

ECON 104: Contemporary Macroeconomic Principles

George Mason University

Tuesday and Thursday 9:00am – 10:15am

Spring 2017, Music Theater Building 1005

Professor: Miss Julia Norgaard

Email: jnorgaar@gmu.edu

Office Hours:

Wednesday 9:00am – 10:30am D167-2, Mason Hall Economics Department

Thursday 10:45am – noon Tutoring Room, Mason Hall Economics Department

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of macroeconomic theory. Students will learn about market institutions such as the monetary system, the price system, and the profit-loss system. The course focuses on building an understanding of the process of price generation in a free exchange economy. Students will learn about speculation, the structure of production, and financial intermediaries. This course equips students with the ability to analyze macroeconomic phenomena using the economic way of thinking. We apply basic microeconomic and macroeconomic principles to larger economic issues like unemployment, economic growth, development, and inflation.

Required Course Texts:

- *Modern Principles: Macroeconomics* 2nd ed. by Cowen and Tabarrok
 - ISBN-13: 978-1429239981
 - ISBN-10: 1429239980
- *Moblab Account*, You are required to register for a Moblab account to participate in the in-class games, you will receive an email from me inviting you to join our virtual class (\$15 to join)

Important Dates:

First Day of Class: January 24

Midterm Exam: March 9

Spring Break: March 13 – 19

Last Day of Class: May 4

Final Exam: May 11, 7:30am – 10:15am

Grading Distribution:

Class Presentation: 5% of total grade

In Class MobLab Games: 5% of total grade

Quizzes: 15% of total grade

Homework 15% of total grade

Midterm Exam: 25% of total grade

Final Exam: 35% of total grade

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is not required for this class, however, it is highly recommended.

Exam Policy:

The exam dates are mandatory. If there is an emergency and you miss the midterm exam, that portion of the grade will be added to your final exam portion of your grade. You must attend the final exam. Each exam is cumulative; the study guides will provide you with a comprehensive summary of the material you will be held accountable for on the exams.

I will hand out a study guide a week prior to each exam. These study guides will be available on Blackboard. I will also host a review session the class day before each exam for an hour after class in the economics department. Come prepared to ask questions about the material.

The exams will be curved as follows: The student with the highest grade will receive 100% on the exam and the delta between that student's original score and 100% will be added to each student in the class. For example, if the highest score on one of the exams is a 94%, 6% points will be added to each student's exam score.

Cheating will not be tolerated on the exams. If you are found on your phone or with any other supplementary materials during an exam, you will automatically receive a 0% on the exam, no questions asked. You will also be reported to the office of academic integrity.

In Class MobLab Games:

We will be playing a variety of in-class MobLab games. You will be graded on your participation; extra points will be given to students with exceptional performance on the games.

Homework Policy:

Homework is due at the beginning of class. Homework must be submitted as a hard copy; no emails will be accepted. Late homework will not be accepted.

Quiz Policy:

Quizzes are taken at the beginning of class; no makeup quizzes will be given. Cheating will not be tolerated on the quizzes. If you are found on your phone or with any other supplementary materials during a quiz, you will automatically receive a 0% on the exam, no questions asked. You will also be reported to the office of academic integrity.

Class Presentations:

Students will choose a partner and are required to select a current event or political issue from a credible news source and present on its relevance from a macroeconomic perspective, you will sign up for the day you present. The topic must correspond to what we are covering in class that day. Students will be assessed on their ability to present the issue from an analytical economics lens.

Class Schedule and Readings:

With regards to the chapters and readings that correspond to each day, I suggest that you read the material after the class that day. The gist of the material will be covered in class, however, there is information that will be on the exams that will not be specifically covered in class. The study guide will provide you with a comprehensive summary of the material you will be held accountable for on the exams.

There will also be links to online videos that correspond with the lectures, I suggest that you watch the videos before class begins so that you are somewhat familiar with the lecture material and are able to gain further insights from the lectures.

Week 1:

January 24: Class Introduction

January 26: Ch 1: The Big Ideas in Economics (Part 1, Supply and Demand)

- *Sign up for Student Presentations*
- Video: <http://www.mruniversity.com/courses/principles-economics-microeconomics/information-problem-economics-hayek>

Week 2:

January 31: Ch 2: The Power of Trade and Comparative Advantage (Part 1, Supply and Demand)

- *In Class Trade Game*
- Video: <http://www.mruniversity.com/courses/everyday-economics/comparative-advantage-and-tragedy-tasmania>

February 2: Ch 2: The Power of Trade and Comparative Advantage (Part 1, Supply and Demand)

- *In Class Moblab Game*
- Video: <http://www.mruniversity.com/courses/principles-economics-microeconomics/comparative-advantage-definition-tasmania>

Week 3:

February 7: Ch 3: Supply and Demand (Part 1, Supply and Demand)

- **Quiz #1**
- *In Class Moblab Game*
- Video: <http://www.mruniversity.com/courses/principles-economics-microeconomics/demand-curve-shifts-definition>
- Video: <http://www.mruniversity.com/courses/principles-economics-microeconomics/supply-curve-definition-example>

February 9: Ch 4: Equilibrium, How Supply and Demand Determine Prices (Part 1, Supply and Demand)

- Video: <http://www.mruniversity.com/courses/principles-economics-microeconomics/equilibrium-price-supply-demand-example>
- Video: <http://www.mruniversity.com/courses/principles-economics-microeconomics/equilibrium-supply-demand>

Week 4:

February 14: Ch 5: Price Ceilings and Floors (Part 1, Supply and Demand)

- Video: <http://www.mruniversity.com/courses/principles-economics-microeconomics/price-controls-definition-nixon>

February 16: Ch 6: GDP and the Measurement of Progress (Part 2, Economic Growth)

- Video: <http://www.mruniversity.com/courses/principles-economics-macroeconomics/gross-domestic-product-definition-what-is-gdp>

- Video: <http://www.mruniversity.com/courses/principles-economics-macroeconomics/real-versus-nominal-gdp>

Week 5:

February 21: Ch 7: The Wealth of Nations and Economic Growth (Part 2, Economic Growth)

- Video: <http://www.mruniversity.com/courses/principles-economics-macroeconomics/gdp-per-capita-purchasing-power-parity-example>
- Video: <http://www.mruniversity.com/courses/principles-economics-macroeconomics/growth-rate-real-gdp-per-capita>

February 23: Ch 7: The Wealth of Nations and Economic Growth (Part 2, Economic Growth)

- Video: <http://www.mruniversity.com/courses/principles-economics-macroeconomics/economic-growth-miracle-and-disaster>
- Video: <http://www.mruniversity.com/courses/principles-economics-macroeconomics/wealth-of-nations-economic-growth>

Week 6:

February 28: Ch 8: Growth, Capital Accumulation (Part 2, Economic Growth)

- **Homework #1 due**
- Video: <http://www.mruniversity.com/courses/principles-economics-macroeconomics/solow-model-economic-growth>
- Video: <http://www.mruniversity.com/courses/principles-economics-macroeconomics/law-diminishing-returns-marginal-product-capital>

March 2: Ch 9: Saving, Investment, and the Financial System (Part 2, Economic Growth)

- *Receive study guide*
- *In Class Moblab Game*
- Video: <http://www.mruniversity.com/courses/principles-economics-macroeconomics/savings-and-loan-definition>
- Video: <http://www.mruniversity.com/courses/principles-economics-macroeconomics/banks-financial-intermediaries>

Week 7:

March 7: Ch 10: Stock Markets and Personal Finance (Part 2, Economic Growth)

- Video: <http://www.mruniversity.com/courses/principles-economics-macroeconomics/beat-the-market-efficient-market-hypothesis>
- Video: <http://www.mruniversity.com/courses/principles-economics-macroeconomics/diversify-investments>

March 9: **Midterm Exam**

SPRING BREAK: March 13-17

Week 8:

March 21: Ch 11: Unemployment and LFP (Part 3, Business Fluctuations)

- *In Class Moblab Game*
- Video: <http://www.mruniversity.com/courses/principles-economics-macroeconomics/economics-career-finding-right-jobs-labor-markets>
- <http://www.mruniversity.com/courses/principles-economics-macroeconomics/labor-force-unemployment-rate>

March 23: Ch 12: Inflation and QTM (Part 3, Business Fluctuations)

- *In Class Moblab Game*
- Video: <http://www.mruniversity.com/courses/principles-economics-macroeconomics/zimbabwe-currency-inflation>
- Video: <http://www.mruniversity.com/courses/principles-economics-macroeconomics/united-states-measure-inflation>

Week 9:

March 28: Ch 13: Business Fluctuations (Part 3, Business Fluctuations)

- *In Class Moblab Game*
- Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cTso97ARqKI>
- Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g_647R_vUVc&list=PLD041153C8473BC57
- Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RYXyNNcsniI>

March 30: Ch 13: Business Fluctuations (Part 3, Business Fluctuations)

- Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SgweT-7i1hU>
- Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Log_dcRj7HI

Week 10:

April 4: Ch 15: The Fed and Open Market Operations (Part 4, Macro Policy and Institutions)

- **Quiz #2**
- Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_s6ofhyqWw

April 6: Ch 16: Monetary Policy (Part 4, Macro Policy and Institutions)

- Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ntxMOKXHlfo>

Week 11:

April 11: Ch 16: Monetary Policy (Part 4, Macro Policy and Institutions)

April 13: Ch 17: The Federal Budget, Taxes and Spending (Part 4, Macro Policy and Institutions)

- Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pES9C7fX_Co

Week 12:

April 18: Ch 18: Fiscal Policy (Part 4, Macro Policy and Institutions)

- **Homework #2 due**
- Video: <http://www.mruniversity.com/courses/econ-duel/cowentabarrok-does-fiscal-policy-work>

April 20: Guest Lecturer

Week 13:

April 25: Ch 19: International Trade (Part 5, International Economics)

- Video: <http://www.mruniversity.com/courses/econ-duel/will-robots-take-our-jobs>

April 27: Ch 20: International Finance (Part 5, International Economics)

- *Receive study guide*
- Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=geoe-6NBy10>

Week 14:

May 2: Ch 21: Political Economy and Public Choice (Part 5, International Economics)

- Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FcLGUHXz78I>

May 4: Ch 21: Political Economy and Public Choice (Part 5, International Economics)

- Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6uR4lqa7IK4>

FINAL EXAM: May 11

Course Policies:

George Mason University Honor System and Code:

George Mason University's Honor Code requires all community members to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. Honor Code violations will be reported to the Honor Committee. Plagiarism is not accepted (statements from Macon web site).

<http://mason.gmu.edu/montecin/plagiarism/htm#plagiarism>

The use of electronic devices is prohibited during an exam or a quiz; failure to comply with this will result in your failure of the assignment and potentially the failure of the class. Make sure to familiarize yourself with the GMU Honor Code, which is stated in the George Mason University Undergraduate Catalog

GRADING SCALE

Your grade will be curved at the end of the semester when all grades have been tabulated, this curve can only help you because I do not abide by any distribution quotas.

A+ 98+ | A 93-97 | A- 90-92 | B+ 88-89 | B 83-87 | B- 80-82 | C+ 78-79 | C 73-77 | C- 70-72 | D+ 68-69 | D 60-67 | F 0-59

Class Registration:

Students must verify their summer class schedule and make sure they are officially registered for this class through Patriot Web. Students can exercise a selective withdrawal, see schedule of classes for selective withdrawal procedures.

- Last Day to Add/Drop (No tuition penalty): January 30, 2017
- Last Day to Drop (33% tuition penalty): February 13, 2017

- Last Day to Drop (67% tuition penalty): February 24, 2017

Accommodations for students with disabilities:

Please contact myself the Office of Disability Resources at 703-993-2474 prior to the first exam. All accommodations are to be arranged ahead of time through the Office of Disability Resources. The professor does not have the power to provide accommodations to the students on their own.