

Economics 131 Principles of Economics: Macroeconomics

Fall 2003, Section 004

TR 1:30-2:45 p.m.

Instructor: David Ching

Office: Saunders Hall 533

Office hrs: M: 1:30-3 p.m., Th: 2:45-3:30 p.m. (or by appointment)

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Course Description

Macroeconomics is the science of how the overall economy performs. This class will introduce the student to the principles of macroeconomics. These principles include but are not limited to the cause and effects of inflation, unemployment, economic growth, trade policies, and monetary and fiscal policy. We will also examine and differentiate between the different macroeconomic theories in recent history that have shaped the science of economics.

There is no prerequisite for this course.

Class Resources

The following course materials are available as a bundle from the bookstore:

Text: Miller, Roger Leroy, Economics Today: The Macro View, 2001-2002 edition, Addison-Wesley Longman, 2001.

Study Software: Economics in Action, 2001-2002 version, Addison-Wesley Longman, 2001

Grading Schedule

Grades will be based on the following:

Midterm 1	20%
Midterm 2	20%
Final Exam	35% (Comprehensive)
Paper	15%
Pop quizzes	10%

Midterms and Quizzes

The midterms will be multiple choice and short answers. There are no make-up exams. Quizzes will not be announced prior and will be given at the beginning or end of classes. Quizzes may cover any topic that has been covered in class, but will probably focus on the most recent material up to the last lecture. There will be no make-up quizzes for any reason. Once quizzes are collected none will be given or accepted.

Students lowest quiz grade will be dropped from grading consideration (and the next lowest quiz grade may be replaced with a 1-2 page paper on current events from the newspaper, magazines, or other type of resources of the students choice that applies concepts and theories learned in this course). The paper must show application of concepts and theories learned IN CLASS AND/OR IN THE TEXT.

A “book report” type of paper will receive a grade no higher than a 50%.

Attendance and Class Participation

Attendance is mandatory and class participation may provide extra-credit points when indicated by the instructor. Extra credit will be on a voluntary basis. (The best way to take advantage of the extra-credit when the opportunity arises is to be as prepared as possible for class.)

Homework

Preparing by reading the chapter in advance is the required homework. Suggested problems or readings may be assigned and may be reviewed in class when time permits, but will not be collected.

Academic Honesty

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Failure to comply with University of Hawaii guidelines of academic honesty may result in a failing grade in the course and further action taken by the university. Please do not attempt to test this guideline.

Cell phones and pagers: I respect the students’ need for communication provided the following rules are followed without exception:

1. Devices are set on vibrate or silent mode.
2. Do not answer phone in class. Please leave instead of disrupting those around you.
3. All phone conversations are to be completed before reentering class.

Please respect these rules so no other steps need to be taken to assure compliance.

Paper: Will be 3-4 pages in length on select topics to be issued in class. Paper must include references and follow proper writing guidelines. The paper topic will be introduced at a later date. Protocol for paper submission will be:

- Email me with chosen topic
- After receiving approval for topic, print our correspondence history from email.
- Include correspondence with final hard copy paper on due date.

Only hard copy drafts will be accepted. Emailed final drafts will not be acknowledged.

Please come prepared having completed the assigned reading for each class. The textbook provides a good foundation for understanding definitions and basic concepts.

Due to limited time and an abundance of material some of these basics may not be covered in class, however you will be responsible for this information for exams.

The material in this course is valuable and can be very rewarding. Taking the time to learn the fundamentals will allow the student to take advantage of the knowledge when the opportunity presents itself.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Please refer to this tentative course schedule in preparation for attending each class.

<u>Week of:</u>	<u>Topics Discussed</u>	<u>Chapter</u>
Aug 25	Course Overview, Intro Macroeconomic Issues and policy challenges	1 7
Sep 01	Economic Fundamentals	2
Sep 08	Demand, Supply and Equilibrium	3
Sep 15	Measuring Macroeconomic Performance	8
Sep 22	Economic Growth	9
Sep 29 Oct 02	Review for first midterm FIRST MIDTERM EXAMINATION	
Oct 06	Output and prices in the Long Run Paper topic introduction	10
Oct 13	Explaining Macroeconomic Fluctuations	11
Oct 20	Consumption, Income, and the Multiplier	12
Oct 27	Fiscal Policy	13
Nov 04 06	Review for second midterm SECOND MIDTERM EXAMINATION	
Nov 11	Holiday – Veterans Day	

	Money and the Financial System	14
Nov 17	Financial Institutions and the Money Supply	15, 16
Nov 24 (Thanksgiving Holiday – Thursday & Friday)	Monetary Policy	17
Dec 01	International Trade	32
Dec 09	Monetary Policy and Int'l Trade cont..	
Dec 11	Last Day of Instruction! (Review cont.) Paper due – no late papers accepted. Final Exam Review	
Dec 18	FINAL EXAM – comprehensive (12-2 p.m., Thursday.)	