

University of West Georgia

Principles of Macroeconomics Econ 2105 Syllabus Fall 2015

Course Information

Principles of Macroeconomics

Course Abbreviation: Econ 2105

Credit Hours: 3

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

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 an online class. There will be two proctored exams (a midterm and a final exam).

Instructor Information

Name: Dr. Mary Mathewes Kassis



Office: Miller Hall 1310

Instructor Contact Information

On Campus Office Hours: T/Th 9:00 am- 9:30 am and 10:45 am – 2:00 pm, and by appointment.

Office Location: Miller Hall 1310

Office Phone Number: 678-839-4777

Online Office Hours: Wednesdays 9:30 am - 10:30 am and by appointment.

To talk with me during the online office hours, please send me an email in CourseDen and then we can meet in the chat room or talk on the phone. To schedule an appointment for online offices hours at another time, please email me.

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 Textbooks: McEachern, Macro ECON⁵, Cengage. In addition, you will need a custom access code for CourseDen (D2L) and Aplia. The textbook package **must** be purchased directly from Cengage at the following microsite (<http://services.cengagebrain.com/course/site.html?id=1682935>). Because the online material is integrated directly into CourseDen a special access code is required so you must purchase the package directly from Cengage (you cannot purchase it from the bookstore). The price for the package (including a hard copy of the textbook) is \$87.94. You will also have the option to purchase an access code directly from Aplia, but this will not include a hard copy of the textbook (and usually costs more) so all students should use the website above to purchase their textbook package. All students should register for Aplia by the end of the first week of classes (August 14). (You can register for and use Aplia without paying for the first 3 weeks so if you are waiting on financial aid you can still register and get started on your assignments).

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/1718.php>.

Student Responsibilities in an Online Course

Many students find the student responsibilities and expectations for online courses to be different from student responsibilities and expectations for traditional classroom courses. The following statements identify your responsibilities in this course. If you are not able to agree to all of the statements, perhaps you should re-consider taking this course in an online format.

1. I will read the syllabus carefully and will purchase the required textbook package the first week of class.
2. I will ask questions if I do not understand the course material or if I need clarification about the assignments.
3. I will manage my time in a way that allows me to thoughtfully and thoroughly complete assignments. I will not try to complete a week's worth of assignments in one rushed day.
4. I will be responsible for keeping up with assignment due dates and submitting them on time.
5. I understand that technical problems with my personal computer or network connection are not an acceptable excuse for failing to turn in assignments. I have an emergency alternative computer access plan (college computer lab, library, workplace, friend's house, etc.) that I can use if my personal computer equipment is not working.
6. I understand that technical problems with CourseDen require that I contact the helpdesk by phone: 678-839-6248, or by e-mail: distance@westga.edu. For problems with Aplia or the online textbook material, I should contact Cengage customer support and file a tech support ticket at:
<http://support.cengage.com/magellanweb/ClassLandingPage.aspx?OptyId=1169386&AccountId=1-U0-13&TechCode=TPC03M%2cTPC32>
7. I agree to check into our CourseDen classroom at least 3-5 days per week and understand that I am expected to be working online a minimum of 8 hours per week.

Assessment

You will be graded based on your performance on four online quizzes, a face-to-face midterm exam, a face-to-face final exam, CourseDen discussion assignments and syllabus quiz, Aplia homework, and a current economic conditions assignment. Extra credit is not an option in this course.

Face-to-Face Midterm and Final Exams: There will be a face-to-face midterm exam and a face-to-face final exam. The exams will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false questions

and short answer problems. The questions will be based on reading assignments, videos, online assignments, and Aplia homework. Each exam is worth 25% of your grade. You are responsible for bringing a No. 2 pencil for each exam. Scantron forms and a simple calculator will be provided. (If you take the exam at an off-campus testing center you are responsible for bringing your own calculator.) Students will need to bring their UWG student ID card or a driver's license to check in for the exams.

Examination Schedule:

Midterm Exam - Thursday, September 29, 8:00am – 9:15am, Miller Hall Room 1309

Final Exam -Tuesday, December 6, 8:30am-9:45am, Miller Hall Room 1309

If you cannot make the scheduled times above, on campus proctoring is also available on through the economics department for the midterm exam on Friday, September 30, between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm, and for the final exam on Friday, December 9, between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm. Students who need to schedule their exam during one of the Friday proctoring periods **must** make arrangements with me at least two weeks before the exam.

Course exams will be administered during the proctored times listed above at the UWG Carrollton campus free of charge. Alternatively, students can choose to take the exams at an approved off-campus (non-UWG) testing site (for a fee paid to that site -- fees may vary anywhere from \$10 to \$50 or higher). All off-campus testing requires both approval by me and a minimum of a two-week notice to coordinate. Please see this link for a list of approved off-campus testing sites: <https://www.westga.edu/uwgonline/exam-sites.php>.

Online Quizzes - There will be four 45 minute online open book/open notes CourseDen quizzes. The quizzes will be multiple-choice and will be available for a 24 hour period (from Thursday at 7:00 pm until Friday at 7:00 pm on the assigned dates). The quizzes are worth 15% of your grade. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Online Quiz Schedule:

Quiz 1 – 7:00 pm on Thursday, September 1 – 7:00 pm on Friday, September 2.

Quiz 2 - 7:00 pm on Thursday, September 22 – 7:00 pm on Friday, September 23.

Quiz 3 - 7:00 pm on Thursday, October 27 – 7:00 pm on Friday, October 28.

Quiz 4 - 7:00 pm on Thursday, November 17 – 7:00 pm on Friday, November 18.

Aplia Homework: There will be assignments made on Aplia each week. The assignment week for this course 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 15% of you final grade. The three lowest assignment grades in Aplia will be dropped when calculating your final Aplia homework

grade. Aplia assignments will not be accepted late - **no exceptions!** Instructions for how to register for Aplia can be found in the week 1 learning module.

CourseDen Discussion Assignments and Syllabus Quiz: Students will be assigned discussion topics throughout the semester to be completed using the CourseDen discussion board. Initial discussion posts are typically due by 11:45 pm on the Wednesday of the week the discussion is assigned. Your responses to other students' posts are typically due at 11:45 pm on the Sunday that ends the week they are assigned. During the first week of class, students will take a syllabus quiz in CourseDen. The grade for this quiz will count the same as a discussion assignment. These assignments are worth 10% of your final grade. The lowest discussion assignment grade will be dropped when calculating the final discussion grade. Discussion assignments will not be accepted late – **no exceptions!**

Current Economic Conditions Assignment: Throughout the semester, students are expected to follow current economic events by 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 articles and narrated PowerPoint presentation will be available in CourseDen by November 7. The current economic conditions assignment will be submitted in CourseDen and will be **due by 5:00 pm on Monday, November 28**. The current economic conditions assignment is worth 10% of your grade.

Makeup Tests - Students will only be allowed to makeup missed exams in the case of DOCUMENTED medical emergencies. Students should contact the professor as soon as possible after missing the exam to make arrangements for a makeup test. Students who do not contact the professor within one week of missing an exam will not be allowed to makeup the exam. If students miss one of the online quizzes, then that quiz grade will be the quiz grade that is dropped.

Netiquette Policy

Netiquette is online etiquette. It is important that all participants in online courses be aware of proper online behavior and show respect to each other.

Use appropriate language for an educational environment:

- Use complete sentences
- Use proper spelling and grammar
- Avoid slang and uncommon abbreviations
- Do not use obscene or threatening language
- Avoid using all capital letters AS IT CAN BE INTERPRETED AS SHOUTING

Smarthinking Online Tutoring

Student in this class will have access to free online tutoring through Smarthinking. The link to access this service can be found on the left hand side of the CourseDen portal.

WOLF PACT

By enrolling and continuing in this course you agree to the following.

Having read the Honor Code for the University of West Georgia, I understand and accept my responsibility to uphold the values and beliefs described therein and to conduct myself in a manner that will reflect the values of the Institution and the Richards College of Business so as to respect the rights of all UWG community members. As a UWG student, **I will represent myself truthfully and complete all academic assignments honestly and within the parameters set by my instructor.** I understand and accept that if I am found guilty of violations (through processes due me as a UWG student and outlined in the UWG Student Handbook), penalties will be imposed. I also recognize that my responsibility includes willingness to confront members of the UWG community if I feel there has been a violation of the Honor Code. Ultimately, I will conduct myself in a manner that promotes UWG as the best place to work, learn, and succeed for my generation, and those to come!

ACADEMIC HONESTY GUIDELINES

Any quiz or exam, given online or in class, is an individual assignment where collaboration is not allowed. All written assignments should be written in the student's own words and all sources should be cited. Using another person's words or ideas without citing them is plagiarism. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please review the information from the Department of English and Philosophy at the following link:

http://www.westga.edu/english/1138_2219.php.

Grading Scale

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

D2L/CourseDen

D2L/CourseDen is the software used to deliver this online course. Please go to <http://westga.view.usg.edu>. Log in using your user name and password. From this page you can also use the "System Checker" tool (located below the login box), which is a useful utility if you're ever having trouble with D2L/CourseDen.

Help! I can't get CourseDen to work!

If you experience problems using CourseDen, don't panic! Please use the support link:

<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 situations 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 D2L/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> or call 1-855-772-0423 (toll free) for additional support.
 - b. Notify me via mail, personal email, or phone after you contact the helpdesk.

Aplia/Cengage Customer Support Website

If you are having problems with Aplia or the online textbook material (as opposed to CourseDen), please contact customer support using the link below to access technical support:

<http://support.cengage.com/magellanweb/ClassLandingPage.aspx?OptyId=1169386&AccountId=1-U0-13&TechCode=TPC03M%2cTPC32>

Official Communication

All official communications from the university will be through campus email (MyUWG). The professor will use D2L/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

The document at this link contains important information pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester.

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 videos, discussion assignments, and Aplia assignments) can be found in CourseDen under the content link.

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