Economics 110A – Winter 2003
Macroeconomics

Instructor:	Genevieve Peters
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Classroom:	Center 115
Class Time:	TuTh 5:00 p.m. – 6:20 p.m.
Class Web Page:	http://weber.ucsd.edu/~gpeters/econ110a/

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 U.S. economy will recover.

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, Fifth Edition by N. Gregory Mankiw. The Student Guide and Workbook 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.

Course Readings

We will be covering chapters 1-4, 6, 9-11, and 13 from Mankiw's text. 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 provide examples during lectures that don't appear in the textbook but are fair game for examination. Thus, frequent absences may adversely affect performance.

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Class Schedule

Month	Day	Reading Assignment
January	07	Chapter 1
	09	Chapter 2
	14	Chapter 2
	16	Chapter 3
	21	Chapter 3
	23	Chapter 4
	28	Chapter 4
	30	**Midterm I (Chapters 1-4)**
February	04	Chapter 6
	06	Chapter 6
	11	Chapter 9
	13	Chapters 9, 10
	18	Chapter 10
	20	Chapter 10
	25	**Midterm II (Chapters 1-4, 6, 9, 10)**
	27	Chapter 11
March	04	Chapter 11
	06	Chapters 11, 13
	11	Chapter 13
	13	Chapter 13
	17	**Final Exam (Chapters 1-4, 6, 9-11, 13)**

Practice Problems

A course reader including review questions, practice problems, and sample exams will be available from the AS Soft Reserves. Additionally, solutions to the problems at the end of each chapter in Mankiw's text are available at the reserve desk of Geisel Library. 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 January 30, 2003 and February 25, 2003. The final exam will be given on March 17, 2003 from 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. All three exams will be comprised of analytical problems and multiple-choice questions. No calculators, study aids, or notes will be allowed in these exams.

Midterm exams will be administered in Center 115 at the beginning of the class and will last exactly eighty (80) minutes. Students who arrive late will not receive extra time to complete their exam.

The final exam will be administered in Center 115 and will last exactly three (3) hours. Once a student completes the exam, then no other student will be permitted to start the exam.

Students must take all exams at the scheduled time and place.

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

Missed Examinations

No make-up exams will be given in this class. Students who miss a midterm exam without a university accepted excuse will receive a grade of **zero (0)** for the exam. Students who miss a 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 I	=	20%
Midterm II	=	30%
Final Exam	=	50%
Total	=	100%

Here is a simple example. Suppose that a student received the following scores:

Midterm 1 = 68.0 % Midterm 2 = 62.5 % Final Exam = 76.0 %

Step 1: Calculate a weighted average of the percent scores.

Final percent score = 0.2 (Midterm 1 %) + 0.3 (Midterm 2 %) + 0.5 (Final exam %)
$\Rightarrow$ Final percent score = 0.2 (68.0 %) + 0.3 (62.5 %) + 0.5 (76.0 %)
$\Rightarrow$ Final percent score = 13.6 % + 18.75 % + 38.0 %
$\Rightarrow$ Final percent score = 70.35 %

Step 2: Round your final percent score to the nearest whole number using the standard mathematical rules for rounding (i.e., 62.4 % rounds down to 62 %, and 62.5 % rounds up to 63 %)

Final percent score (rounded to nearest whole number) = 70 %

Step 3: Find the letter grade in the scale provided below.

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%

For this student, the final letter grade would be B-.