Econ 2105: Principles of Macroeconomics

Dr. Richard Fritz

Spring 2016: Van Leer W200

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:00p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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Textbook: Paul Krugman and Robin Wells, ***Macroeconomics***, 4th edition, 2015, Worth Publishers. There may be options for buying the e-book, check with the bookstore.

Exams: There will be four (4) equally weighted exams during the term. Three of the exams will be given during the term (in-term exams). The last exam is the final exam. The in-term exams are not comprehensive, in that each exam will cover the new material covered after the previous exam. The final exam is comprehensive, covering all the material on the previous three exams. The student's course grade is based on the three highest exam grades.

IMPORTANT: Missed exam policy – there are NO make-up exams.

If you miss any one of the three in-term exams for any reason:

1. Your score on the missed exam is zero.
2. Your score on the next exam will count double. For example, you missed the first in-term exam, and took the second in-term exam with a score of 80/100. Then your score on the first exam is 80/100 and the score on exam two is 80/100.
3. This option is available only for one missed exam. For example, if you miss two exams, your score on one of the exams will be zero and the other exam score will be entered based on your score in #2 above.
4. To avail yourself of the option to miss one test and have the next test count as double, you must show the following documentation:
    a. If you are ill, you have to provide a doctor's note that must specify that you **were unable** to take the exam on the specific test date.
    b. For immediate family emergencies: provide valid documentation, e.g., an obituary, a doctor's note, a certified note from your parent or guardian.
5. **Important Exception:** For official GT business, such as a business trip, a team activity, (e.g., a sports event where you are a participant), you must produce the relevant official GT documentation noting your absence. In this case, you will be allowed to take the exam before the regularly scheduled exam period. The student must provide written notice of the planned absence at least one week prior to the regularly scheduled exam period. ***It is the responsibility of the student to schedule the alternative exam period with the instructor.*** For example, if the exam is scheduled for Friday, January 29, the official GT documentation and student request for an alternative exam period must be provided to the professor no later than Friday, January 22. Social or personal events of any kind do not count as a valid reason.

The dates for the three in-term exams and the final exam can be found in this syllabus. Please note the dates and mark your calendars. Missing the final exam should not be considered an option. This includes non-refundable airline tickets.

During exams students may use hand-held calculators whose capabilities do not extend beyond the four basic operations. Use of electronic devices that permit text storage and/or have access to the Internet is strictly prohibited and will result in a failing grade on the exam in question.

Students should prepare for class by reading the assigned material and taking the practice questions found in the chapters before each class. This will allow the student to identify their strengths and weaknesses covering the material before each class meeting.

Attendance: Attendance is required. Attendance will be taken on four randomly selected dates. You have to be present in class to receive full attendance credit. Anyone with a good attendance record (maximum of 1 (one) undocumented absence) and a minimum of 50% average exam scores is guaranteed to receive a minimum of "D" grade in the class. When you miss a class, you are expected to communicate with one of your class colleagues to obtain all the information you missed. You may always get extra assistance during office hours from Dr. Fritz.

Grades: The course grade is based on the average between the three exams, each equally weighted.

A = 100 – 90 B = 89 – 80 C = 79 – 70 D = 69 – 60 F = less than 60

Your grade will be rounded up to two decimals, with 0.005 being the cut-off point. If your average is 89.975, it will be averaged up to 89.98. If you receive an 89.98, your grade will be reported as "B". If your final grade is 90.00% (or higher), your course grade will be reported as "A". **There are no exceptions.**

Curve: If the class mean on a specific test falls below 77%, a curve will be added to bring the class mean up to 77%. For example, if the class mean is 75%, then a 2% curve will be added to each exam score to bring the class mean up to 77%. This policy applies only to single exams and protects the student from the tests that may be more difficult than others. The information will be posted on T-Square. Since each exam is curved **IF** necessary, there is no additional curve at the end of the semester.

T-Square: t-square (www.t-square.gatech.edu/portal) will be used to post announcements, distribute class notes (PowerPoint slides), and supplemental readings. You will need to have a GaTech e-mail account to use t-square. Please verify that you can log on to t-square and access the information for this class.

Class Conduct: Please turn off all pagers, music players, cell phones, and laptops during class. Laptops cannot be used during class. If you violate the class conduct rule, you will be asked to provide your name and to leave the class. For every two times you are asked to leave the class during the semester, your grade will be lowered to the next grade level, for example, from an A to a B level.

Extra Credit: There are **NO** extra credit projects or bonus points.

NOTE: The syllabus is subject to change as the semester progresses if it will enhance the student learning and the overall quality of the course.

(Syllabus version 1.1: January 2, 2016)

Assignments and Exam Schedule:

Class number	Date	Assignment
1	1/11	Introduction, discussion of syllabus, Chapter 1 First Principles
2	1/13	Chapter 1 review, Chapter 2 Economic Models: Trade-offs and Trade
3	1/15	Chapter 2 Economic Models: Trade-offs and Trade
	1/18	**Official School Holiday: Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
4	1/20	Chapter 2 review, Chapter 2 Appendix: Graphs in Economics
5	1/22	Chapter 3: Supply and Demand
6	1/25	Chapter 3 review and Global Comparisons
7	1/27	Chapter 4: Price Controls and Quotas: Meddling with Markets
8	1/29	Chapter 4 review and discussion questions
9	2/01	Chapter 5: International Trade
10	2/03	Chapter 5 review and discussion questions
11	2/05	Chapters 4 and 5 Economics In Action
12	2/08	Review Chapters 1 – 5 for In-Term Exam #1
13	**2/10**	**In-Term Exam #1**
14	2/12	Review In-Term Exam #1 and Chapter 6: Macroeconomics: The Big Picture
15	2/09	Chapter 6: Macroeconomics
16	2/12	Chapter 6: Macroeconomics – Measures of the business cycle
18	2/15	Chapter 7: GDP and the CPI – Tracking the Macroeconomy
19	2/17	Chapter 7: The Macro Circular Flow of Economic Activity and Spending
20	2/19	Chapter 8: Unemployment and Inflation
21	2/22	Chapter 8: The Costs of Unemployment and Inflation
22	2/24	Chapter 9: Long-run Economic Growth
23	2/26	Chapter 9: International Comparisons of Long-run Growth
24	2/29	Chapter 10: Savings, Investment Spending, and the Financial System
25	3/02	Chapter 10: Financial Market Instruments

Assignments and Exam Schedule - Continued:

Class number	Date	Assignment
26	3/04	Chapter 10 Appendix: Toward a Fuller Understanding of Present Value
27	3/07	Review Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 (and Appendix 10)
28	**3/09**	**In-Term Exam #2**
29	3/11	Review In-Term Exam #2, Chapter 11: Income and Expenditure
30	3/14	Chapter 11: Income and Expenditure
31	3/16	Chapter 11 Appendix: Deriving the Multiplier Algebraically
32	3/18	Chapter 12: Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply
	3/21 – 3/25 Spring Break: No Class	
33	3/28	Chapter 12: Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply
34	3/30	Chapter 13: Fiscal Policy
35	4/01	Chapter 13: Fiscal Policy – Taxes, Spending and the Federal Budget
36	4/04	Chapter 14: Money, Banking, and the Federal Reserve System
37	4/06	Chapter 14: The Money Supply and the Multiplier
38	4/08	Chapter 15: Monetary Policy
39	4/11	Chapter 15 Appendix: Reconciling the Two Models of Interest Rates
40	4/13	Review Chapter 11 – 15 for In-Term Exam #3
41	**4/15**	**In-Term Exam #3**
42	4/18	Review In-Term Exam #3
43	4/20	Review In-Term Exam #1
44	4/22	Review In-Term Exam #2
45	4/25	Final Review for Final Exam
46	**4/28**	**Final Exam #4 Final exam week: April 29, 8:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m..**