

University of West Georgia

Principles of Macroeconomics Econ 2105 Syllabus Spring 2015

Course Information

Principles of Macroeconomics

Course Abbreviation: Econ 2105

Class Time and Location: T/Th 11:00am-12:20pm Miller Hall 1201

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: You will need access to a computer that is capable of running CourseDen (D2L).

Course Description: A study of the economy as a whole including production, economic fluctuations, inflation, unemployment, public policy, and international economics. The course is intended to introduce students to concepts that will enable them to understand and analyze economic aggregates and evaluate economic policies.

Class Type: This is a hybrid class. Approximately 70% of class meetings will be face-to-face while 30% will be online.

Instructor Information

Name: Dr. Mary Mathewes Kassis

Instructor Contact Information

On Campus Office Hours: T/Th 8:30am-9:30am, 12:20pm–2:20pm, and by appointment

Online Office Hours: Wednesdays 9:00am - 10:00am and by appointment.

To talk with me during the online office hours, please email me in CourseDen, and we can meet in the CourseDen chat room.

Office Locations: Miller Hall 1310

Office Phone Number: 678-839-4777

Email: There are two methods for contacting me by Email.

1. CourseDen mail found in your CourseDen course on the course toolbar.

2. UWG email: mkassis@westga.edu

Please use CourseDen mail for all course correspondence. My UWG email should be used in emergencies only. I will NOT respond to course related questions sent to my UWG email.

Response Time: I will respond within 1 business day (M-F) to all emails unless I inform you of any exceptions. I will expect the same response time from you.

Required Text

Required Textbook: McEachern, *Principles of Macroeconomics 4th ed.*, South-Western. In addition, the online program Aplia and the textbook web material (CourseMate) are also required for this course (the ISBN for the bundle is 1-305-70729-X). The textbook package **must** be purchased directly from Cengage at the following microsite (http://www.cengagebrain.com/micro/customUWGA_ECON2105). Because the online material is integrated directly into CourseDen a special access code is required so you must purchase the package directly from Cengage. All students should register for Aplia before the second class meeting on January 8.

A link to the PowerPoint slides that will be used during the lecture can be found on the CourseDen course homepage.

Expected Learning Objectives

The overall objective of this course is for you to learn basic economic concepts, specifically macroeconomics, and more about the economic system in which we live. To this end, upon completion, students will:

- Be able to describe basic economic concepts such as scarcity and opportunity costs (LG4, LG7, LG8)
- Demonstrate a basic knowledge of macroeconomic concepts such as gross domestic product, inflation and unemployment (LG4, LG7)
- Demonstrate a basic knowledge of international economics including concepts such as exchange rates and net exports (LG4, LG5, LG7, LG8, LG9)
- Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the banking system, the impact of the Federal Reserve on the economy, and government taxation and spending policy (LG7)
- Be able to analyze the effectiveness of fiscal and monetary policy in combating inflation or unemployment (LG4, LG7)
- Be able to apply macroeconomic models such as aggregate supply and demand to the analysis of current economic issues (LG4, LG7, LG9)
- Demonstrate an understanding of the social, cultural, and / or political development of the people and institutions of the United States (US Perspectives Core Overlay)

Note: A complete list of expected learning goals (LG) for the Economics Department can be found at the department web site http://www.westga.edu/econ/index_12904.php.

Attendance

Students will be asked to fill out a seating chart on the fourth day of class (January 15) based on the seat that they have chosen for that day. Students will be asked to sit in the same seat every class period following.

Although class attendance and participation are essential to success in the class, the professor will not drop students from the class due to nonattendance. Students who wish to withdraw from the class must do so by contacting the registrar's office directly. The last day to withdraw with a grade of W is February 27.

Assessment

You will be graded based on your performance on three tests, the final examination, Aplia assignments, a current economic conditions assignment, and in-class exercises/homework as described below. Extra credit is not an option in this course.

Tests and Final Exam – There will be three tests and a final exam. The tests will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false questions and short answer problems. The questions will be based on reading assignments, lectures, online material, in-class exercises, Aplia assignments, homework, and class discussions. Each test is worth 19% of your grade. The final exam will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. The final exam will NOT be comprehensive and is worth 19% of your grade. You are responsible for bringing a No. 2 pencil and a simple calculator for each exam (no graphing or cell phone calculators allowed).

Examination Schedule:

Exam #1 – January 27

Exam #2 – February 19

Exam #3 – March 12

Final Exam – Tuesday, April 21, 11:00am-12:30pm

Aplia Assignments – There will be assignments made on Aplia each week. The Aplia week begins on Monday and ends on Sunday. The due date for Aplia assignments for each week is 11:45pm on the Sunday that ends the week, unless the professor notifies you otherwise. The grades on the Aplia homework will be worth 10% of your final grade. The three lowest assignment grades in Aplia will be dropped when calculating your final Aplia grade. **Aplia assignments will not be accepted late – no exceptions!** Instructions for how to register for and use Aplia can be found in CourseDen. All students must register for Aplia by January 8.

Current Economic Conditions Assignment: Throughout the semester, students are expected to follow current economic events by participating in class discussions, watching the news, and reading newspaper and internet stories about the U.S. economy. At the end of the semester, students will be required to watch an online presentation on the current economy and read an article assigned by the professor on the current U.S. economy. Students then will have to write a response to questions relating the presentation and article to the material covered in class this semester. Links to the article, the narrated PowerPoint presentations, and discussion questions will be available in CourseDen by March 12. Your response to the current economic conditions questions must be typed in paragraph form and will be due in class on Tuesday, April 7. The current economic conditions assignment is worth 7% of your grade.

In-Class Exercises/ Homework – Most classes will include in-class assignments and all online modules will have homework. The lowest in-class exercise/homework grade will be dropped in calculating your final average. In-class exercises/homework will be worth 7% of your final grade.

Makeup Tests – Students will only be allowed to makeup missed tests in the case of **DOCUMENTED** medical emergencies. Students should contact the professor as soon as possible after missing the test to make arrangements for a makeup test. Students who do not contact the professor within one week of missing a test will not be allowed to makeup the test.

Academic Dishonesty

Cheating and plagiarism are violations of the University's Honor Code. The penalty for academic dishonesty may include an F in the class.

Grading Scale

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 and below

CourseDen (D2L)

CourseDen (D2L) is the software used to deliver the online portion of this course. Please go to <http://westga.view.usg.edu> and then enter your username and password on the left side of the page. Log in using the default user name and password. From this page you can also do a system check, which is a useful utility if you're ever having trouble with CourseDen.

Help! I can't get CourseDen to work!

If you experience problems using CourseDen don't panic! Please use the support link below: <https://D2LHelp.view.usg.edu>

UWG strives to solve all CourseDen related problems within 48 hours. While UWG will do their part to help you resolve problems and other situation regarding CourseDen, you do have some responsibilities.

1. You must seek help. See the link above.
2. Don't wait 2-3 days to report a problem. Do it immediately!
3. Notify me if your problems haven't been resolved within 2 business days.
4. Have an alternate computer access plan. If your ISP suddenly goes out of business, or your disk crashes, or your puppy chews up your modem, or you experience some other personal hardware issue, you are responsible for having an emergency alternative computer access plan. Know in advance where you can go (library, Internet cafe, friend's house, workplace) if your primary system fails!
5. If you are experiencing technical issues with CourseDen (not your computer /ISP) that are preventing you from turning in an assignment, responding to mail/discussions, or taking an assessment you have 2 responsibilities:
 - a. Contact the helpdesk by phone: 678-839-6248, or by e-mail: distance@westga.edu. If it's after office hours you can go to <https://D2LHelp.view.usg.edu> for additional support.
 - b. Notify me via mail, personal email, or phone

Aplia Technical Support

If you are having problems with Aplia or the textbook online material. You should begin by submitting a support case via the Cengage Learning Technical Support Link in CourseDen. Once your case is submitted, you'll receive a case ID and access to 24/7 email or live chat. Or you can speak with an agent by calling the phone number provided upon your case submission.

Class Cancellation

In the event that classes are canceled, please check the CourseDen class homepage for assignments and course announcements. If classes are cancelled on the day of an exam or that the current economic conditions assignment is due, the exam will be given or the assignment will be due on the first class meeting following the cancellation.

Credit Hour Policy (3 credit hours)

For approximately fifteen weeks, students in this class will generally spend 150 minutes with direct faculty instruction (either face-to-face or online) and work about 360 minutes

outside of the classroom each week. This out-of-class work may include, but is not limited to, readings, assignments, projects, group work, research, and test preparation.

Official Communication

All official communications from the university will be through campus email (MyUWG). The professor will use CourseDen for general class announcements.

Student Rights and Responsibilities:

Please carefully review the information at the following link:

http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

Course Outline

Chapter 1	The Art and Science of Economic Analysis
Chapter 2	Economic Tools and Economic Systems
Chapter 3	Economic Decision Makers
Chapter 4	Demand, Supply, and Markets
Chapter 5	Introduction to Macroeconomics
Chapter 6	Tracking the U.S. Economy
Chapter 7	Unemployment and Inflation
Chapter 8	Productivity and Growth
Chapter 9	Aggregate Expenditure and Aggregate Demand
Chapter 10	Aggregate Supply
Chapter 11	Fiscal Policy
Chapter 12	Federal Budgets and Public Policy
Chapter 13	Money and the Financial System
Chapter 14	Banking and the Money Supply
Chapter 15	Monetary Theory and Policy

The Schedule for each week (chapters covered, online material and Aplia assignments) can be found in your CourseDen calendar. Please click the calendar tool on the CourseDen course toolbar.

This course syllabus provides a general plan for the course. However, deviations may be necessary.