



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

ECON 1A – Introduction to Macroeconomic Analysis
SPRING 2011

Instructor:	Kristin Van Gaasbeck	Office:	Tahoe 3015
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Course web page:	http://econ.aplia.com/	Office Hours:	Mon. 11:00am-12:45pm
Aplia course key:	FU2L-6J57-VH9N		Wed. 8:30-9:45am, or by appt.

General Information	Lecture:	MWF 10-10:50a.m.	Call No.:	34193
	Section:	02	GE Area:	D1a

Catalog 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 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 as a whole.

Required Textbook Mankiw, N.G. (2009). *Brief Principles of Macroeconomics*, 5th edition.
(available online)

You are required register for this course online through Aplia. 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 hard copy is not required.

Grading	Homework	26%
	Experiments	6%
	Term exams	38% (19% each on two highest exam scores)
	<u>Comprehensive</u> final exam	30%

Grades will be distributed according to the following scale (approximately):

A	90 or above	C	68-78	F	Less than 57
B	79-89	D	57-67		

Assignments, Exams, and Experiments

- Homework will be completed in an online interactive format and will require reliable (high-speed) internet access. Assignments will be completed at the Aplia 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.** Due dates for all 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 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. Most assignments have accompanying optional practice problem sets. 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.
- Answer keys for all material will be available online on Aplia.
- Your homework grade is based on the percentage correct on each chapter's assignments, regardless of each assignment's length.
- Exams are closed book and given in class. All exams are comprised of written response and multiple choice questions.
- 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.
- Experiments are held during class meeting time. You will need a reliable internet connection to participate and receive credit. Computer labs are available at: MND 2003, 2004, 2007, 2008; LIB 2000; and ARC 2000. Your in-class participation grade is based on your participation in experiments.

Policies

1. Academic honesty is expected. I encourage you to work together on problem sets and study in groups, however, work submitted for a grade must be that of the individual student. You will receive a mark of zero on any work where cheating or plagiarism occur. Students suspected of cheating will be reported to Judicial Affairs.
2. You are responsible for bringing a scantron form (#882-E or similar) on the day of exams. Exams will be closed book and given in class.
3. There will be **no makeup examinations**. Exam dates are given in the course outline below and are posted online. This is to avoid any potential conflicts.
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. Come to class on time; you will not be given extra time if you are late for an exam.
6. You are required to register for Aplia at <http://econ.aplia.com/>. Registration includes the textbook for the course.
7. 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 be assigned a grade of "WU" under any circumstances.
8. Keep mobile devices off during class, including laptops. If you wish to use your laptop during class, please come speak with me.
9. You may not use your phone/MP3 player as a calculator on exams. You may use a calculator without programming capabilities.
10. If you have a learning disability or a 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) will be accommodated.

Course Outline

	Dates	Topic	Reading
Week 1	Jan. 24 – 28	Lecture 1: Introduction to Economics Lecture 2: Thinking Like an Economist	Chapter 1 Chapter 2
Week 2	Jan. 31 – Feb. 4	Lecture 2, continued Lecture 3: Interdependence and Gains from Trade	Chapter 3
Week 3	Feb. 7 – 11	Lecture 4: The Market Forces of Supply and Demand *** <i>Experiment #1: Demand and Supply (Friday, Feb. 11)</i>	Chapter 4
Week 4	Feb. 14 – 18	Lecture 4 continued & Exam review Exam #1: Lectures 1-4 (Friday, February 18)	
Week 5	Feb. 21 – 25	Lecture 5: Measuring the Nation's Income	Chapter 5
Week 6	Feb. 28 – Mar. 4	Lecture 6: Measuring the Cost of Living	Chapter 6
Week 7	Mar. 7 – 11	Lecture 7: Production and Growth *** <i>Experiment #2: Production and Labor (Friday, Mar. 11)</i>	Chapter 7
Week 8	Mar. 14 – 18	Lecture 7 continued Lecture 8: Savings, Investment, & the Market for Loanable Funds	Chapter 8
	Mar. 21 – 25	Spring Break (No Class)	
Week 9	Mar. 28 – Apr. 1	Lecture 8 continued & Exam review Exam #2: Lectures 5-8 (Friday, April 1)	
Week 10	Apr. 4 – 8	Lecture 9: Unemployment and its Natural Rate *** <i>Experiment #3: Unemployment Compensation (Friday, Apr. 8)</i>	Chapter 10
Week 11	Apr. 11 – 15	Lecture 10: The Monetary System	Chapter 11
Week 12	Apr. 18 – 22	Lecture 11: Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply	Chapter 15
Week 13	Apr. 25 – 29	Lecture 11 continued & Exam review Exam #3: Lectures 9-11 (Friday, April 29)	
Week 14	May 2 – 6	Lecture 12: The Influence of Monetary and Fiscal Policy on AD/AS *** <i>Experiment. #4: Fixed vs. Flexible Prices (Friday, May 6)</i>	Chapter 16
Week 15	May 9 – 13	Lecture 12 continued and Final Exam review	
Week 16	Mon., May 16	Final Exam (Comprehensive, Lectures 1-12) 10:15am – 12:15pm	

How to access your Aplia course

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Instructor: Kristin A Van Gaasbeck

Start Date: 01/24/2011

Course Key: FU2L-6J57-VH9N

Registration

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

1. Connect to <http://login.cengagebrain.com/>.
2. **If you already have an account, sign in.** From your Dashboard, enter your course key (**FU2L-6J57-VH9N**) in the box provided, and click the *Register* button.

If you don't have an account, click the *Create an Account* button, and enter your course key when prompted: **FU2L-6J57-VH9N**. Continue to follow the on-screen instructions.

Payment

Online: Purchase access to your course (including the digital textbook) from the CengageBrain website for US\$90.00.

After paying, you will have the option to purchase a physical book from the Aplia website at a discounted price. If you choose to pay later, you can use Aplia without paying until 11:59 PM on 02/13/2011.