

Syllabus
Principles of Macroeconomics
Econ 201 Section 001
Summer, 2010

Instructor: Dr. Geoffrey Black

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Office Hours: By appointment.

Class Time and Location: Mon-Thurs 9:40-11:40 am in Business 102-B

Text: Macroeconomics Principles and Tools by Arthur O'Sullivan, Steven Sheffrin, and Stephen Perez (6th edition), Prentice Hall, 2010

Course Description and Goals:

The primary objective of this course is to enable you to appreciate the "economic way of thinking." By doing so, you will be able to apply this way of thinking to events in everyday life, to questions about the economy as a whole, and to a wide range of social issues and policy questions. For example, after taking this course, you should be able to explain economic constructs such as GDP, unemployment, and inflation and you should be able to explain the ways in which governments attempt to influence the economy and their limitations. More specifics are provided in the Economics Department's Learning Goals for Macroeconomics.

Assessment:

Your progress toward achieving the above goals will be assessed by a series of weekly short exams, weekly online assignments from the text's support site MyEconLab, in class exercises, one group project, and class participation. There are 120 points possible for the class. There will be five weekly exams each worth 10 points. There will be five weekly online assignments each worth 5 points. There will be a series of in-class exercises worth a total of 25 points. The group project is worth 10 points, and class participation is worth up to 10 points. No make-up exams will be given. No late assignments or assessments will be accepted.

The following grading scale will be used for the class: A = 90% and above; B = 89%-80%; C = 79%-69%; D = 68%-56%; F = below 55% of the total possible points. I reserve the right to adjust each student's grade up or down somewhat according to class participation.

You can keep track of your scores as we go through the semester by using the 'Check Grade' link under the 'Tools' tab. Please be aware that the gradebook function in Blackboard is not very robust. You can see your scores on the quizzes, exams, and assignments, but will not get an accurate reading of your

overall percentage or other statistics. Please keep this in mind when trying to determine your grade throughout the semester using the grading scale given above.

Class Policy:

No make-up exams will be given. No late assignments or assessments will be accepted. Missing an exam, assignment, or project will hurt your grade.

Responsibilities and Department:

To do well in the course, I suggest the following two strategies on an ongoing basis. First, you should read the text and work your way through the online lecture for each chapter before we start to cover the material in class. Second, participate in the class discussions and activities. To be able to do the second strategy effectively, you'll need to follow the first strategy!

In this class, we are all participants in the educational process. This means that we all have certain responsibilities. Your responsibilities, like mine, include being well prepared for class. This means that our job is to read the assigned readings before coming to class and to be prepared to discuss the topic at hand. Your attendance, like mine, is expected. If you miss class, make sure you arrange to obtain the information presented. My responsibility is to have well-prepared lectures, assignments, and exams on the dates specified on the course schedule and to be an active participant in the course. Your responsibility is to submit the assignments at the beginning of class on the due dates, to take the exams on the assigned dates, and to be an active participant in the course. Being participants in the educational process also means that we conduct ourselves in class in a manner that facilitates the learning process for each other. I will make every attempt not to come late to class, leave early, be disruptive, answer phone calls, or otherwise treat you disrespectfully. I expect you to do the same. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of misconduct will not be tolerated. Note: you can work together on homework assignments and problem sets. However, each of you must submit your own work. Submitting someone else's work as your own constitutes cheating. You should familiarize yourself with the University's [Student Code of Conduct](#), as I will follow the policies detailed therein. For your research and written work, I highly recommend the [COBE Writing Guide](#). It gives great advice on conducting research and writing a variety of assignments.

The Deal:

This Syllabus and Course Schedule (on Blackboard) are essentially a contract between you and me. By choosing to remain in the course after reading this syllabus, you are implicitly agreeing to the requirements of the course and to submit the graded materials at the times specified. Remember, there will be no make-up quizzes given. If you miss one, you will lose the associated points but learn more about the concept of opportunity costs!