

Economics 110A – Winter 2001

Macroeconomics

Instructor: Genevieve Peters
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Office Hours: MWF 12:20 – 1:30 p.m.
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Classroom: HSS 2250
Class Time: MWF 2:30 – 3:20 p.m.
Class Web Page: <http://weber.ucsd.edu/~gpeters/ec110a/>

Course Description

Have you ever wondered why recessions occur? Whether the national debt is really a problem? How globalization affects you? Why the federal government is concerned about energy prices? If so, this is the course for you.

In this class, you will be introduced to a mathematical approach to the foundations of macroeconomic theory. We will cover basic short run models of economic fluctuations and long run models of economic growth. Then we will apply these models to recent economic events, such as globalization and the recent rise in crude oil prices. We may even figure out when the next U.S. recession will occur (and what can be done about it.)

So, stick around. Who knows, you may actually learn something.

Prerequisites

The prerequisites for this class are Economics 1A-B or 2A-B and Mathematics 10A-B-C or 20A-B-C.

Texts

The required text for this class is Macroeconomics, Fourth Edition by N. Gregory Mankiw. This textbook is available in paper form at the UCSD bookstore and other booksellers. This textbook is also available in a digital version for your computer through a company called WizeUp Digital Textbooks. Instructions on how to access the computer version will be provided on the first day of class and on the class webpage.

The student workbook to accompany Mankiw's text, by Roger Kaufman, is not required **but strongly recommended**. This study guide contains hundreds of questions and problems (with answers) that will prove helpful in learning to solve macroeconomic problems.

Throughout the quarter you will also be required to read Peddling Prosperity: Economic Sense and Nonsense in the Age of Diminished Expectations by Paul Krugman.

Course Readings

We will be covering chapters 1-9 in Mankiw and chapters 1-10 in Krugman. The reading assignments for each lecture are outlined in the class schedule below. Lectures will focus on the more difficult material in the readings, but you will be responsible for all of the material in each chapter. You will get a lot more out of this class if you read the required chapters before each lecture.

Attendance

Class attendance is an individual student responsibility. Although daily attendance is not recorded, the lectures will be more mathematical than the text, and I will frequently provide examples during lectures that don't appear in the textbook but are fair game for examination. Thus, frequent absences may adversely impact performance.

Practice Problems

Review questions and practice problems for each chapter are posted on the class website. You are encouraged to work through these problems with your classmates since you will see similar problems on exams. These problems will not be collected and will not be graded.

Examinations

Two midterm exams and one final exam will be given in this section. The midterm exams will be given in class on February 2, 2001 and February 21, 2001. The final exam will be given on March 24, 2001 from 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Both exams will be comprised of analytical problems and multiple-choice questions. No calculators, study aids, or notes will be allowed in the exams.

The midterm exams will be administered at the beginning of the class and will last exactly fifty (50) minutes. Students who arrive late will not receive extra time to complete their exam.

The final exam will last exactly three (3) hours. Once a student completes the exam, then no other student will be permitted to start the exam.

All exams must be given at the scheduled time and place.

Cheating on exams will be brought to the attention of the Dean.

Make-up Examinations

No make-up exams will be given in this class. Students who miss the midterm exam without a university accepted excuse will receive a grade of zero (0) for the exam. Students who miss the midterm with a university accepted excuse will have the weight of the final exam increased accordingly. You must take the final exam to receive a grade in this course.

Excuses for missed exams must be pre-approved by the instructor (except when this is not possible in an emergency situation). Students who make initial contact after the exam will have to document why they could not make contact prior to the exam. In addition, any student who misses an exam due to physical illness will be required to provide documentation from a health care professional indicating why the student was physically unable to take the exam. All documentation and an additional signed written statement explaining the relevant circumstances of the absence must be provided to the instructor within two working days of the student's return to campus. Failure to comply with any of the above in the specified manner will result in a grade of zero (0) for the exam.

Grading

Numerical grades will be assigned as follows:

Midterm Exam I	=	20%
Midterm Exam II	=	30%
<u>Final Exam</u>	=	<u>50%</u>
Total	=	100%

Letter grades will be allocated using the following breakdown:

Letter	A	A-	B+	B	B-
Numerical Range	87%-100%	82%-86%	77%-81%	74%-76%	70%-73%
Letter	C+	C	C-	D	F
Numerical Range	67%-69%	64%-66%	60%-63%	50%-59%	0%-49%

Class Schedule

<u>Month</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>
January	08	Introduction and Mankiw Chapter 1
	10	Mankiw Chapter 2 and Krugman Introduction and Chapter 1
	12	Mankiw Chapter 2
	15	<i>University Holiday – Class and Office Hours Cancelled</i>
	17	Mankiw Chapter 2 and Krugman Chapter 2
	19	<i>Class and Office Hours Cancelled – Makeup Class To Be Announced</i>
	22	Mankiw Chapter 6
	24	Mankiw Chapter 3 and Krugman Chapter 3
	26	Mankiw Chapter 3
	29	Mankiw Chapter 3
	31	Mankiw Chapter 3 and Krugman Chapter 4
February	02	Midterm I (Covers Mankiw Chs 1-3 and 6; Krugman Chs 1-4)
	05	Mankiw Chapter 4 and Krugman Chapter 5
	07	Mankiw Chapter 4
	09	<i>Class and Office Hours Cancelled – Makeup Class To Be Announced</i>
	12	Mankiw Chapter 4 and Krugman Chapter 6
	14	Mankiw Chapter 5
	16	Mankiw Chapter 5 and Krugman Chapter 7
	19	<i>University Holiday – Class and Office Hours Cancelled</i>
	21	Midterm II (Covers Mankiw Chs 1-6; Krugman Chs 1-7)
	23	<i>Class and Office Hours Cancelled – Makeup Class To Be Announced</i>
	26	Mankiw Chapter 7
March	28	Mankiw Chapter 7 and Krugman Chapter 8
	02	Mankiw Chapter 8
	05	Mankiw Chapter 8
	07	Mankiw Chapter 8 and Krugman Chapter 9
	09	Mankiw Chapter 8
	12	Mankiw Chapter 9
	14	Mankiw Chapter 9 and Krugman Chapter 10
	16	Review
	24	Final Exam (Covers Mankiw Chs 1-9; Krugman Chs 1-10)