

## **ECONOMICS 102: INTRODUCTION TO MACROECONOMICS**

### **SYLLABUS, Spring 2016**

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#### **Required resources:**

Hubbard and O'Brien, *Macroeconomics*, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition  
*iClicker*, for use in lectures

#### **Course description:**

This course studies the behavior of the U.S. economy as a whole. We will establish general principles and discuss recent macroeconomic events. Topics include economic growth, unemployment, inflation and the exchange rate. We will analyze private sector and policy determinants of these and other economic indicators. The role of government policy in improving economic outcomes will be examined.

#### **Course structure:**

- Lectures. Twice a week. Attendance is not mandatory, though you must attend to get “clicker” points. Material for the exams and homework will draw primarily from what is covered in the lectures. Students are also responsible for all material in the assigned chapters of the textbook.
- Discussion sections. Once per week. Occasionally discussion sections may go over material that I had intended to cover in lectures. In any such cases, I will let the class know that the discussion sections will not only review but cover new material.
- Homework. Via the on-line system MyEconLab. You are allowed, in fact encouraged, to discuss homework problems with your fellow students. But of course you must answer the questions yourself.
- Grades: Based on highest two of three midterms (totaling 50% of your grade), a final (35%), homework (10%), and participation in clicker questions (5%). Details below.
- While not formally part of the grade, it is recommended that you follow news coverage of ongoing economic events. Good sources, available in both print and on-line, unfortunately for a fee, include the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Economist*. A few of the many free on-line resources—which sometimes have a political slant—include Econbrowser ([econbrowser.com](http://econbrowser.com)), Economist’s View ([economistsview.typepad.com](http://economistsview.typepad.com)), Marginal Revolution ([marginalrevolution.com](http://marginalrevolution.com)), and VoxEU ([www.voxeu.org](http://www.voxeu.org)).

## **MyEconLab and Learn@UW:**

Students must register with MyEconLab by following the instructions posted on the Learn@UW website for this course. The course id:

2:30pm-3:45pm class: **west99541**  
4:00pm-5:15pm class: **west39897**

Homework assignments will be submitted through MyEconLab. In addition, this portal includes many resources that supplement the text, including videos and quiz questions with answers. Those quiz questions may be used to practice and to give yourself feedback on your understanding of the course material.

## **Grades:**

There will be three midterms and a final. Grade weighting:

Homework	10%
Clicker points	5%
Highest two midterms	50% (each exam 25%)
Final	35%

## Exams

Midterm #1 (in-class)	Wednesday, February 17
Midterm #2 (in-class)	Wednesday, March 16
Midterm #3 (in-class)	Wednesday, April 13
Final	Monday, May 9, 7:25pm, Room TBA

*There are no makeup exams.* If you have a **University approved** reason to miss the exam, the other exams will receive proportionally greater weight. Any request to regrade must occur within *one week* of the graded material being returned to the student. See [www.ssc.wisc.edu/~munia/Undergraduate/Regrade\\_Policy.pdf](http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/~munia/Undergraduate/Regrade_Policy.pdf).

Homework There will be six homework assignments, due on Wednesdays per the schedule below. Each homework will have a maximum score of 100 points. The lowest homework grade will be dropped. Your homework scores will be computed by averaging the scores on the remaining five and dividing by 10. It is my expectation that the average score for the majority of students will be a perfect 10.

iClicker: Please bring your iClicker to every class. These will be used to respond to in-class questions. Some points are for participation: no points off for wrong answers, with credit given simply for participating. Some questions will have a right answer, in which case credit requires a correct response. Students who get credit for at least 80% of the iClicker questions will get the full 5 clicker points included in their grade. Lower credit will result in proportionally less clicker points included in your grade. It is my expectation that clicker points for the majority of students will be a perfect 5. If you miss class for any reasons, including but not limited to school sponsored events or University approved reasons for absence, the missing clicker points are part of the 20% not counted in your grade. The same applies if you are present in class and the system registers responses of others but not you: any such failure is considered part of the 20% that is not counted in your grade. It is the student's responsibility to solve any hardware or software problems with his or her clicker that might lead to failure to answer more than 20% of the questions.

Extra credit: There are no extra credit options.

Dates for written work from students:

	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Textbook material covered in exams</u>
January 20			
January 25, 27			
February 1, 3		HW #1 due	
February 8, 10		HW #2 due	
February 15, 17		<u>First midterm</u>	Textbook ch. 1-3, 6, 8
February 22, 24			
Feb 29, March 2		HW #3 due	
March 7, 9		HW #4 due	
March 14, 16		<u>Second midterm</u>	Textbook ch. 9-13
BREAK			
March 28, 30			
April 4, 6		HW #5 due	
April 11, 13		<u>Third midterm</u>	Textbook ch. 14, 15, 17
April 18, 20			
April 25, 27		HW # 6 due	
May 2, 4			
	May 9 (Monday) <u>Final</u>		Textbook ch. 1-3, 6, 8-19.

## **Misconduct Statement**

Academic integrity is critical to maintaining fair and knowledge based learning at UW Madison. Academic dishonesty is a serious violation: it undermines the bonds of trust and honesty between members of our academic community, degrades the value of your degree and defrauds those who may eventually depend upon your knowledge and integrity.

Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to: cheating on an examination (copying from another student's paper, referring to materials on the exam other than those explicitly permitted, continuing to work on an exam after the time has expired, turning in an exam for regrading after making changes to the exam), copying the homework of someone else, submitting for credit work done by someone else, stealing examinations or course materials, tampering with the grade records or with another student's work, or knowingly and intentionally assisting another student in any of the above. Students are reminded that online sources, including anonymous or unattributed ones like Wikipedia, still need to be cited like any other source; and copying from any source without attribution is considered plagiarism.

The Dept. of Economics will deal with these offenses following UWS procedures:

1. The penalty for misconduct in most cases will be removal from the course and a failing grade,
2. The department will inform the Dean of Students as required and additional sanctions may be applied.
3. The department will keep an internal record of misconduct incidents. This information will be made available to teaching faculty writing recommendation letters and to admission offices of the School of Business and Engineering.

If you think you see incidents of misconduct, you should tell your instructor about them, in which case they will take appropriate action and protect your identity. You could also choose to contact our administrator Tammy Herbst -Koel [therbst@wisc.edu](mailto:therbst@wisc.edu) and your identity will be kept confidential.

## **Grievance Procedure**

The Department of Economics has developed a grievance procedure through which you may register comments or complaints about a course, an instructor, or a teaching assistant. The Department continues to provide a course evaluation each semester in every class. If you wish to make anonymous complaints to an instructor or teaching assistant, the appropriate vehicle is the course evaluation. If you have a disagreement with an instructor or a teaching assistant, we strongly encourage you to try to resolve the dispute with him or her directly. The grievance procedure is designed for situations where neither of these channels is appropriate.

If you wish to file a grievance, you should go to room 7238 Social Science and request a Course Comment Sheet. When completing the comment sheet, you will need to provide a detailed statement that describes what aspects of the course you find unsatisfactory. You will need to sign the sheet and provide your student identification number, your address, and a phone where you can be reached. The Department plans to investigate comments fully and will respond in writing to complaints.

Your name, address, phone number, and student ID number will not be revealed to the instructor or teaching assistant involved and will be treated as confidential. The Department needs this information, because it may become necessary for a commenting student to have a meeting with the department chair or a nominee to gather additional information. A name and address are necessary for providing a written response.

## **Career information**

If you would like to discuss career options and career skills learned as an economics major, you are encouraged to email the Department Career Coordinator, Elizabeth Foste at [foste@wisc.edu](mailto:foste@wisc.edu).