

ECON 2 – Principles of Macroeconomics Spring 2008 Ticket #19200

Instructor: Jennifer Atherton-Pakula

Classroom: VIL 15-02

Class Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 10:30am – 11:50

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The best (only) way to contact me is through e-mail. I rarely check my voicemail. **Please type “Econ 2 T/TH 10:30” in the subject line.** Please state your first and last name in your email.

Course Description: Macroeconomics is the study of economy-wide phenomena, basically the “big” picture. Over the course of the semester we will study the theory of income determination including national income concepts, business cycles, unemployment, inflation, economic growth and development, monetary and fiscal policy, public debt, the United States banking system, patterns of government expenditures, international trade and finance. We will relate these concepts to current events in the United States and around the world.. Transferable to UC/CSU.

Textbook: *Brief Principles of Macroeconomics* by N. Gregory Mankiw. Forth Edition

The textbook is available through the bookstore and can be ordered through one of the many textbook sites online, such as Amazon.com. If you purchase an older edition, please check that the chapters are in the same order with a friend.

Attendance & Behavior: Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class period. Please arrive on time with cell phones turned off. You only spend three hours of your week in my class, therefore you should be able to pry yourself away from your cell phone during this short amount of time – absolutely no texting. It is disruptive to me and to your fellow classmates. Please refrain from talking to neighbors during lecture as well.

Course Website: This course uses the Blackboard on-line course management system. Although you are not required to access the course website, it will be helpful to you to familiarize yourself with it. Blackboard will be your resource for current grades, links to videos and articles, homework assignments and extra credit. If you misplace your copy of the syllabus, you will find downloadable copies on the course website.

Blackboard course sites can be accessed from any computer (on or off campus) with Internet access. If you don't have a computer at home, computer access is available at many locations on campus. Your user name and password are the same as you use to access My Site. On-line help and information is available at:
http://www.saddleback.edu/itc/user/bb_students.html.

Homework: There will be five homework assignments, each assignment will be due the class session before the exam. The purpose of the assignments is to make sure you understand the material presented in lecture and are keeping up with the reading assignments. The assignments will also prepare you for the exams. Homework assignments are worth 20 points each. No late assignments will be accepted.

Essay: Students will read a book of their choice from the following list OR of their own choice with approval. A five page essay critiquing the book and analyzing macroeconomic concepts found in both the class and their book will be due by **May 6th**. No late papers will be accepted – no exceptions. The purpose of this essay is to see that economics is not just supply and demand diagrams, but is relatable to many aspects of our daily life. This is not to be a summary of your book. You need to make connections from topics covered in class to the topics in your book. The essay is worth 100 points.

Book list:

If you like everyday economic riddles:

Freakonomics by Steven D. Levitt & Stephen J. Dubner

Armchair Economist: Economics & Everyday Life by Steven E. Landsburg

Hidden Order: The Economics of Everyday Life by David D. Friedman

More Sex is Safer Sex: The Unconventional Wisdom of Economics by Steven E. Landsburg

If you like law, politics or corruption:

Law's Order: What Economics has to do with the Law & Why it Matters by David D. Friedman

Confessions of an Economic Hit Man by John Perkins

A Game as Old as Empire: The Secret World of Economic Hit Men and the Web of Global Corruption
by Steven Hiatt & John Perkins

If you like history:

Good Capitalism, Bad Capitalism, and the Economics of Growth and Prosperity by William J. Baumol,
Robert E. Litan & Carl J. Schramm

Inside the Economist's Mind: Conversations with Eminent Economists by Paul A. Samuelson & William
Barnett

The Age of Turbulence: Adventures in a New World by Alan Greenspan

Exams: There will be four exams and the final exam. Each exam is worth 100 points. By the nature of the topics covered in the class, exams are comprehensive, but will explicitly pertain to the topics covered in each section. Exams will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false, short essay, and diagrams. I will drop your lowest exam (exams 1 through 4), the final exam score will not be dropped. There are NO MAKE-UP EXAMS. If you miss an exam, then that is the score that is dropped – no exceptions.

Grading:

Homework (5) 20 pts. each = 100 pts.

Exams (3 of 4) 100 pts. = 300 pts.

Essay (1) 100 pts. = 100 pts.

Final Exam (1) 100 pts. = 100 pts.

Total Points Possible: 600 pts.

537 pts. or more: A

536-477: B

476-417: C

416-357: D

Below 356: F

Policies: IT IS YOUR EXCLUSIVE RESPONSIBILITY TO SUBMIT A DROP CARD TO ADMISSIONS AND RECORDS. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN AN "F" GRADE FOR THE COURSE.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty in the form of cheating on an exam or plagiarizing the written work of others is considered a very serious offense and will not be tolerated in this course. If a student is suspected of or caught cheating on any test or assignment, he/she will receive a grade of zero on that test or assignment and an Academic Dishonesty Report will be filed with the Dean's office to be retained on record. It is very important to avoid putting yourself in the position of even being *suspected* of cheating (e.g., looking at another student's exam or copying homework) or plagiarism (i.e., using another's words as your own written words), as very serious consequences may result.

Special Services for Students with Disabilities: Students who know that they require special accommodations in this course, or those who suspect that they may have a learning disability, should contact the Special Services Office to obtain the appropriate documentation and/or support services (phone: 582- 4885, location: Student Services Center, room 113). Students should also speak with me as soon as possible to ensure that your learning needs are met. If English is your second language, please speak with me to ensure that you can fully understand lecture because I speak and write quickly.

Class Outline: The following is a tentative schedule, and may change at my discretion. We will cover approximately ½ to 2/3 of a chapter each class session.

Introduction:

Chapter 1 - Ten Principles of Economics

Chapter 2 - Thinking like an Economist

Chapter 3 - Interdependence & Gains from Trade

Exam #1 – Covering Lecture Material and Chapters 1-3 (HW #1 Due 2/5/08 and Exam #1 2/7/08)

How Markets Work:

Chapter 4 – Supply & Demand

Data of Macroeconomics:

Chapter 5 - Measuring a Nation's Income

Chapter 6 – Measuring the Cost of Living

Exam #2 – Covering Lecture Material and Chapters 4-6

The Real Economy in the Long Run:

Chapter 7 – Production & Growth

Chapter 8 – Saving, Investment, and the Financial System

Chapter 10 – Unemployment

Exam #3 – Covering Lecture Material and Chapters 7,8,10

Money & Prices in the Long Run:

Chapter 11 – Monetary System

Chapter 12 – Money Growth & Inflation

Exam #4 – Covering Lecture Material and Chapters 11 and 12

Short-Run Economic Fluctuations:

Chapter 15 – Aggregate Supply & Aggregate Demand

Chapter 16 – The Influence of Monetary & Fiscal Policy on AD

Chapter 17 – Short-Run Tradeoff between Inflation & Unemployment

Final Exam – Covering Lecture Material & Chapters 15-17

Final Exam is scheduled for Thursday, May 22nd from 10:15 to 12:15. You must arrive on-time at 10:15 to take the final exam.

Extra Credit: Extra credit can be done at any time during the semester. A total of four assignments can be turned in for 5 points apiece (20 points total). Assignments will pertain to current event articles and can be accessed via Blackboard. The last day to turn extra credit in is **May 8th**.