

SYLLABUS

Course: Intermediate Macroeconomics
Office: 118 Thomas Hall (phone: 376-4630)
Office Hours: MTWT 2:00 – 3:00pm
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Course Home Page: <http://www.marietta.edu/~delemeeg/econ375>

Prerequisite

Economics 211 and 212.

Course Description and Objectives

This is a second course in macroeconomics. Macroeconomics is an investigation into the determinants of such broad (aggregate) economic issues as GDP, inflation, and unemployment, both in the short-run and the long-run. The economy is broken down into several major sectors in order to simplify the analysis. These include: (1) household consumption, (2) business investment, (3) government expenditures, and (4) international trade. Together with several aggregated markets such as the money and labor markets, an overall picture (i.e., model) of how our macro-economy behaves through time is developed.

The study of macroeconomics, however, is ripe with controversy regarding what the most appropriate model should be. Which model you believe to be correct will influence the appropriateness and nature of any policy prescriptions. As such, special attention is also given to the political and institutional mechanisms affecting the economy.

The mechanics of the course assume a working knowledge of two dimensional graphs and basic algebraic techniques.

With this said, upon completing this course you should be able to:

- understand the determinants of national income, inflation, unemployment, and interest rates.
- understand the determinants of business cycles and economic growth
- understand discussions involving business and politics.
- ask good questions, both to yourself and to others.
- make good conjectures regarding the answers.

Text/Websites

Macroeconomics by Greg Mankiw (Worth, 6e) is required. Mankiw also maintains a web site for text users at this link: www.worthpublishers.com/mankiw6.

Responsibilities*

I see my primary responsibility to lead, guide, and motivate a group of committed and dedicated students in the learning process, and to determine the extent to which students have mastered the material covered in this course. I am committed to this task. By signing up for this course, you have accepted the responsibility of being an active learner and of participating in the classroom discussion. Most importantly, students are expected to be committed to learning the subject matter. If you are not open to new ideas, or are not committed, expect your grade to reflect this.

Grades are a carrot that encourages learning. While I will not hesitate to give a poor grade when your performance indicates that you have not learned the material, I want to see everyone do well. Thus, I will do my best to help you understand the topics and to do well on the exams. I realize that you have a busy schedule and often face difficulty in getting in enough time to study. This makes it all the more important to get involved while you are here. We are going to have fun but expect to work hard. In the past I have found that students in my courses experience unpleasant surprises on tests because they mistake my easy-going personality for an easy-going tester. I don't want this to happen to you, so for your sake put in the time that you need to really know the material. More than anything, this means reading the book before class and doing problems. Just coming to class (and cramming a little before the tests) is not going to work very well for you in this course.

Finally, I would like you to help me make this a better course. I have provided a [lecture evaluation form](#) on my web page for you to complete after every lecture. The form provides you with an anonymous means of communicating to me your impression of the day's lecture. Please take the time to fill out the form as it will help me understand which topics may require more in-depth discussion or elaboration.

Econ 375 Course Schedule: Spring 2008

Part I: Macro Data and Classical Theory Chapter 1 Chapter 2 Chapter 3 Chapter 4 Chapter 6 Project 1: February 11, 2008 Exam 1: February 12, 2008	Part III: Macro Policy Debates Chapter 13 Chapter 14 Chapter 15 Project 3: April 7, 2008 Exam 3: April 8, 2008
Part II: Business Cycle Theory Chapter 9 Chapter 10 Chapter 11 Project 2: March 5, 2008 Exam 2: March 6, 2008	Part IV: Growth Theory Chapter 7 Chapter 8 Epilogue Project 4: May 1, 2008 Exam 4: May 8, 2008 (8:30am)