

ECONOMICS 1A  
Introduction to Macroeconomic Analysis  
California State University, Sacramento  
Fall 2019

Instructor: Ta-Chen Wang

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Classroom: Amador 217

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Class Time: TTh 1:30-2:45 (Section 7)

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Office Hours: Wed 3:30-5:00

Thu 3:00-4:30 or by appointment

**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. **Units: 3.0. GE Area: D**

**Course 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 in a global setting

**GE Area D Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Describe and evaluate ethical and social values in their historical and cultural contexts.

2. Explain and apply the principles and methods of academic disciplines to the study of social and individual behavior.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the role of human diversity in human society, for example, race, ethnicity, class, age, ability/disability, sexual identity, gender and gender expression.
4. Explain and critically examine social dynamics and issues in their historical and cultural contexts.

### **Required Reading/Textbook**

Mankiw, N. Gregory, *Brief Principles of Macroeconomics*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition

The class website is in Canvas (<https://csus.instructure.com/>)

### **Exams and Assignment**

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. There will be three exams and approximately 10 online Assignments. Also, I may add in-class exercises (not included in grades) to help understand the topic. Only exams and online assignment grades determines your semester grades. Please make sure you do well on all of them, as there will be **no extra credit assignments**.

#### Exams

All exams will consist of multiple choice questions and essay questions. The essay questions will require you to analyze real world economic problems using tools and concepts you learned in class. The essay questions will be evaluated and graded based on your demonstration of your understanding of the concepts and the clarity of your writing.

#### Midterms

1<sup>st</sup> midterm: 9/26 (Thursday) in class

2<sup>nd</sup> midterm: 10/31(Thursday) in class

The exams will last for 75 minutes.

#### Final

12/12 (Thursday) 12:45-2:45 PM

#### Exam Policies

All exams are closed book, closed note exams, and will consist of multiple choice and essay questions. You are responsible to bring a Scantron form (Test Answer Sheet B 19641) and a simple calculator. No note cards are allowed. Electronic devices such as cell phones, tablets, and smart watches must be stowed away in your backpack/bag during the entire duration of the exam. Failure to do so will result in an F for the class.

If you miss an exam due to illness or other necessity, you must contact me prior to the exam time and provide a legitimate university excuse before you will be able to make up the work. If you are ill, you need to provide me with a physician's note that clearly states that you could not have taken a midterm or final on the date it was given. Merely being seen by a physician is not sufficient. Failure to provide a legitimate university excuse will result in a zero on the exam.

### Online Assignments

1. Homework will be completed in an online interactive format and will require reliable (high-speed) internet access. Assignments will be completed on Canvas. 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.
2. **No late assignments will be accepted.** Due dates for all Assignments are posted on Canvas. 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.
3. Give yourself ample time to complete the assignments. 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.
4. Answer keys for all material will be available online after the due date and time. Please be sure to review your problem sets before exams.
5. At the end of the semester, **I will drop the two lowest scores** among all of your Assignments. If you happen to miss one problem set, it will have very little impact on your homework grades. However, completing all problem sets is highly recommended as it prepares you for the exams.
6. The grading schedule in the previous section is for your reference only. I usually have to revise it downward. For example, you may fall into the A- category even though you only get 88% on the midterm. Notice that I do not change your raw score; rather, I change the curve itself. I will announce the curve after each exam.
7. There will also be a few in-class exercises. You will be asked to work on it during class and I will go over the questions right after that. These exercises do not count towards your grades but are very helpful in understanding the material.

### Grading Scale

1. Each exam accounts for 28% of your final grade, and the homework assignments (after dropping the two lowest scores) make up 16% of your grade
2. The curve looks roughly like this:
  - 87+ A and A-
  - 74 to 87 B+, B, and B-
  - 60 to 74 C+, C, and C-
  - 55 to 60, D+, D, and D-
  - Below 55 F

Please notice that I will adjust the curve according to the relative performance of the class. However, you will not receive anything above a D+ if your final score (exams and homework combined according to the weights above) is less than 60. Also, you will not pass the class if your final score is less than 55.

## **Course Policies**

1. Due to rules at the college level, classes are not allowed to go above the registration cap. I can only add you if there are spaces open up. Priority will be given to those who are on the waitlist according to MySacState.
2. All exam dates are set (see above). If you already have obligations that prevent you from taking any of the exams, you should not take this class. Please schedule your other engagements around the exam date.
3. Academic honesty is expected. You will receive a mark of zero on any work (including exams) where cheating occurs. Please make sure you read the University Policy on Academic Honesty: <http://www.csus.edu/admbus/umannual/UMA00150.htm> There is also a useful student tutorial on this issue: <http://library.csus.edu/content2.asp?pageID=353>
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. If you decide to withdraw from this class, please make sure you do so with the registrar. If you withdraw without permission, you will be assigned a failing grade.
6. I will do my best to respect everyone, and I expect you to do the same to your fellow colleagues. Please minimize disturbances (such as cell phone ringers.) Also, do not browse the Internet, chat online with friends, play video games, or text message in class. These activities are disruptive to your fellow classmates. If found doing any of the above activities in class, you will be asked to leave the classroom.
7. 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.
8. If you have a disability and require accommodations, you need to provide disability documentation to SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008, (916) 278-6955. Please discuss your accommodation needs with me after class or during my office hours early in the semester.

## **Course Website**

On Canvas. Course material, including Chapter handouts, online problem sets, midterm and final reviews, and announcements will be posted on Canvas. Be sure to sign up using an email account that you check regularly as all announcements will be made via email.

## **Holiday Information**

For this class, we will have no class on the following days:

11/28 (Thanksgiving Break)

**Course Outline (Tentative)**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Chapter/Topic/Activity</b>	<b>GE Area Learning Outcome</b>
1	8/27	Syllabus Chapter 1: Ten Principles of Economics Chapter 2: Thinking Like an Economist	1, 2
2	9/3	Chapter 2 Thinking Like an Economist Chapter 3: Interdependence and Gains from Trade	1, 2
3	9/10	Chapter 4: The Market Forces of Supply and Demand	2
4	9/17	Chapter 4: The Market Forces of Supply and Demand	2
5	9/24	Chapter 5: Measuring the Nation's Income 9/26 Midterm 1	2, 3
6	10/1	Chapter 5: Measuring the Nation's Income	2,3
7	10/8	Chapter 6: Measuring the Cost of Living	2
8	10/15	Chapter 7: Production and Growth	2,3,4
9	10/22	Chapter 7: Production and Growth Chapter 8: Savings, Investment, & the Financial System	2,3,4
10	10/29	Chapter 8: Savings, Investment, & the Financial System 10/31 Midterm 2	2, 3
11	11/5	Chapter 10: Unemployment and its Natural Rate	2, 3, 4
12	11/12	Chapter 10: Unemployment and its Natural Rate Chapter 11: The Monetary System	2, 3, 4
13	11/19	Chapter 11: The Monetary System	2, 4
14	11/26	Chapter 15: Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply	2
15	12/3	Chapter 15: Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply	2