

George Mason University – Department of Economics

Economics 310 Section 6 – Money and Banking

Course #: ECON 310 006 (3 credit hours)
Term: Fall 2019; Mondays, 7:20 PM – 10:00 PM
Instructor: Nick Cooper (ncooper3@gmu.edu)
Office Hours: Location: Buchanan D150 (Economics Department)
Times: Wednesdays, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM; by appointment
Website: I will use Blackboard this semester for all course-related materials

Course Description:

The study of money and banking is uniquely situated between micro and macroeconomics. On one hand, the study of money and banking includes topics that are commonly associated with microeconomics such as interest rates, financial institutions, and the industrial organization of financial markets. On the other, it also involves the examination of topics that are important to macroeconomists such as the money supply, inflation, and monetary policy. The study of money and banking, therefore, provides a link between microeconomic and macroeconomic phenomena. By studying this link, we can improve our understanding of how the decisions of individuals and financial institutions affect the economy. We will examine the theory and history of monetary, commercial, and central banking systems as well as alternatives for monetary policy.

Note: this syllabus is tentative. I reserve the right to modify it according to the pace of lecture in class. I will announce any changes to it in class and will post updates to Blackboard.

Required Textbook:

- *The Economics of Money, Banking, and Financial Markets* (12th Edition) – (2019)
Mishkin, F. S. Boston: Pearson.
 - Publisher link (the online digital subscription is the cheapest option):
<http://www.mypearsonstore.com/bookstore/economics-of-money-banking-and-financial-markets-0134733827>
 - I'm fine with you purchasing an older edition if you'd like to have a cheaper physical copy; that said, it is up to you to determine what is different from one ed. to the other. You will still be responsible for the information in the 12th ed.
- I will also be providing supplemental readings and articles that will be accessible via the GMU library or for free online as needed.
- My goal is to minimize your out-of-pocket expenses for reading materials for this course.

Recommended Prerequisite Courses:

- ECON 103 – Microeconomic Principles
- ECON 104 – Macroeconomic Principles

Pre-Curve Grading Scale:

• A+	96.00 – 100.00	• B+	86.00 – 89.99	• C+	76.00 – 79.99	• D	60.00 – 69.99
• A	93.00 – 95.99	• B	83.00 – 85.99	• C	73.00 – 75.99	• F	00.00 – 59.99
• A-	90.00 – 92.99	• B-	80.00 – 82.99	• C-	70.00 – 72.99		

Determination of Course Grade:

- 10% Participation
- 20% Midterm Exam 1
- 20% Midterm Exam 2
- 15% Problem Sets
 - 3 problem sets each amounting to 5% of your grade
- 35% Final Exam

Important Dates:

- Labor Day – September 2: no class
- Last Day to Add: Tuesday, September 3
- Last Day to Drop: Friday, September 27
- Columbus Day – October 14: no class
 - All Monday classes meet on Tuesday, October 15

Challenging Grades:

There will be a 48-hour “cool down” period upon receiving your grade on any assignment. If there is a simple arithmetical error in calculating your grade, or if you have more substantial objections to the way I grade your exam or otherwise want to challenge your grade, you may let me know via email after that time. You have a one-week window to raise any concerns. After that time, all grades are final.

Problem Sets:

I will assign three problem sets throughout the semester. They each will be due at the beginning of class. They can be submitted early if you choose. The tentative due dates are as follows:

- Problem Set 1: September 23rd
- Problem Set 2: October 21st
- Problem Set 3: November 25th

Exam Policy:

- Each exam will be cumulative.
- Make-up exams will not be given, and no exams will be dropped – i.e. if you get a zero due to missing one of the exams, that zero will remain. See me if you have extenuating circumstances.
- No mobile phones may be used during an exam. A calculator may be used for computation only. Using it for information retrieval is considered cheating.
- Tentative exam dates:
 - Exam 1: September 30th
 - Exam 2: November 4th

Honor Code:

Please consult the student handbook to learn the expectations established by the honor code as well as the procedures for its compliance and enforcement. No cheating or plagiarism of any kind will be tolerated.

University Policies:

The University Catalog, <http://catalog.gmu.edu>, is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university affairs.

Special Accommodations:

If you have a documented disability and require special accommodations, please make sure this documentation is on file with Disability Services. The Disability Services office is located in SUB I, Room 4205 and can be contacted at 703-993-2474 and online at <http://ds.gmu.edu>. Also, please see me as soon as possible to discuss these accommodations.

GMU Email Accounts:

Students must activate their GMU email accounts to receive important University information, including messages related to this class.

Other useful campus resources:

- Writing Center: A114 Robinson Hall – (703) 993-1200 – <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>
- University Libraries “Ask a Librarian” – <http://library.gmu.edu/mudge/IM/IMRef.html>
- Counseling and Psychological Services: (703) 993-2380 – <http://caps.gmu.edu>