

1-2014

ECNS 202S.02: Principles of Macroeconomics

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Syllabus for ECNS 202S, Section 2
Principles of Macroeconomics
University of Montana
Spring 2014

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Secondary TA: Mark O’Loughlin Office: 409 Liberal Arts
Office Hours: MW, 1:00 – 3:00pm

Course Description

ECNS 202 is an introductory economics course that acquaints students with the basic tools in macroeconomics. The topics covered in this course include inflation, unemployment, role of central banks, saving and investment, fiscal and monetary policies, budget and trade deficits, GDP, and exchange rates. This course requires a good understanding of basic algebra and a familiarity with graphs.

The online course system, Sapling, will be used for this course. Sapling will be used for homework assignments and practice work. **Everyone enrolled in this course is required to register online for Sapling.** Please refer to page 5 of the syllabus for detailed instructions on registration and payment options for Sapling.

Textbook

The textbook for this course is:

Principles of Macroeconomics, 6th Edition by N. Gregory Mankiw (Thomson South-Western)

Although we will be following the 6th edition of the textbook, you may also use the 5th or 4th editions of the text if you can find them online at a lower price.

Assignments

There will be homework assignments just about every week on Sapling for each chapter that we cover. These assignments can be submitted electronically and the deadlines are very firm. **There will be no makeups for the assignments** if you miss the submission deadline. Your performance on these online assignments contributes towards 20% of your final grade, so please observe the submission deadlines and do not put off your homework assignments.

Exams and Quizzes

There will be four quizzes, three midterms and a final exam. These quizzes and exams will be closed book and closed notes. The exams will primarily consist of multiple-choice questions. The final exam will be cumulative, but weighted heavily towards the material covered after the second midterm. You are required to bring a scantron form with you for each of the exams.

Out of the three midterms, the midterm with your lowest score will be dropped. The two remaining midterms that count towards your grade will each contribute 20% towards your final score for a total of 40%.

Out of the four quizzes, the quiz with your lowest score will be dropped. The three remaining quizzes will contribute towards 15% of your grade.

The dates for the quizzes and exams are set provisionally and are subject to change. It is your responsibility to learn about the revised dates and times in case you miss the class in which they are announced.

There will be no makeup exams. Please note that you will receive a zero for the exam that you miss without prior approval from me. There may be a few pop-quizzes during the course of the semester to take attendance. The scores in these pop quizzes will count for extra credits to your overall score in the course.

Tentative Exam & Quiz Schedule

<u>Exam</u>	<u>Date</u>
Midterm 1	Friday, Feb 14
Midterm 2	Friday, March 14
Midterm 3	Friday, Apr 11
Final Exam	Thursday, May 15: 10:10am – 12:10pm

<u>Quiz</u>	<u>Date</u>
Quiz 1	Friday, Feb 7
Quiz 2	Monday, March 3
Quiz 3	Friday, March 28
Quiz 4	Monday, April 28

Grading Policy

The grading breakdown will be as follows:

Sapling Assignments:	20%
Quizzes:	15%
2 Highest Scoring Midterms :	40% (20% each)
Final:	25%

I will use a traditional grading scale. **A**=92-100, **A-**=90-91, **B+**=88-89, **B**=82-87, **B-**=80-81, **C+**=78-79, **C**=72-77, **C-**= 70-71, **D+**=68-69, **D**=60-67, **F**=0-59. At the very end of the semester, the scale may be adjusted based on the overall performance of the class.

The last day to add classes on Cyberbear is February 4. The last day to drop classes or change the grade option on Cyberbear is **February 14**. From February 15 to April 7, classes may be added or dropped or grade options changed (except audit) with an approved Add/Change form. The last day to change to audit status is February 14.

Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete ECNS 202 will have:

1. A solid understanding of Macroeconomic Issues and Coordination of Economic Activity.
2. Exposure to Aggregation Issues and basic considerations associated with Modeling an Economy, including GDP, inflation, unemployment, consumption, savings, investment, Aggregate Supply and Demand, etc., and the issues associated with measuring these variables.
3. An understanding of the Monetary System and the institutions and processes that affect the money supply.
4. An understanding of various Macroeconomic Theories and Policies, including Monetary Policy, Fiscal Policy and the Rational Expectations Model.
5. Exposure to Open Economy Issues.

Tentative Course Schedule

Week	Quizzes & Exams	Chapters to Read
1		Chapters 4: Market Forces of Supply and Demand
2	Quiz 1: Friday, Feb 7	Chapter 10: Measuring a Nation's Income
3	Midterm 1: Friday, Feb 14	Chapter 11: Measuring the Cost of Living
4		Chapter 12: Production and Growth
5		Chapter 13: Saving, Investment, and the Financial System
6	Quiz 2: Monday, March 3	Chapter 15: Unemployment
7	Midterm 2: Friday, March 14	Chapter 16: Monetary System
8		Chapter 17: Money Growth and Inflation
9	Quiz 3: Friday, Mar 28	Chapter 20: Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply
10	Spring Break	
11	Midterm 3: Friday, April 11	Chapter 20: Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply
12		Chapter 20: Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply
13		Chapter 21: Influence of Monetary and Fiscal Policy on Aggregate Demand
14	Quiz 4: Monday, Apr 28	Chapter 22: The Short-Run Tradeoff b/w Inflation and Unemployment
15		Chapter 18: Open-Economy Macroeconomics Basic Concepts
Final: Thursday, May 15 10:10am – 12:10pm		

I will try to follow the course schedule closely. However, deviations from the schedule are possible and I will adjust speed and coverage of materials as we proceed. The main purpose of the course schedule is to guide you as to what we will cover.

Student Instructions

- 1** Go to <http://saplinglearning.com> and click "US Higher Ed" at the top right.
- 2** If you already have a Sapling Learning account, log in and skip to step 5.
- 3** If you have a Facebook account, you can use it to quickly create a Sapling Learning account. Click the blue button with the Facebook symbol on it (just to the left of the username field). The form will auto-fill with information from your Facebook account (you may need to log into Facebook in the popup window first). Choose a password and your time zone, accept the site policy agreement, and click "Create my new account". Go to step 5.
- 4** Otherwise, click the "Create an Account" link. Supply the requested information and click "Create My Account". Check your email (and spam filter) for a message from Sapling Learning and click on the link provided in that email.
- 5** Find your course in the list (you may need to expand the subject and term categories) and click the link.
- 6** If your course requires a key code, you will be prompted to enter it.
- 7** If your course requires payment, select a payment option and following the remaining instructions.

Once you have registered and enrolled, you can log in at any time to complete or review your homework assignments. During sign up or throughout the term, if you have any technical problems or grading issues, send an email to support@saplinglearning.com explaining the issue. The Sapling Learning support team is almost always faster and better able to resolve issues than your instructor.