Syllabus – Summer 2015
UPDATED 5/27/2015

Excluding materials for purchase, syllabus information may be subject to change. The most up-to-date syllabus is located within the course in HuskyCT.

Course and Instructor Information

Course Title: Principles of Macroeconomics
Credits: 3
Format: Online
Prerequisites: None. Not open to students who are taking or who are currently enrolled in or have passed ECON 1200.

Professor: William Alpert
Email: Alpert@uconn.edu
Office Hours/Availability: By appointment
Telephones: 203.251.8413
914.524.0404 (Attended)
203.455.4534 (Cell)

Course Materials

Required course materials should be obtained before the first day of class.

Required Materials:

Students are required to subscribe to the Mindtap online resources and homework system. This online system includes an e-text version of Principles of Macroeconomics by N. Gregory Mankiw, Cengage Learning, 7th Edition, 2015. HuskyCT will provide instructions for setting up and using Mindtap.

You can purchase an access card (ISBN: 781305096578) from the UConn Co-op. You can buy a card in person, in either Stamford or Storrs, or have the access card shipped to you via the Co-op’s Textbooks to Go service. (For more information, see Textbooks and Materials on our Enrolled Students page.) You can also buy an access card bundled with a paperback version of the textbook if you wish to have a physical book in addition to the e-text.

Course Description

This is a one-semester course in macroeconomics. It provides a basic introduction to how a multitude of individual decisions come together in a market to allocate resources. (This is as opposed to microeconomics – ECON 1201 – that studies the actions of individuals, households (or families) and firms.) A central tool of macroeconomics is supply-and-demand analysis, and Macroeconomics includes economy wide phenomena such as the price level (and changes in it), unemployment, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) aggregate demand and supply, consumption, investment, government expenditures, taxation (Fiscal Policy), exports, imports, money, financial intermediaries and central banking (Monetary Policy).
Course Objectives

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

- Define basic economic terms.
- Master and solve problems using supply and demand.
- Solve graphical and numerical economic problems.
- Recognize several models of the macroeconomy.
- Describe and apply the concept of money and money supply to the macroeconomy.
- Master the apparatus of fiscal and monetary policy in the macroeconomy.
- Explain the basic dynamics and meaning of changes in unemployment and the price level.
- Describe the importance of global trade among nations.

Course Outline

Module 1: Introduction to Economics

- Ten Principles of Economics.
- Thinking like an Economist.
- Gains from Trade and Comparative Advantage.
- Supply and Demand.

Module 2: Measuring the Macroeconomy

- Gross domestic product (GDP).
- Real GDP vs. nominal GDP.
- GDP: a good measure of economic well being?
- Real GDP vs. nominal GDP.
- Construction of the consumer price index (CPI).
- Why the CPI is an imperfect measure of the cost of living.
- The distinction between real and nominal interest rates.

Module 3: Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply

- Key facts about short-run economic fluctuations.
- How the economy in the short run differs from the economy in the long run.
- Use the model of aggregate demand and aggregate supply to explain economic fluctuations.
- Explain how shifts in either aggregate demand or aggregate supply can cause booms and recessions.

Module 4: Money and the Financial System

- Financial institutions and how they are related to the macroeconomy.
- The market for loanable funds and its relationship to the economy
- Government deficits and how they are affect to the macroeconomy.
- Personal finance and individual participation in the financial system.
- Risk, return and asset prices.
- Comparing the value of resources at different times.
- Money: definition, and functions in the economy.
- The Federal Reserve and how it works.
- Money and Inflation.
- Money neutrality.
Inflation’s costs.

Module 5: Integrating Fiscal and Monetary Policy; International Trade and Economic Growth

- How fiscal policy and monetary policies affect interest rates and aggregate demand.
- The relationship between productivity and economic growth.
- How and why productivity differs among economies.
- Who trades what with whom and why?
- Who wins and who loses in international trade?
- Net exports equal net capital outflow
- The relationships among saving, domestic investment, and net capital outflows.
- Nominal exchange and real exchange rates.
- Purchasing-power parity as a theory of exchange rate determination.

Course Requirements and Grading

Summary of Course Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Components</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online Discussion</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aplia Homework</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of Chapter Homework</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graphing and Data Assignments</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of Module Tests</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Problem Sets</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>23%</td>
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</tbody>
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Online Discussion

Graded participation in online discussion board.

Homework (Aplia)

Timed and graded online homework using Aplia. Note that Aplia also can and should be used for unlimited practice questions.

Data Exercises

Four exercises using google apps. These will require manipulation of simple tabular data and graphing in a spreadsheet (Google Sheets) or graphing (Google Draw).

Midterm Exam

Timed and proctored midterm exam. The midterm will cover material from Modules 1, 2 and 3. All students will take the midterm during a 24-hour window, which will be announced in HuskyCT. Students must schedule their midterm exam time in advance of the testing window via the proctoring service Proctor U unless other arrangements are made.

Final exam
Timed and proctored final exam. The final will emphasize material from Modules 4, and 5. All students will take the exam during a 12-hour window, which will be announced in HuskyCT. Students must schedule their final exam time in advance of the testing window via the proctoring service Proctor U unless other arrangements are made.
Due Dates and Late Policy

All course due dates are identified in HuskyCT. Deadlines are based on Eastern Standard Time; if you are in a different time zone, please adjust your submittal times accordingly. The instructor reserves the right to change dates accordingly as the semester progresses. All changes will be communicated in an appropriate manner.

There are no make-ups for the required online activities. Unless the student has made specific arrangements with the instructor in advance (prior to the end of the exam or assignment period), unexcused missed activity receives a score of zero. The Dean of Students Office has this to say about extenuating circumstances for missed or late assignments: “When students are forced to miss a final examination due to illness, accident, death in the family or other unavoidable reasons they can come to the Office of Student Services & Advocacy to receive approval to arrange another exam time with their instructor. Students should present appropriate documentation to support their request. With other exams and assignments which are required during the semester students bring their documentation of extenuating circumstances directly to their instructors.”

Feedback and Grades

The instructor will make every effort to provide feedback and grades in a timely manner. Expect a response to questions within 24-hours. If you do not receive a response within that time, ask again. Graded materials will be returned within 48-hours after due dates, unless otherwise noted. To keep track of your performance in the course, refer to My Grades in HuskyCT.

Student Responsibilities and Resources

As a member of the University of Connecticut student community, you are held to certain standards and academic policies. In addition, there are numerous resources available to help you succeed in your academic work. This section provides a brief overview to important standards, policies and resources.

Student Code

You are responsible for acting in accordance with the University of Connecticut's Student Code. Review and become familiar with these expectations. In particular, make sure you have read the section that applies to you on Academic Integrity:

- [Academic Integrity in Undergraduate Education and Research](#)
- [Academic Integrity in Graduate Education and Research](#)

Cheating and plagiarism are taken very seriously at the University of Connecticut. It is your responsibility to avoid plagiarism. If you need more information about the subject of plagiarism, use the following resources:

- [Plagiarism: How to Recognize it and How to Avoid It](#)
- [Instructional Module about Plagiarism](#)
- [University of Connecticut Libraries’ Student Instruction](#) (includes research, citing and writing resources)

Copyright

Copyrighted materials within the course are only for the use of students enrolled in the course for purposes associated with this course and may not be retained or further disseminated.

Netiquette and Communication

At all times, course communication with fellow students and the instructor are to be professional and courteous. It is expected that you proofread all your written communication, including discussion posts, assignment submissions, and mail messages. If you are new to online learning or need a netiquette refresher, please look at this guide titled, [The Core Rules of Netiquette](#).
Adding or Dropping a Course

If you should decide to add or drop a course, there are official procedures to follow:

- Matriculated students should add or drop a course through the Student Administration System.
- Non-degree students should refer to Non-Degree Add/Drop Information located on the registrar’s website.

You must officially drop a course to avoid receiving an "F" on your permanent transcript. Simply discontinuing class or informing the instructor you want to drop does not constitute an official drop of the course. For more information, refer to the Undergraduate Catalog.

Academic Calendar

The University's Academic Calendar contains important semester dates. The University's Summer Session Calendar contains dates for Summer Session.

Academic Support Resources

Technology and Academic Help provides a guide to technical and academic assistance.

Students with Disabilities

Students needing special accommodations should work with the University's Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD). You may contact CSD by calling (860) 486-2020 or by emailing csd@uconn.edu. If your request for accommodation is approved, CSD will send an accommodation letter directly to your instructor(s) so that special arrangements can be made. (Note: Student requests for accommodation must be filed each semester.)

“Blackboard [HuskyCT] measures and evaluates accessibility using two sets of standards: the WCAG 2.0 standards issued by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act issued in the United States federal government.” (Retrieved April 23, 2015 from Blackboard’s Accessibility website)

Software Requirements and Technical Help

- Word processing software
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Internet access
- Google apps. Students are encouraged to opt in to “Public Services,” the suite of apps beyond the basic ones available automatically to all registered UConn students.
- Online Homework. Instructions for acquiring an account and linking to this course will be provided in HuskyCT.
- Proctor U. Instructions for acquiring an account and linking to this course will be provided in HuskyCT. Note that this service is free as part of the student technology fee.
- Web cam. All students will need a web cam to use the proctoring service. Other requirements are listed on Proctor U’s technical requirements website. Be sure to check your computer before trying to begin a test.

Note that the instructor is your source for academic help, not for technical help, though you should report to the instructor any major technical problems that you think will affect other students. You should address technical question to the appropriate support team for each platform.

For UConn-supported platforms – HuskyCT and Google apps – online students have access to all in-person/live-person support options available during regular business hours through HuskyTech, UConn’s Student Tech Support. Students also have 24x7 Course Support including access to live chat, phone, and support documents.

Minimum Technical Skills

To be successful in this course, you will need the following technical skills:
- Use electronic mail with attachments.
- Save files in commonly used word processing program formats.
- Copy and paste text, graphics or hyperlinks.
- Work within two or more browser windows simultaneously.
- Open and access PDF files.

Some class exercises will require manipulating simple tables of data and graphing in spreadsheet software. These exercises are intended in part to help develop basic competence in spreadsheet software. All registered students have access to Google apps, which has a spreadsheet program.

University students are expected to demonstrate competency in Computer Technology. Explore the Computer Technology Competencies page for more information.

### Evaluation of the Course

Students will be provided an opportunity to evaluate instruction in this course using the University's standard procedures, which are administered by the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness (OIRE).

Additional informal formative surveys may also be administered within the course as an optional evaluation tool.