>

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**Tentative Course Outline:** The following is a rough guide to the lecture material and the associated chapters in the text. The timeline may be altered as the semester progresses.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topics &amp; (GE Learning Outcomes)</u>	<u>Chapters</u>	<u>Exams</u>
Aug 26	10 Principles of Econ; Thinking like an Economist (1,2,3,4)	1 & 2	
Sept 2	<b>No Class – Labor Day</b>		<b>No Class-Labor Day</b>
Sept 9	Continued; Interdependence & Gains from Trade (1,2,3,4)	2 & 3	
Sept 16	Continued	3	
Sept 23	Measuring the Nation's Income (2,4)	5	<b>Exam #1 – Sept 23<sup>rd</sup></b>
Sept 30	Measuring the Cost of Living (1,2,3)	6	
Oct 7	Production and Growth (2,4)	7	
Oct 14	Continued	7	
Oct 21	Unemployment (1,2,3)	10	<b>Exam #2 – Oct 21<sup>st</sup></b>
Oct 28	The Monetary System (2,3)	11	
Nov 4	Supply & Demand (1,2,3,4)	4	
Nov 11	<b>No Class – Veteran's Day</b>		<b>No Class-Veteran's Day</b>
Nov 18	Continued	4	
Nov 25	Aggregate Demand & Aggregate Supply (3,4)	15	
Dec 2	Continued	15	
<b>Dec 9</b>	<b>Finals Week</b>		<b>Final Exam – Dec 9<sup>th</sup></b>

\* The final exam is scheduled for Monday, Dec 9<sup>th</sup> from 5:15 - 7:15 pm.