Introduction to Macroeconomics 220:103:01  12/24

What’s the Fed going to do next? (monetary policy) And how will this affect you? Was the great recession avoidable? What did economists and politicians do wrong? Right? (fiscal and monetary policy) Could it have become a depression? What caused it? What did we do about it? Why does it matter? What’s going on in Europe? And how does it matter to us? What’s GDP and why is it “gross”? What causes unemployment and what policies can reduce it (want a job?) What’s inflation, and what harm does it cause? And how about deflation? How do interest rates matter? How fast will our economy and our wealth grow? What is money and what role does it have in the economy? Why do banks matter? What’s the Fed and what is it doing now? What are monetary and fiscal policies? What does China have to do with the U.S. economy? What does China’s exchange rate have to do with anything? What’s bad about government deficits and the national debt? The trade deficit? How does international trade impact our economy? What are the roles of the stock market and the financial system and how can you make (and lose) a fortune (personal investing)?

Macroeconomics studies the behavior of the aggregate economy and deals with the determinants of a nation’s output and income, the determinants of the average level of prices and their rate of change (inflation), and the determinants of growth in an economy. While an Introductory Microeconomics course is highly recommended, it is not required if one is prepared to quickly catch-up (but if you have a choice, take Micro first). Above all, this is intended to be an interesting, important, useful, and demanding course dealing with issues you will certainly face in your private, public, and professional lives and which will provide you with useful and usable skills and insights (and some cookies).

Instructional Goals: Consistent with the Learning Goals of the Economics Department, students will develop and demonstrate economic literacy, numeracy, citizenship and scholarship in the area of introductory macroeconomics. Specifically, students who satisfactorily complete Introduction to Macroeconomics will understand and be able to articulate the core principles, concepts and theories of modern macroeconomics (the basic aggregate demand and supply model, the multiplier, the Keynesian, Classical and Monetarist models, the open-economy macro model, neo-classical and new growth theory, etc). Students will begin to develop the ability to interpret and analyze economic data such as aggregate output, inflation, unemployment and growth rates. Through lectures, discussions, assignments and readings students will become familiar with the theoretical framework of macroeconomics and learn to apply it to the analysis of macroeconomic policy issues. Students will also get smarter and more interesting.

To take this course you MUST:

- Have high-speed access to the Internet often. (dorm, library, home, Starbucks)
- Make regular use of Sakai (Rutgers’ online course management system)
- Carefully read the required textbook weekly (free, online)
- Buy or obtain an iClicker brand clicker and bring it to class regularly (the same clicker can be used by ONE student in multiple classes but NOT by multiple students) – starting with the first class.
- Regularly attend class. - UNEXCUSED ABSENCES MAY BE GROUNDS FOR FAILING THE COURSE, and will lower your grade.
- Participate in class and online chat rooms
- Complete graded weekly, on-line assignments which, along with reading, will take 4-6 hours per week.
- Use Quizlet (or other) flash cards
- LOOK UP REQUIRED MATERIAL NOT CONTAINED IN THE TEXTBOOK.

You must NOT

- use a computer in class. If there is a special reason for needing to use one, please see me.
- use cell phones in class – not for calls, text messaging, or photographs/video.
- come late or leave class early.
- talk in class – it imposes external costs on others.
- Record audio or video in class without explicit written permission

If any of these are difficult for you, it will be necessary to take the course with a different instructor.
MEETING TIMES, WEB ACCESS, OFFICE HOURS
The class meets MTh 11:30am-12:50pm Scott 135 CAC and online 24/7.

My Economics Department web page is:  http://econweb.rutgers.edu/sheflin/ - it has a lot of links, some of which you will hope fully find useful. However, virtually all of the course material will ONLY be available through Sakai http://sakai.rutgers.edu . You are responsible for checking announcements, grades, and the chat rooms frequently.

My office hours will be Wednesdays 3-4:15pm in New Jersey Hall 403 CAC and other times by appointment. There will be a signup tool in Sakai to reserve a time, or you can drop in if no one has previously scheduled for that time. Note that office hours are to discuss personal issues, the meaning of life, and sailing. Class questions should be asked in class or posted on the chat rooms first.

HOW THE COURSE WILL WORK
• Before each week’s classes, you will read/print the ASSIGNMENT for the next week posted under RESOURCES in Sakai, and generally available by the Wednesday of the week before it is due (i.e. assignment 2 will be posted by Wednesday of week 1)
• You will do the textbook and supplementary readings, problems, and online graded multiple choice homework and other assigned items contained in the assignment BEFORE the first class of each week (generally Monday) Note that the Supplementary readings are important, the reading may differ from that shown on the syllabus, and it is UP TO YOU TO FIND ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS and problems, even if they are not in the textbook (hint: GOOGLE). It is also ESSENTIAL to POST QUESTIONS on the chat rooms and/or ask in class.
• You will make and use some form of FLASHCARDS to help you learn key definitions, concepts, analyses.
• You will interact with me and with each other through online chat rooms for homework and other questions you have trouble with, as well as for “when, how, what” questions and other course related issues (email is ONLY for very personal issues)
• In class, we’ll deal with current events, applications, homework review for tough questions, all in question format with clickers – there will be little or no lecturing.
• We will be playing a stock investing game, and using various simulators and data bases in the course,
• There will be extra credit projects available
• There will be a COMPREHENSIVE, MULTIPLE CHOICE FINAL EXAM at the end of the course covering all the material and counting for the majority of your grade, encouraging to learn the material for the long-run. (ignore Keynes here)
• You will be reading print and/or online news sources.

GRADING
Grades in the course will be based on weighted total points from
• graded, online, multiple choice homework due before each class (10%), lowest several dropped
• three in-class clicker quizzes (10%), lowest one dropped
• a clicker mini-midterm (15%)
• class participation and testing with clickers every class (10%) with the lowest X days dropped (X will be revealed late in the course, 0 is a good number)
• a comprehensive multiple choice Final Exam reflecting what you know at the end of the course (55%) – you will hate the heavy weight on the final – but it is intended to encourage you to study and learn the material for the long-run, not cram, and to give students who “get-it” late in the course a chance (and an incentive) to do well. There will also be extra credit projects worth up to 2%. And lesser extra credit for documented attendance at the Learning Resource Center(s).

Note that students must earn a grade of C or better in this course to major or minor in economics.

ATTENDANCE is required and reflected in clicker points from each class. Except for documented absence due to participation in official University events or significant illness or personal problems, there will be no excused absences. However, I will drop the lowest several clicker day(s), the lowest several homework assignments, and the lowest clicker quiz. Please do not see me for single missed classes as up to X are automatically not counted (where X is a low number). If you miss more than two classes because of illness or a family emergency – SEE ME (do not email), before or after class and please bring documentation about the cause.
Note that I DO NOT LOOK AT OR USE THE UNIVERSITY ABSENCE REPORTING WEBSITE https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/

SUBSTANTIAL UNEXCUSED ABSENCES MAY BE GROUNDS FOR Failing THE COURSE AND WILL LOWER ONE’S COURSE GRADE BY A LETTER GRADE (B TO C for example).

TEXTBOOK AND READINGS  PRINCIPLES OF MACROECONOMICS by Timothy Taylor (sort of), through Openstax College (Rice University http://openstaxcollege.org/) Available for FREE online at: https://openstaxcollege.org/textbooks/principles-of-macroeconomics as a downloadable, printable pdf or readable online (I have ordered a limited number of print copies through the bookstore, approximately $35) or as an online web ‘page’ or as a downloadable epub file which can be read on many smart phones and other mobile devices – but I haven’t tried this yet. I am finding that the best way to read through downloadable pdf. The table of contents has links to each chapter (you can jump to each chapter).

There will be weekly supplementary reading assigned (see each weeks assignment posted in RESOURCES) and students are expected to keep on top of economics and macroeconomic news through regular reading of online news sources (google news, Bloomberg, etc) and/or New York Times, Wall Street Journal and/or online sources (note the Journal has student subscriptions at about $1 per week: wsj.com/studentoffer  (Note, totally optional, I’ve paid for my own subscription)

iCLICKER We will be using iClicker brand clickers which sell for about $45 new, with many available used for less. You MUST have your own clicker – you can share one with a friend IN A DIFFERENT CLASS but I would not advise this. You can buy a used one. You must bring your clicker to every class and must not bring someone else’s – there will be frequent checks for clickers that are in class when their owners’ are not.

There are 3 models of iclicker – the original one, an iclicker+ replacement for it and the iClicker2, more expensive, small screen, alphameric entry, - any will work for this course.

DO NOT ORDER YOUR CLICKERS FROM A DISTANT SOURCE – YOU WILL NEED THEM FROM THE VERY FIRST CLASS

FLASHCARDS are very helpful for most students to truly learn the material. We will likely use Quizlet, a free, online (and mobile) flashcard system

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
Do not cheat, the penalties are severe, it is wrong, and in the long-run, you will not benefit. Do not:
• have someone click your clicker when you are not in class,
• talk about clicked questions unless you are told to do so,
• copy someone else’s homework or have someone help with yours,
• use the text or other sources when doing the homework.
Using someone else’s words or thoughts without citing them is also cheating.

LEARNING CENTERS provide tutoring. There will be (small) extra credit given for every time you go. http://rlc.rutgers.edu/contact.shtml More information in class.

AUDIO-VISUAL RECORDING (sound, still photos, video) OF CLASS is NOT permitted without explicit written authorization of the instructor and notification of other students in the class, except where notification from the Office of Disability Services is provided.

SCHEDULE

Note that we are covering the material in a somewhat different order than the text. There are additional required readings shown on each week’s ASSIGNMENT which will be posted in Sakai. The syllabus shows the week, the chapters and sections in the textbook to be read before that week, and the weeks when we will talk about advising issues and investment issues. YOU MUST LOOK AT EACH WEEK’S ASSIGNMENT IN SAKAI (click on resources) TO SEE ADDITIONAL READINGS, AND CHANGES (the reading shown below is not complete). In addition, following the reading and other activities shown in the Assignment in Sakai each week, there will be HOMEWORK in the form of online multiple choice questions, due BY OR BEFORE the class in which they are shown. They will be available in Sakai by Wednesday of the week before they are due.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Beginning: (Monday date)</th>
<th>Assignment &amp; hw due</th>
<th>Topic and notes</th>
<th>Textbook Chapters</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 1/18</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Economic and Macroeconomic Issues--one class this week. First and only class this week on <strong>Thurs 1/21</strong></td>
<td>1, 2 (just sections – see assignment for which)</td>
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<td>2 1/25</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Demand, Supply and the Meaning of (Economic) Life last day to drop  1/26 last day to add 1/27</td>
<td>3, Appendix A (parts, just skim)</td>
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<td>3 2/1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>The Short-Run Keynesian Aggregate Supply and Demand Model  advise 1 invest 0 – overview</td>
<td>11, 12 (skip the section on The Phillips Curve– we will come back to it)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 2/8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>National Income Accounting – GDP invest 1-stock <strong>Clicker Quiz 1</strong></td>
<td>1 (just page 17 – circular flow), 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 2/15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Fiscal Policy and the Short-Run Keynesian Model resume  Cfleast advise2 resume</td>
<td>17.4, 17.5, 17.6, appendix B –just the WORK IT OUT MODULES</td>
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<td>6 2/22</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Money, Banking and the Financial System invest 2A-more stock</td>
<td>14, 15.2 ONLY section 15.2 of chapter 15)</td>
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<td>7 2/29 (leap year)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>The Fed &amp; Monetary Policy in the Keynesian SR Model <strong>Clicker Quiz 2</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>8 3/7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Price Indices, Inflation and the Short-Run Phillips Curve Invest 2B-yet more on stock, etc</td>
<td>9, 12 (just the Phillips curve section 12.3)</td>
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<td>3/12-3/20</td>
<td><strong>SPRING BREAK</strong></td>
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<td>9 3/21</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>The Long-Run/Classical Model  <strong>Presidential game</strong> Last day to drop with a W is 3/21 advising 3 -</td>
<td>11 (just the Keynes Law and Say’s Law section), 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
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<td>10 3/28</td>
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<td>Unemployment and Wages</td>
<td>invest 3-mutual funds advise 3 Clicker Mini Midterm</td>
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<td>covering weeks 1-8</td>
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<td>11 4/4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Economic Growth &amp; Present Value</td>
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<td>12 4/11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>International (Open Economy) Macroeconomics – trade, open-economy macro,</td>
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<td>xrates in the sr invest 4-bonds</td>
<td>See assignment for alternative reading, just sections 20.1, 20.4,</td>
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<td>21.2, 21.5</td>
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<td>13 4/18</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>International Macroeconomics continued bop, ppp, international finance</td>
<td>10.1-10.3, 10.5, 16, 18.4</td>
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<td>invest 5 – financial derivatives</td>
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<td>14 4/25</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Macroeconomic Issues and Controversies – Government Deficits, Stabilization, Evolution of Macroeconomics Clicker quiz 3</td>
<td>17.1-17.3,17.7, 17.4-17.6 (this is review), 11.6, 12.4, 13.3</td>
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<td>15 5/2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Financial Crisis/Great Recession of 2007-9 single class</td>
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<td><strong>FINAL EXAM Thursday May 5 8am</strong> (do not make travel plans for this date)</td>
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