

Economics 131 (02) Principles of Macroeconomics

Spring 2005

TR 9-10:15 a.m. Rm: CR-105

Instructor: David Ching

Office: Saunders Hall: 531

Office Hours: TR 10:30-11:30 a.m. (or by appointment)

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TA: Aekkanush Nualsri (additional info TBA)

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, macroeconomic measurement for an open economy, economic growth (including global dimensions and comparisons), trade policies, monetary and fiscal policy, and exchange rates and the balance of payments. 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,
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%

I will be using the plus/minus system for assigning final grades. I reserve the right to make any changes to class policy **and** schedule. You will be informed of any changes that occur.

Midterms and Quizzes

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 material up to the most recent 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 2 page analysis paper (optional: based off of newspaper, magazine, or other articles) that applies concepts and theories learned in this course.

Caution: a “book report” type of paper will receive a grade no higher than a 50%. You must use your analysis to differentiate your understanding of the macro technical models from one who has never taken Econ 131.

Attendance and Class Participation

Attendance is mandatory and class participation or homework may provide extra-credit points only when indicated by the instructor.

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: Must be a minimum of 3-4 pages in length on select topics to be discussed 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 basic material may not be covered in class however you will be responsible for this information for the 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. (If not now then in the future!)

COURSE SCHEDULE (tentative)

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

<u>Week of:</u>	<u>Topics Discussed</u>	<u>Chapter</u>
Jan 10	Course Overview, Intro Macroeconomic Issues and policy challenges	1 7
Jan 17	Economic Fundamentals Demand, Supply and Equilibrium	2 3
Jan 24	...continued	
Jan 31	Measuring Macroeconomic Performance Economic Growth	8 9
Day of Feb 08 Day of Feb 09	Review for first midterm First Midterm Examination	
Feb 14	Output and prices in the Long Run	10
Feb 21	Explaining Macroeconomic Fluctuations	11
Feb 28	Consumption, Income, and the Multiplier	12
Mar 07	Fiscal Policy	13
Day of Mar 15 Day of Mar 17	Review for second midterm Second Midterm Examination	
Mar 21	SPRING BREAK!	

Mar 28	Discuss paper topics Money and the Financial System	14
Apr 04	Financial Institutions and the Money Supply	15, 16
Apr 11	Continued...	
Apr 18	Monetary Policy	17
Apr 25	Continued...	
May 02	International Trade	32
May 03	Last Day of Instruction! Papers (quiz replacement paper also) due <u>by end of class!</u> – Late papers and email copies <u>not</u> accepted. Final Exam Review	
May 10	FINAL EXAM – comprehensive (Tues. 9:45-11:45 a.m.)	