



## **Economics 1A: Introduction to Macroeconomic Analysis** **2019 Fall Semester**

Instructor: Raul Cruz Tadle

Office: Tahoe 3018

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Appointments are also welcome

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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 (**UNITS: 3.0** and **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.

## Course Reading

Brief Principles of Macroeconomics (8<sup>th</sup> edition) by N. Gregory Mankiw  
Previous editions are acceptable (although figures and tables need updates)

## Course Location and Schedule

Mendocino Hall 1005  
MWF 12:00 PM – 12:50 PM

## Course Materials and Website

The syllabus, lecture images, practice exams, problem sets, readings, and solutions keys will be posted on Canvas (url: [canvas.csus.edu](http://canvas.csus.edu)).

## Grading

The baseline grade breakdown is as follows:

Homework	20%
Midterm 1	20%
Midterm 2	20%
Final Exam (comprehensive)	40%

The assignment of letter grades is based on the scale:

<b>A</b>	grade $\geq$ 93	<b>A-</b>	$90 \leq$ grade $<$ 93
<b>B+</b>	$87 \leq$ grade $<$ 90	<b>B</b>	$83 \leq$ grade $<$ 87
<b>B-</b>	$80 \leq$ grade $<$ 83	<b>C+</b>	$77 \leq$ grade $<$ 80
<b>C</b>	$73 \leq$ grade $<$ 77	<b>C-</b>	$70 \leq$ grade $<$ 73
<b>D+</b>	$67 \leq$ grade $<$ 70	<b>D</b>	$63 \leq$ grade $<$ 67
<b>D-</b>	$60 \leq$ grade $<$ 63	<b>F</b>	grade $<$ 60

Grades are curved based on the overall performance of the class. This curve adjusts the final grades upwards only if the median final grade is below 83.

## Assignments

- Assignments can be accessed and submitted through Canvas. Make sure that your internet connection is reliable and secure to be able to do the assignments. On-campus computer labs can be used to complete your work so there are no excuses for not being able to fulfill the assignments.

- Take note of the deadlines for each of the assignments. I will make announcements about these assignments as they are released, but do make sure to check the website regularly. **I WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSIONS AFTER THE DEADLINE.**
- Make sure to give yourself ample time for the assignments. If you need additional help, there is free peer tutoring in the department. I am also happy to help through email or during office hours.
- The answer key for the assignments will be posted shortly after the due date.

### Exams

- I. You have 50 minutes for each midterm and two hours for the final. Make sure to arrive earlier on exam days.
- II. Bring a simple (non-graphing and non-programmable) calculator, scantron (Test Answer Sheet B of form #19641), and a few pencils and erasers to the exams. You may bring a ruler, if you wish to do so.
- III. Since in-class exam reviews are given prior to the exams, no cheat sheets are allowed.
- IV. All electronics, aside from the calculator, must be turned off.
- V. Cellphones and other electronics that you have must be given to me prior to going to the bathroom. I will return them to you once you get back.
- VI. There will be no make-up exams. Any student who misses a midterm and who submits a documentation for illness will have the weight of the final exam increase by an additional 20% of the final grade. Failure to submit such documentation within a week of the absence will result to a grade of zero for the missed midterm.
- VII. You are required to take the final exam. Missing the final will result to a failing grade.
- VIII. Make sure to place your full name and student id number on your exam.
- IX. CHEATING IS NEVER TOLERATED.

### Tutoring

The department offers free peer tutoring. The tutoring hours are posted in the department office during the first week of classes. Make sure to drop by the department office to speak more about this resource.

The Peer Academic Resource Center also offers economic tutoring by appointment. You may book a tutoring appointment at Lassen 2200 or online at <https://www.csus.edu/parc/>.

### Class Policies

- A. If you need additional time to discuss the lecture materials, please come by my office during office hours, or email me to ask questions or set up additional appointments.
- B. I expect that everyone follow the academic honesty as described by the university:

<http://www.csus.edu/umannual/student/stu-0100.htm>

Any violation will result to a zero grade for the work with infraction. Repeat violations will be reported to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

- C. Try all of the in-class exercises that are handed out. They not only help better understand course materials, but are also significant components of the lecture participation that I consider when determining class grades.
- D. I highly recommend that you attend all lectures. Please arrive on time and be respectful of everyone in the room.
- E. Keep cell phones on silent or off during class.

### Services to Students with Disabilities (SSWD)

For those with physical or learning disability that requires accommodation, you need to file an application and submit the appropriate documentation to the Services to Students with Disabilities (SSWD) office at Lassen Hall, Room 1008 (first floor). Once your application is accepted and approved, you will need to notify me with proper documentation as soon as you can so that I could provide the necessary accommodations.

### 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.

### Lower Division G.E. Course Writing Requirement

a) All lower division courses listed in the G.E. Program, unless granted an exception as provided in paragraph c) below, shall include writing which encourages students to think through concepts of the course. This may be accomplished in a variety of ways, including use of laboratory reports, essay examinations, formal writing assignments, and/or informal assignments. Writing in lower division courses need not be graded, but must, at a minimum, be evaluated for clarity and proper handling of terms, phrases, and concepts related to the course.

b) Whenever possible, an early writing sample should be obtained to assess whether any students in the course should be advised concerning appropriate tutoring or ancillary courses for students with writing difficulties.

c) The course syllabus submitted to the G.E. Course Review Committee for initial G.E. listing of the course and periodic course review shall indicate how the writing objectives for lower division G.E. courses are met by the course. Requests for exception to the writing requirement shall also be submitted to the G.E. Course Review Committee which shall determine whether the justification provided warrants an exception.

### Tentative Course Schedule

#### **Week 1: 8/26/19, 8/28/19, 8/30/19**

Syllabus  
Chapter 1: Ten Principles of Economics  
*GE Area Learning Outcome: 1, 2*

#### **Week 2: 9/4/19, 9/6/19** (9/2/19 is Labor Day Holiday)

Chapter 1: Ten Principles of Economics  
Chapter 2: Thinking Like an Economist  
*GE Area Learning Outcome: 1, 2*

#### **Week 3: 9/9/19, 9/11/19, 9/13/19**

Chapter 3: Interdependence and the Gains from Trade  
*GE Area Learning Outcome: 1, 2*

#### **Week 4: 9/16/19, 9/18/19, 9/20/19**

Chapter 3: Interdependence and the Gains from Trade  
Chapter 4: The Market Forces of Supply and Demand  
*GE Area Learning Outcome: 1, 2*

#### **Week 5: 9/23/19, 9/25/19, 9/27/19**

Chapter 4: The Market Forces of Supply and Demand  
*GE Area Learning Outcome: 2*

**Week 6: 9/30/19, 10/2/19, 10/4/19**

Midterm 1 Review

Midterm 1 Exam on 10/2/19 (Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4)

Chapter 5: Measuring a Nation's Income

**Week 7: 10/7/19, 10/9/19, 10/11/19**

Chapter 5: Measuring a Nation's Income

Chapter 6: Measuring the Cost of Living

*GE Area Learning Outcome: 2, 3*

**Week 8: 10/14/19, 10/16/19, 10/18/19**

Chapter 6: Measuring the Cost of Living

Chapter 7: Production and Growth

*GE Area Learning Outcome: 2, 3, 4*

**Week 9: 10/21/19, 10/23/19, 10/25/19** (Aplia Ch 1-6 due on 10/25/19)

Chapter 7: Production and Growth

*GE Area Learning Outcome: 2, 3, 4*

**Week 10: 10/28/19, 10/30/19, 11/1/19**

Chapter 8: Savings, Investment, and the Financial System

*GE Area Learning Outcome: 2, 3*

**Week 11: 11/4/19, 11/6/19, 11/8/19**

Chapter 8: Savings, Investment, and the Financial System

Chapter 9: The Basic Tools of Finance

Midterm 2 Review

Midterm 2 Exam on 11/6/19 (Chapters 5, 6, 7, and 8)

*GE Area Learning Outcome: 2, 3, 4*

**Week 12: 11/13/19, 11/15/19** (11/11/19 is Veteran's Day Holiday)

Chapter 9: The Basic Tools of Finance

*GE Area Learning Outcome: 2, 3, 4*

**Week 13: 11/18/19, 11/20/19** (11/22/19 is Friday after Thanksgiving)

Chapter 9: The Basic Tools of Finance

Chapter 10: Unemployment

*GE Area Learning Outcome: 2, 3, 4*

**Week 14: 11/25/19, 11/27/19, 11/29/19**

Chapter 10: Unemployment

Chapter 11: The Monetary System

*GE Area Learning Outcome: 2, 3, 4*

**Week 15: 12/2/19, 12/4/19, 12/6/19** (Aplia Ch 7-11 due on 12/6/19)

Chapter 11: The Monetary System

Great Recession Lecture (Time permitting)

Final Exam Review

*GE Area Learning Outcome: 2, 4*

**Finals: 12/11/19 (10:15 AM – 12:15 PM)**

Two-hour Final Exam (Cumulative)