CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

ECON 1A – Introduction to Macroeconomic Analysis  
Fall 2011

Instructor Information  
**Instructor:** J. T. Kelly  
**Office:** Benecia Hall 1011  
**Office Hours:** TR 2:00pm – 3:00pm and by appointment  
**Office Telephone:** 278-3576 (during office hours only)  
**E-mail:** t.kelly@csus.edu

General Information  
Lecture: TR 3:00 – 4:15 pm  
Amador Hall Room 217  
Call No.: 84712  
Section: 08  
GE Area: D1A  
Aplia course key: 9LC6-R3MN-BRAS

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. 3 units.

Scope and Objectives  
In this class, we will investigate the way our economy works – the aggregation and organization of all the buying and selling that takes place in the economy during the year. Macroeconomics is the broad field that focuses on economic issues covered every day in the media: recession, unemployment, GDP, national debt, inflation, risk, and interest rates. Macroeconomics has been at the heart of political debates over the last few months and affects our everyday lives. Changes in macroeconomic conditions and policy decisions affect everyone, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, economic possessions, or any other characteristic.

At the end of this course, the student should  
1. have a general understanding of macroeconomics,  
2. be able to understand and apply economic thinking to economic issues and policies that might help or hurt the economy,  
3. be able to critically evaluate policies being debated in Washington, D.C., and  
4. be aware of causes and implications of economic fluctuations.
Perhaps Alfred North Whitehead said it best in The Aims of Education and Other Essays: *Whatever be the detail with which you cram your student, the chances of his[/her] meeting in afterlife exactly that detail is almost infinitesimal; and if [s/]he does meet it, [s/]he will probably have forgotten what you taught him[/her] about it. The really useful training [in Economics] yields a comprehension of a few general principles with a thorough grounding in the way they apply to a variety of concrete details. In subsequent practice the [men and wo]men will have an principles [of Economics] to immediate circumstances.*

**Textbook & Course Materials**

**Required Text – Available Online** - *Macroeconomics: Principles and Policy by Baumol and Blinder* 12e

You are required to register for this course online through Aplia ($90). 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 paper copy is not required. Please see the last page of this syllabus for Aplia access instructions.

**Graded Course Activities**

Aplia Homework Assignments 25%
2 Mid-term exams 20% each
Pop Quizzes 10%
Comprehensive final exam 25%
Extra Credit up to 3 points for written textbook review questions & class participation

**Letter Grade Assignment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Performance</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
<td>Excellent Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92%</td>
<td>Nearly Excellent Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86%</td>
<td>Good Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69%</td>
<td>Below Average Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-66%</td>
<td>Poor Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59%</td>
<td>Failing Work</td>
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**Course Structure**

**In the Classroom —**
The nature of the course will be face-to-face lecture, augmented with whiteboard explanations and occasional PowerPoint slides.

**Announcements —**
Announcements will usually be made during lectures, but sometimes also sent by email using SacCT. Be sure your email on file with the University is correct and that your inbox is not full.

**Responsibilities —**
I will come to class well prepared; respond to and encourage questions and other appropriate class participation; grade your quizzes, exams, extra credit and any other assignments fairly and in as timely a fashion as possible; be available during office hours and for scheduled appointments; let you know as soon as any changes are made to the schedule, course or class meetings; and do my best to stimulate your appreciation, interest and enthusiasm for economics.

I expect you to read the syllabus thoroughly and understand the ground rules; attend and actively participate in lecture three hours per week; complete all the assigned readings in a timely manner; complete all assignments on time; ask questions when you are lost or confused; ask questions even if you fear they might be “dumb” or that you’re the only one who doesn’t get a point (believe me, you are not alone); seriously think about the material and study for and complete all Aplia homework, quizzes, midterm and a comprehensive final examination. I also expect that you will refrain from asking me to make special exceptions to the requirements laid out in this syllabus just for you.

**Caveat Emptor —** Economics is a discipline that is built up cumulatively, brick by brick, so is not a subject that you should let slide until the last minute, fall behind on readings or fail to ask questions as soon as you realize you don’t understand something. Ask classmates, an economics student assistant or me. Forming study groups is also a good way to learn the material. Even if you are the best student in the group, you will still learn through your efforts to explain the material to others. If at any point during the semester you are having difficulty, PLEASE come see me sooner rather than later. If you do keep up with the material, most of you can do well in the course.

**Key Fixed and Immutable Dates**
Thursday September 29  –  First Mid-term exam
Tuesday November 8  –  Second Mid-term exam
Tuesday December 13  –  Final Exam
Topics, Readings, Extra Credit Questions and Preliminary Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week (Est.)</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter &amp; EC Questions</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Introduction to Economics
1 | What is economics? | 1; D-2,3 |
| 1 | Common myths | 2; D-all |
| 2 | THE economic problem | 3; T-2,4; D-1,2,5 |
| 2/3 | The parrot speaks: Supply & Demand and *nullum gratuitum prandium* | T-1,1,5,6; D-2-5 |
| Our Macroeconomy: Aggregate Supply & Demand
3/4 | Introduction to Macroeconomics | 5; T-all; D-all |
| 4/5 | Macroeconomic goals | 6; T-1,2; D-5,6 |
| 5 | Mid-term Exam | |
| 6 | Aggregate expenditures | 8; T-all; D-1-7 |
| 6 | C+I+G+ (X-M) | Appendix; T-1; D-1,2 |
| 7/8 | Equilibrium and Aggregate Demand | 9; T-1-3; D-all |
| 9 | Multiplier algebra | Appendix A; T-all |
| 10 | Equilibrium and Aggregate Supply | 10; T-1,4; D-1,2,5 |
| 11 | Mid-term Exam | |
| 12 | Fiscal Policy | 11; Appendix; T-1,4; D-1-3 |
| Monetary Policy
13 | Money, money, money, MONey | 12; T-1,4ab; D-2,3,6,7 |
| 13 | Federal Reserve tools & policies | 13; T-1,5; D-1-3,5,6 |
| 13 | The “Great Recession” | 14; T-2-4; D-1-5 |
| Macroeconomic Policy
14 | Monetary or Fiscal policy? | 15; T-3; D-3,5,6 |
| 14 | The Budget Deficit - Is it too large? | 16; T-1,3; D-12, |
| 15 | International trade & Review (Time permitting) | 18; T-1; D-1-4 |
| 16 | FINAL EXAM | |
| 5 | Thursday – 1st Mid-term exam | |
| 11 | Tuesday – 2nd Mid-term exam | |
Assignments, Exams and Weekly Readings

• Homework will be completed in an online interactive format at the Aplia web site and will require reliable (high-speed) Internet access. The upcoming assignments are always posted on the Aplia site, so be sure to check it frequently during each week. I encourage you to use the on-campus computer labs or other source with a high-speed Internet connection. "The dog ate my computer" and other problems are not an excuse for missing assignments.

• Aplia questions are tailored to the textbook more so to see if you have read and understood the basic concepts of each chapter than as guaranteed exam questions. I may ask some similar basic questions on the exams, but many exam questions will focus on applying that basic knowledge to evaluate more complex issues.

• I will typically spend some class time on Tuesdays to examine and discuss articles appearing in the Sunday Sacramento Bee Business section, and expect students to have read that material by class time.

• The only Extra Credit available to you is class participation and turning in written answers to the review questions at the back of each chapter. The extra credit questions are noted on the course syllabus and are to be handed in to me at the beginning of class one week before the exam covering the material; the number and quality of your answers will determine the extra credit score. No written answers are expected for Test Yourself questions that have the answers in the back of the textbook. Extra credit for above-average class participation is very difficult to achieve if you are not in class.

• I typically take roll once each class at or near the beginning of the lecture, so punctuality matters.

• No late homework or extra credit will be accepted. Due dates for all homework 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 makeup work you have missed.

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

• Please ask me questions if you do not understand a part of the lecture or the readings. And please ask your questions either in class or during office hours. I believe that it is particularly important that you ask your questions during the class so that other students will be able to learn from them, too. You may fear that you are the only one lost and that your questions will betray ignorance, but nothing could be farther from the truth: many, if not most, students will have the same questions but hope that they will figure it out somehow on their own. Also, the moment may pass and you’ll forget the question or the material itself. Thus it is important not to give in to the temptation to hold the question until class is just over, when everyone else and I will be departing for the next class and the next class and professor will be coming in.
• Answer keys for all homework material will be available online on Aplia and for odd-numbered Test Yourself extra credit questions in the back of the textbook.
• Your homework grade is based on the number correct on each chapter’s assignments, regardless of each assignment’s length.
• Pop quizzes will be given approximately once per week at the beginning of class. They typically contain one short discussion question concerning either the previous lecture or an assignment made for that day.
• Exams are closed book and given in class. All exams are comprised of written response, true/false and multiple-choice questions, requiring a large Blue Book and Scantron 882-E form. Please use a pen for the written questions and a No. 2 pencil for the T/F-MC questions.
• *All exam dates are already scheduled and fixed – September 29, November 8 and December 13. As there are no make-up exams, these dates are set in concrete so that you can arrange to be here for them.*
• If your grades are high enough, such as “A”s and “A+”s, you may be able to exempt the final exam.
• 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.

**Policies**

• As a student in this course (and at this university) you are expected to maintain high degrees of professionalism, commitment to active learning and participation in this class and also integrity in your behavior in and out of the classroom. Academic honesty is expected. Students suspected of cheating will be reported to Judicial Affairs.
• There will be no makeup quizzes or examinations. Exam dates are given in the course outline. This is to avoid any potential conflicts. Attendance is both expected and highly recommended. If you miss a class, be sure to check with your fellow classmates, to see what material you missed; I recommend finding at least one “study buddy” or join a study group to facilitate information flow for exams or in case of an absence. Come to class on time; you will not be given extra time if you are late for a pop quiz or an exam. You are required to register for Aplia at [http://econ.aplia.com/](http://econ.aplia.com/). Registration includes the e-textbook for the course.
• 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 assigned a grade of “WU” under any circumstances. Keep mobile devices off during class, including laptops. If you wish to use your laptop during class, please come speak with me. You may not use your phone/MP3 player as a calculator on exams. You may use a calculator without programming capabilities.
• Keep the all your exams and quizzes and problem sets until after receiving your final grade, for future reference.
• I will be available by phone during office hours, so if you have questions and cannot get to my office then, please phone them in. Remember, though, I already may have students in the office.

• A person with a documented illness for missing one midterm exam will have the weight of his/her midterm added to their final exam, so that their final exam will be 45% of the grade. Failure to provide the required documentation within one week from the date of the exam will result to a grade of zero for the exam.

• If you have a learning disability or a physical disability that requires accommodation, please let me know as soon as possible. It is the student’s responsibility to provide documentation of disability to the Office of Services to Students with Disabilities (SSWD) and meet with a SSWD counselor to request special accommodation before classes start. SSWD is located in Lassen Hall 1008 and can be contacted by phone at (916) 278-6955 (Voice) (916) 278-7239 (TDD only) or via email at sswd@csus.edu.

• All needs that have been verified through the Services to Students with Disabilities (Lassen Hall) will be accommodated.

Life Lessons
If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let me know as early as possible. As you will find in life, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructors when difficulties arise during the semester so that they can help you find a solution.

Understand When You May Drop This Course
It is the student’s responsibility to understand when they need to consider dis-enrolling from a course. Refer to the Sac State Course Schedule for dates and deadlines for registration. After this period, a serious and compelling reason is required to drop from the course. Serious and compelling reason includes: (1) documented and significant change in work hours, leaving student unable to attend class, or (2) documented and severe physical/mental illness/injury to the student or student’s family.
How to access your Aplia course

ECON 1A, Principles Macro, B & B 12 e, Fall 2011

Instructor: Thom Kelly
Start Date: 08/29/2011
Course Key: 9LC6-R3MN-BRAS

Registration

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

Connect to http://login.cengagebrain.com/
If you already have an account, sign in. From your Dashboard, enter your course key (9LC6-R3MN-BRAS) in the box provided, and click the Register button.
If you don't have an account, click the Create a New Account button, and enter your course key when prompted: 9LC6-R3MN-BRAS. Continue to follow the on-screen instructions.

Payment

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

Bookstore: Purchase access to Aplia from your bookstore. Check with the bookstore to find out what they offer for your course.

After paying, you will have the option to purchase a physical book at a discounted price. If you choose to pay later, you can use Aplia without paying until 11:59 PM on 09/18/2011.