

Economics 3 – Spring, 2005

Introduction to Macroeconomic Analysis

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| Instructor: | Dale Squires | Teaching Assistant: | Corey Koedel |
| Office Hours: | TBA | Office Hours: | Thursday, 2-3:30pm |
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Classroom: Warren Lecture Hall Room 2204
Class Time: TuTh 3:30-4:50pm
Class Web Page:

Discussion Sessions: Friday 4:00-4:50 pm **Location:**

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the part of economics called macroeconomics, which looks at the economy as a whole and includes a discussion of topics such as inflation, unemployment, how government spending can impact business cycles, the standard of living, national output, the budget, and trade deficits. The emphasis throughout will be on using economic logic to study the impact of changes in government policy.

We begin the course by examining the most basic concepts and models used by economists and then examine the economic statistics used by macroeconomists to evaluate the economic status of the economy. We then use these basic models and economic statistics to examine the different sectors of the economy, including the labor market, capital markets, financial markets, and international capital markets.

Discussion Sections and Teaching Assistant

Each week, there will be a discussion section. The Teaching Assistant will discuss study questions, homework assignments, questions about the lecture and the textbook, and other issues at the TA's discretion. The sections will begin the second week of classes.

The Teaching Assistant, Corey Koedel, will hold office hours on Thursdays from 2-3:30 pm at Economics 126.

Textbook

The required textbook is *Principles of Economics*, 2nd Edition, by Robert Frank and Ben Bernanke, McGraw Hill-Irwin, 2004.

Attendance

Class attendance is an individual responsibility. Daily attendance is not recorded, but attendance is advised. The lectures include material that does not appear in the textbook, but which are fair game for examination. The additional exposure to the material during lecture and the different medium of instruction, through verbal explanation and blackboard presentation, provide additional learning aids.

Homework

To complete assignments, you will be required to access a website dedicated to students and professors of economics. To access the website, you need to register for an account with Aplia at <http://econ.aplia.com>. The syllabus contains an instruction sheet and a course key below.

Assignments must be completed on time, by the deadline indicated in the Aplia website. Failure to complete the assignment on time means that this assignment receives a score of 0. There are no exceptions. However, because there are issues that arise over the course of the quarter, including technical glitches such as crashing computers or modems, the lowest score will be discarded. This “Get Out of Jail Free” card also allows you to complete all assignments and to drop the lowest one in order to improve your overall grade and to reap the benefits of practice. In sum, the discarded lowest score will not count toward your final grade.

Each assignment is worth the same number of points toward your final class grade. The normalized score for each assignment is the fraction of correct answers out of all possible answers.

Many topics have two problem sets with similar names. These paired problem sets have been provided so that the first problem set is practice and the second problem set is for a grade. The practice problem set is typically simpler and easier and the graded problem set is typically more complex and difficult. Students will not be able to see their answers, graded scores, or the explanations until after the deadline for the assignment has passed.

All problem sets for a week will be due on that week’s Sunday at 11pm. If you miss the deadline, you will receive a zero. As discussed above, you can drop or not turn in one homework.

There is a homework assignment for the first week of class, due Sunday, April 3, at 11pm, so please get started!

Aplia Information

Your course key is: FRXC-L3MP-GC77

Course Fee: \$28.00 USD.

To get started in Professor Squires' class, please do the following:

First Time Aplia Users:

1. Connect to <http://econ.aplia.com>.

2. Complete the Configuration Test. You **must have JavaScript and Flash 6 or later** to use the site. If you don't, the configuration test will tell you and instructions will follow.
3. Return to the Sign In page and click "Register here."
4. You will be prompted to enter your e-mail address and select a password.
5. You will then be asked to enter your course key (above).
6. You only need to register once. After the registration process is complete, you will not need to enter the course key again.
7. Before entering your course, you will be prompted for payment. There is a 20 day grace period for this course. If your payment has not been received by 04.17.05, you will not be able to access the site until Aplia receives your payment. Please note that you will need to register for your course at least one hour prior to participating in any experiments.

Returning Aplia Users:

1. Connect to <http://econ.aplia.com>.
2. Sign in using your usual e-mail address and password.
3. On your home page click the button "Enroll in a New Course."
4. You will be asked to enter your course key (above).
5. Before entering your course, you will be prompted for payment. There is a 20 day grace period for this course. If your payment has not been received by 04.17.05, you will not be able to access the site until Aplia receives your payment. Please note that you will need to register for your course at least one hour prior to participating in any experiments.
6. You may have an Aplia Payment Code for this course. You will have the option to use this code (which you may have received bundled with a textbook or purchased at the bookstore) when you are prompted for payment. Please remember that once opened, payment codes are not refundable.
7. If you want to switch between courses, use the [Switch Course] link at the top of the screen, or use the "My Account" tab, then click on "My Courses."

If you have questions about registering or using the Aplia website, please contact Aplia by clicking the **Aplia Support** link at the bottom of any Aplia page or by e-mailing support@aplia.com. You will receive a response in one business day.

Lecture Notes

Powerpoint slides of the lecture notes will be made available on the Aplia site.

Extra Credit Pop Quizzes

Several pop quizzes on recent class lecture material will be administered at the beginning of class for extra credit. The intent is to reward those students who attend class. Because attendance is not mandatory, the pop quizzes are extra credit, i.e. not taking the quizzes will not hurt your grade, but taking them can only help your grade.

Exams and Grading

There will be two midterms and a cumulative final.

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| Homework | 25% | |
| First Midterm | 25% | Covers Chapters 17-19. |
| Second Midterm | 25% | Covers Chapters 20-24. |
| Final | 25% | Inclusive, but emphasis on material since second mid-term. |

There will not be any make-up exams. If you miss a midterm due to illness, you will be excused if, and only if, you obtain a note from your doctor. Exams missed due to athletic events in which you are a participant will be excused if, and only if, you obtain a note from your coach and you have cleared the event with the instructor prior to the missed exam. In either case, the missed percentage from the midterm will be added to the final exam.

Students who miss an exam without an excuse, as detailed above, will receive a grade of zero (0) for the exam.

Students who miss an exam and make initial contact after the exam will have to document why they could not make contact prior to the exam. Failure to comply with any of the above in the specified manner will result in a grade of zero (0) for the exam.

No calculators, study aids, or notes will be allowed in the exams. Students arriving late will not receive extra time to complete their exam. Once a student completes the exam and leaves the exam room, no other student will be permitted to start the exam. Any student suspected of cheating on an exam will be brought to the attention of the Dean.

Mathematical Requirements

- (1) The ability to manipulate graphs and knowledge of slope and intercept.
- (2) Knowledge of basic algebra. You will need to be able to manipulate equations to solve systems of equations for the unknown variable(s).

If you feel unprepared for this level of math, please speak to me as soon as possible. In addition, Aplia has additional material to help you brush up in this area.

Readings

Introductory readings: review selected portions of Chapters 1 and 3 as necessary. Make sure you are comfortable with the material in the Appendix to Chapter 1, “Working with Equations, Graphs, and Tables.” This introductory material provides the economic foundation that is the basis for the study of macroeconomics. The rest of the readings specifically pertain to macroeconomics.

Unless you are told otherwise, you should read all appendices, footnotes, and extension boxes. You should also review all of the discussion questions at the end of the chapters