COURSE INFORMATION:

Day and Time: Tuesday and Thursday 1:30 to 4:20 pm
Location: BGS 134
Term Dates: October 19 to December 20, 2009

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Instructor: Dr. Howard Gensler
E-mail: hgensler@saddleback.edu
Office: BGS 322
Phone: (949) 582-4450
Office Hours: Mon. 3-4 pm, Wed. 2-3 pm, and also by appointment.
Mailbox: BGS 317

Mailing Address: Saddleback College; 28000 Marguerite Pkwy; Mission Viejo, CA 92692-3635
ATTN: Prof. Howard Gensler, Social & Behavioral Sciences, BGS 317

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

Last Day To Add: Oct. 27
Last day to drop w/o a “W” or elect CR/NC: Nov. 3
Last day to drop with a “W”: Nov. 24

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a college level introduction to the principles, concepts and tools of macroeconomic analysis with a focus on national income accounting, the theory of income determination, unemployment, inflation, economic growth and development, monetary and fiscal policy, public debt, international trade and finance, and comparative economic systems.

COURSE METHODOLOGY:

This course will consist primarily of Powerpoint Presentations supplemented by Discussion Boards. Reading the book is required. Material may and will exceed the scope and content of the book. The book is a teaching aid, not a limitation on course content. You will need to review every Powerpoint and to take notes. Blackboard will be utilized for posting Powerpoint Presentations on course material, to post course documents, to make announcements, to conduct online discussions, to take the Midterm and the Final, and to submit the paper to Turnitin.com. You must confirm course enrollment by e-mail by Sept. 2.
REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

The required textbook is available for FREE online at:  
http://www.flatworldknowledge.com/hgenslersaddleback.edu/principles-macroeconomics

PRINCIPLES OF MACROECONOMICS, by Libby Rittenberg and Timothy Tregarten  (Flatworld Knowledge: 2009).

You may view/print the book or have them print the book and mail it to you for a fee. In addition, the site has study aides. Please feel free to explore their site. Please notify me directly if you have any trouble finding the site or the textbook.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. The students will learn how the National Income Accounts measure the overall economy and important major components.

2. The student will learn how to calculate a price index from raw data.

3. The student will learn how to calculate inflation from raw data or from price index.

4. The student will learn how to calculate real values from nominal values using a price index.

5. The student will learn how to compute growth.

6. The student will learn how to calculate per capita values.

7. The student will learn how to solve problems using the AS/AD model.

8. The student will learn how to solve problems using the Aggregate Expenditure model including the simple and grand multiplier.

9. The student will learn how to solve a basic Phillips Curve model.

10. The student will learn how the Federal Reserve System expands and contracts the money supply.

11. The student will learn how to solve the monetarist model.

12. The student will learn how to determine the effects of a tariff.

13. The student will learn how to calculate the over/under-valuation of currencies.

14. The student will learn how to determine the Balance of Payments.

15. The student will learn Comparative Advantage theory, the basic argument for free trade.

16. The student will learn the different types of unemployment and how to compute the unemployment rate.
17. The student will learn how to solve a basic foreign exchange rate model.

18. The student will learn how to calculate the real deficit.

GRADING POLICY:

Midterm: The midterm is worth 400 points and will be taken online through Blackboard in the folder titled “Midterm and Final.”

Final: The final is worth 400 points and will be taken online through Blackboard in the folder titled “Midterm and Final.”

Paper: The paper is worth 200 points. The Instructions are in the Assignments Section on Blackboard in a folder named “Paper.” You must submit the text of the paper through the Turnitin link in the Paper folder on Blackboard. You must also mail a hardcopy of the entire paper to me. Papers that exceed the requirements and are very well formatted and written with ample notes and tables may receive up to 50 points extra credit.

Note: Plagiarism may result in a written report submitted to the College and may result in expulsion. The paper must be submitted to Turnitin.com on time for credit.

Grade Determination: The total points for the course is 1,000 points. The grade will be calculated on the standard scale: 90% = A. 80% = B. 70% = C. 60% = D. F = below 60%.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance: Attendance is required. You may miss 6 hours of class without grade point deduction. After that, you will lose 10 points per hour of class missed. Pro rations are made. If you miss a total of 16 hours of class, you will be dropped from class. If it is after the point at which you can be dropped, you will receive an F in the class. Note, it is not my responsibility to drop you. If you wish to drop the class, you should do so to make sure that you drop before the withdrawal from the class is adversely reflected on your student record. 50 points will be awarded for perfect attendance. See Class Rules for excused absence policy, making up points, perfect attendance, and late arrivals.

EXTRA CREDIT POLICY: Perfect attendance will earn 50 points extra credit. Exceptional work on the paper may earn up to 50 points extra credit. Students must attend the last class and final to be eligible for any extra credit.

COURSE CHANGES: I reserve the right to modify the course at any time, including the timing of tests, the due dates and contents of assignments, and coverage of material.

STUDENT CONDUCT: See the Class Rules.
SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS:

Midterm: TBA.

Paper: Dec. 1. The paper must be physically handed in at the beginning of class on December 1. In addition, you must submit the text of the paper to Turnitin.com through the class Blackboard account prior to the start of that class.

Final: Dec. 15, 3 pm.

SCHEDULE OF LESSONS:

The following Schedule of Lessons including reading assignments is subject to change. This Schedule represents a general plan. A lesson may take more than one class period. Two lessons may be covered in one class session. The order of lessons may be changed. Additional lessons may be added. The book is a teaching aid, not a limitation on course content. You will need to attend every lecture and to take notes.

Lesson 2  Overview of Macroeconomics. Reading: Text, Chpts 4-5.
Lesson 4  Aggregate Demand, Aggregate Supply, and Modern Macro. Reading: Text, Chpt 10.
Lesson 5  Money, Banking, and the Financial Sector. Reading: Text, Chpts 7-9.
Lesson 6  Inflation, Unemployment and the Philips Curve. Reading: Text, Chpt 13.
Lesson 7  Growth, Productivity and Savings. Reading: Text, Chpt 14.
Lesson 8  Politics, Deficits, and Debt. Reading: Text, Chpts 11-12.

FINAL EXAM: Tues., Dec 15, 3:00 pm

CONTACT

There are numerous methods of contacting the Instructor:

In Class: The best time to ask a question is in class. Don’t sit there, confused, and keep it a secret. Raise your hand. Ask for more explanation.

E-mail. Please use e-mail to ask individual questions of a personal nature. For example: “I will have back surgery and will not be able to access a computer for two weeks, from October 10 to 24. Will this pose a problem for me?”
Phone. My office phone number is 949/582-4450. You may call anytime. It is best to first try the discussion board or the e-mail, as the case may be. But it may be that you need to have an interactive conversation in order to ask your questions or get help. I am happy to return calls if you leave a name, number, and message.

Office Hours. I have office hours on Mondays from 3-4 pm and Wednesday from 2-3 pm, and also by appointment. It is a good idea (but not required) to make a reservation so that if someone else is around, you have priority.