

Econ 1a - Introduction to Macroeconomic Analysis.

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

Warning:

This is an online class. The time schedule is designed to be very flexible to meet the needs of the students. You will be responsible for working through the material on your own. IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO BE DISCIPLINED ENOUGH TO GO THROUGH THE MATERIAL ON YOUR OWN, YOU WILL NOT BE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS CLASS.

Here is a self-assessment for online readiness developed at CSU Stanislaus. It can give you an idea of whether an online class is right for you: <http://teachonline.csustan.edu/selfassessment.php>

Students often sign up for online classes with the idea that it will be an easy way to go through the material because it can be done whenever the student wants. However, often times this is a mistake because the student is better able to stay on track with more structure to the course. For this reason, there is a check-point during the semester to help avoid a bad outcome in this class:

- If you have not successfully obtained access to MyEconLab by the end of the second week of the semester and turned in the syllabus homework assignment, you may be dropped from the class.

All course materials will be available in SacCt (sacct.csus.edu). In SacCT, you will purchase access to the online material in MyEconLab. All information and material for this course will be accessed through this online learning system within SacCT. This is where we will find learning materials, the textbook, homework, quizzes, and tests. If you are registered for the course, it should show up in your SacCT page. Go to the "Course Material" link on the left hand side of the page for instructions and access to the course material.

To be successful in this course:

This is an online class and you will need to be self-disciplined to be successful. The course is set up to lead you through the material, but you will need to keep yourself on track.

- Read the syllabus carefully
- Log in regularly and work through the material
- The best way to work through the material is in order and do the work in the study plan as you go.
 - The study plan leads you through each sub-section with practice work and quiz-me questions. (Successfully completing the quiz-me questions results in earning “Mastery Points” which are included in your course grade).
 - At the end of each chapter, you will do a chapter homework and quiz, each of which are included in your course grade.
- Work diligently and regularly. Leaving the work until the end is a bad strategy for being successful. And do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions. I’m available via email (sjperez@csus.edu) and will get back to you as soon as I can.

Macroeconomics

Macroeconomics is the study of issues that affect the economy as a whole, especially unemployment, inflation, and economic growth. Macroeconomics asks such questions as: Why is there unemployment? Why is there inflation? What causes an economy to grow? Why do different economies grow at different rates? What policies will achieve satisfactory rates of unemployment, inflation, and growth?

Macroeconomic Topics

Although macroeconomics is the study of the aggregate economy, we study how individuals of disparate backgrounds are affected by the economy in which they operate. In particular we look at the following topics and how the decisions and experiences of individuals are altered under different circumstances.

- Markets: Supply and Demand
- Markets in a Global Economy
- Measurement in an Economy
- Long Run Economic Growth
- Short Run Economic Fluctuation
- Fiscal and Monetary Policy

Course Learning Objectives

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

- Understand what is economics and macroeconomics
- Apply the economic way of thinking to everyday decisions

- Discuss what makes economies grow over time and how this leads to increases in the standard of living for individuals
- Illustrate the role of policy in achieving macroeconomic policy goals
- Discuss the economy in a global context

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.

Reading:

- The Textbook for this course is ***Macroeconomics: Principles, Applications, and Tools (8th edition)*** by Art O'Sullivan, Steven Sheffrin, and Stephen Perez.
- You will also need to purchase access to the MyEconLab course page to do your assignments and access several learning tools.
- To reduce the cost of the book, it is available in an online format built into MyEconLab. You also have the opportunity to purchase a reduced price, loose-leaf version of the textbook if you would like to have a hardcopy.

Grading:

Approximately,

- 90 or above = some sort of A
- 80 - 89 = some sort of B
- 70 - 79 = some sort of C
- 60 - 69 = some sort of D
- otherwise F.

Coursework and grades:

In this online course, you have numerous ways to review and learn the material required to master the subject. You will review material in sub-sections and then have extensive practice at applying the theories, ideas, and tools learned to questions relevant to that sub-section. At the end of each chapter, you will complete a homework and quiz to reinforce and test your knowledge of the subject.

Student Journal (3%)

- All lower division GE courses have a writing component. The writing component in this course is composed of a Student Journal. In the Student Journal you will reflect on what you've learned in this class and how it relates to your personal experience or a current event. You must have at least two submissions of at least 200 words on the topics. You will be graded on participation for this assignment. If you complete the assignments with an honest effort by the due date (the last day of April), you will earn full credit.

Study Plan (20%)

- You can earn Mastery Points in the "Study Plan" by showing you've mastered material from each sub-section of the book. These are different than the homework and quizzes. The "Study Plan" can be accessed in directly SacCt either in "Course material" or "Assignments". Here you can see your progress through the mastery points. You successfully earn a mastery point with a minimum of 80% on a sub-section "quiz-me".

Homeworks (7%):

- At the end of each chapter, you will have chapter homework. This will serve as a review of all of the material in each chapter. You will have the opportunity to complete the homework multiple times to help you learn the material.

Chapter quizzes (10%)

- After completing the homework for each chapter with a minimum score of 80%, you will take a chapter quiz. You have one opportunity to go through each chapter quiz, so you should be sure that you have fully mastered the material for a chapter before attempting the chapter quiz.

Exams (three exams worth 20% each)

- The exams will cover material covered since the last exam.
- They are weighted heavily in your course grade so that **you** have the incentive to learn the material well over the entire semester. **You must take the exams in a proctored environment and verify your identification. This can be done in a number of ways:**
 - **I will be in a computer lab to proctor exams on dates and times to be announced.**
 - **The student can arrange to take the exam(s) on another campus in front of a proctor. You will be required to show a picture ID to take the exam.**
 - **The student can arrange to take the exam(s) using ProctorU (<http://www.proctoru.com/>).**

- The exams will be approximately 75 minutes in length. You can take the exam any time during the availability window. But, you must be finished before the end of the time.
- The questions will be similar to those in the homework and quizzes.
 - Exam 1, Fri. Feb. 27th, AIRC 1016, 7:30 am – 1:00 pm
 - Exam 2, Wed. Apl. 8th, AIRC 1016, 7:30 am – 1:00 pm
 - Exam 3, Days and times TBA, Location TBA

Policies:

- If you need special accommodations for an exam please let me know as soon as possible.
- Cheating is not tolerated. You should be familiar with the University policies regarding Academic Honesty (<http://www.csus.edu/umannual/student/UMA00150.htm>). If you are caught cheating, the result will depend on the severity of the offense. At a minimum, you will receive a zero on the exam (which will not be dropped from the calculation of your course grade) and a letter summarizing the offense will be sent to Student Affairs. For extreme cases, you will fail the course and a letter summarizing the offense will be sent to Student Affairs.

You will work through the material at your own pace. However, you will do better in the course if you make regular progress. Here is a suggested schedule for the semester:

Week	Topic
1	Ch. 1: Introduction: What is economics? (GE Area D, LO 2) Appendix: Using graphs and percentages
2	Ch. 2: Key principles of economics (GE Area D, LO 2)
3	Ch. 3: Exchange and markets (GE Area D, LOs 1, 2)
4	Ch. 4: Demand, supply, and market equilibrium (GE Area D, LO 2)
5	Ch. 5: Measuring a Nation's Production and Income (GE Area D, LO 1)
6	Ch. 6: Unemployment and Inflation (GE Area D, LO 3)
7	Ch. 7: The Economy at Full Employment
8	Ch. 8: Why Do Economies Grow? (GE Area D, LOs 1, 4)
9	Ch. 9: Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply (GE Area D, LO 2)
10	Ch. 10: Fiscal Policy
11	Ch. 12: Investment and Financial Markets (GE Area D, LO 4)
12	Ch. 13: Money and the Banking System
13	Ch. 14: The Federal Reserve and Monetary Policy
14	Ch. 19: The World of International Finance