Principles of Macroeconomics
ECO – 231 – 500
Spring 2016
Online

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Office Hours: Office Hours: 8:30 – 11:00 and 12:15 – 12:45, Tuesday and Thursday; or by appointment.
Online Office Hours: 9:00 – 11:00, Monday and Wednesday.

Course Description: An introduction to the behavioral science of economics that focuses on the aggregate behavior of households, firms and the government. Topics covered include gross domestic product, national income, economic growth, unemployment, inflation, the business cycle, fiscal policy and monetary policy, and international trade.

Program Learning Outcomes: Program learning outcomes define the knowledge, skills, and abilities students are expected to demonstrate upon completion of an academic program. These learning outcomes are regularly assessed to determine student learning and to evaluate overall program effectiveness. You may access the program learning outcomes for your major and particular courses at http://www.sfasu.edu/cob/ug-plo.asp.

General Education Core Curriculum Objectives/Outcomes: This course has been selected to be part of Stephen F. Austin State University’s core curriculum. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six objectives for all core courses: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Teamwork, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. SFA is committed to the improvement of its general education core curriculum by regular assessment of student performance on these six objectives.

- **Critical Thinking (C):** To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- **Communication (V):** To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
  - This course includes instruction in visual communication.
  - Graphic modeling including its proper utilization and interpretation is an integral component of this course.
- **Empirical and Quantitative Skill (E):** To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
- **Social Responsibility (S):** To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of:

- News relating to the economy as a whole as reported in such publications as The Wall Street Journal (C, S)
- The economic implications of changes in government fiscal or monetary policy (C, V, E, S)
- How interest rates are determined (C, V, E)
- The role of interest rates in personal and corporate decision-making (C, V, E, S)
- Critically apply economic concepts when participating as a citizen in a democratic society (C, S)

In particular, the students should be able to:

- Calculate equilibrium national income levels (C, V, E)
- Calculate and use various multipliers (C, E)
- Convert nominal values to real values (C, E)
- Use a graph to explain the impact of changes in fiscal and/or monetary policy on income and price levels (C, V, E, S)
- Use simple models of international trade to study the flow of goods between countries (C, V, E, S)
- Discuss the costs of protectionism within the context of such models (C, V, E, S)


The Introduction to the course describes how you purchase the textbook and the required Aplia software. All graded homework assignments are completed and graded on Aplia, so you must purchase it. When you register for Aplia, please provide the email address you use most frequently. Occasionally, I will email you with class reminders.

Course Requirements: We will cover the following chapters in order: 1 – 4, 6 (pp. 111 – 121), 23 – 26, 28 – 30, and 33 – 34. Each chapter will have an Aplia problem set due at various times during the semester. There are four quizzes, and a cumulative final exam.
**Course Schedule:** The course is divided into the five sections shown below. Please pay special attention to all the due dates. The due dates will not be changed to accommodate any technical or scheduling issues you may have, so plan accordingly.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Chapters Covered</th>
<th>Various Due Dates</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section 1 (1/18 – 2/9)</td>
<td>Chapters 1 – 4</td>
<td>Chapter 1 Aplia HW – 1/22</td>
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<td>Chapter 2 Aplia HW – 1/26</td>
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<td>Chapter 3 Aplia HW – 2/1</td>
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<td>Chapter 3 Bonus – 2/1</td>
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<td>Chapter 4 Aplia HW – 2/8</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Chapter 4 Bonus – 2/8</td>
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<td><strong>Quiz #1 – 2/9</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Section 2 (2/10 – 3/3)</td>
<td>Chapters 6, 23 – 25</td>
<td>Chapter 6 Aplia HW – 2/12</td>
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<td>Chapter 23 Aplia HW – 2/18</td>
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<td>Chapter 23 Bonus – 2/18</td>
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<td>Chapter 24 Aplia HW – 2/23</td>
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<td>Chapter 25 Aplia HW – 3/1</td>
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<td><strong>Quiz #2 – 3/3</strong></td>
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<td>Chapter 26 Bonus – 3/9</td>
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<td>Chapter 28 Aplia HW – 3/22</td>
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<td>Chapter 28 Bonus – 3/22</td>
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<td>Chapter 29 Aplia HW – 3/29</td>
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<td>Chapter 29 Bonus – 3/29</td>
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<td><strong>Quiz #3 – 3/31</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Section 4 (4/1 – 4/28)</td>
<td>Chapters 30, 33 – 34</td>
<td>Chapter 30 Aplia HW – 4/8</td>
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<td>Chapter 30 Bonus – 4/8</td>
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<td>Chapter 33 Aplia HW – 4/18</td>
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<td>Chapter 33 Bonus – 4/18</td>
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<td>Chapter 34 Aplia HW – 4/26</td>
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<td><strong>Quiz #4 – 4/28</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Section 5 (4/29 – 5/12)</td>
<td>Study for your Final Exam</td>
<td><strong>Final Exam – 5/12</strong></td>
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**Grading:**
- **Quiz #1** Tuesday, February 9th 15%
- **Quiz #2** Thursday, March 3rd 15%
- **Quiz #3** Thursday, March 31st 15%
- **Quiz #4** Thursday, April 28th 15%
- **Problem Sets** Due at various times 15%
- **Final Exam** Thursday, May 12th 25%
Class Policies:

Problem Sets: Each chapter covered with have a problem set associated with it on Aplia. Students will have the opportunity to try each problem set three times. The HIGHEST score is then selected. There are a total of 14 problems sets. I will drop your two lowest problems set scores when calculating your total problem set grade.

Practice Tests: Multiple choice practice exams are available for each chapter. They are not graded, and the answers are provided. The multiple choice problems are drawn from the test bank that used to create your graded exams. The practice exams are designed to familiarize you with the types of questions you will see on your graded exams.

Bonus Problems: I will periodically assign bonus problems, and they will be due at various times during the semester. YOU CAN EARN UP FIVE POINTS ADDED TO YOUR FINAL GRADE IF YOU DO THE BONUS PROBLEMS. For example, suppose I calculate you final grade, and you score an 85. I will then add your bonus problem score to the 85. If you did the bonus problems, and you averaged 100 percent, your bonus problem score is 5 points, and you will receive a 90 in the class. If you did the bonus problems, and you averaged 50 percent, your bonus problem score is 2.5 points, and you will receive an 88 in the class.

Quizzes: Quizzes are multiple choice and, given the online nature of the course, you can use your textbook, notes, etc. The quizzes will open on the dates shown above at 8:00 am, and I will close them at 11:00 pm. Once you begin a quiz, you will have 75 minutes to complete it. You cannot stop the clock once you start the quiz, so make sure you have set aside 75 minutes for yourself.

Final Exam: THE FINAL EXAM IS CUMMULATIVE. YOU CANNOT USE YOUR TEXTBOOK, YOUR LECTURE NOTES, YOUR CELL PHONES, ETC ON THIS EXAM. As you can see in your course schedule above, I have set aside two weeks for you to study for this exam. You will have two hours to complete the final exam.

THE FINAL EXAM IS PROCTORED. All students are required to use a service called ProctorU on the final exam. The service is paid for by the university; however, you may have to upgrade your computer to accommodate the service.

ProctorU, an online proctoring service using live proctors, allows you to take an online exam while being proctored by a live person at a remote location. Taking an exam through ProctorU requires that you have a functioning webcam and microphone. In addition, you will need a reflective surface, such as a hand mirror, CD, or DVD to make sure there is no material (such as sticky notes) on the monitor. You will also need access to a desktop or laptop computer. Tablets, smart phones, Chromebooks, and other mobile devices are not supported at this time.

- It is your responsibility to schedule your exam(s) and abide by all rules for bringing only appropriate materials into your testing area. You will need to provide photo identification to your proctor prior to taking your exam. Appropriate identification includes: driver’s license, SFA student ID, passport, or other government-issued photo identification.

- You must schedule your exam at least four (4) or more days in advance, or you will be required to pay a fee. If you schedule your exam four (4) or more days in advance, you will not need to pay anything! If you schedule later that 4 days before the exam, you may have to pay a late registration fee.
• When you schedule your exam, be sure to take into account that verifying your identity and validating the integrity of your testing area will take a few minutes.

• Before scheduling your exam, you need to ensure your computer is compatible with ProctorU’s software.

• In the weeks/months before your exam, follow these steps to learn how ProctorU works and how to schedule an exam.


  2. Go to Test My Computer to test out your computer to see if everything such as your webcam, microphone, bandwidth, etc., meet the requirements for ProctorU.

  3. You can also visit Technical Specifications for Using ProctorU to see required specifications. Note: Google Chrome is the best browser to use when taking an exam with ProctorU!

  4. Additional specific information is available at ProctorU.com.

• If you take your online exam but do not use ProctorU, you will receive a zero on the exam.

• You will be monitored during the exam. Suspected violations will be noted and a report will be sent to me. If I feel you are violating the rules of the exam, you will receive a zero on the exam.

• Take your exam in a private location. DO NOT TAKE THE EXAM AT STARBUCKS, MCDONALD’S, ETC.

Missed Quizzes: If you miss a quiz, you must choose between two options. Option 1: Accept a zero on the exam. I will weight that zero as 5% of your grade and reweigh the other three exams accordingly. Option 2: Come to the university and take a face-to-face make-up exam. Option 2 probably isn’t possible for the distance learners in the class. However, I do offer bonus problems which will allow you to fill in that zero a bit. DO YOUR BONUS PROBLEMS AS INSURANCE AGAINST INDADVERTENTLY MISSING AN EXAM.

Missed Final Exam: If you miss the final exam, you will receive a zero on it unless you have a university approved excuse.

Concluding Remarks: Please email me if you have any questions about the material. This course is not easy, and some of the material is difficult to understand. Don’t be embarrassed if you don’t understand it after reading over the lecture notes once. If you email me, it’s best not to do so through D2L because I have to get on a computer to answer you. If you use the email address at the top of the syllabus, then I can answer you fairly quickly through my cell phone.

Good Luck!
Student Academic Dishonesty (University Policy 4.1)

Abiding by university policy on academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials on any assignment or exam; (2) falsifying or inventing of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were one’s own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when is at least partly the work of another person; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source; and/or (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author credit. Penalties may include, but are not limited to reprimand, no credit for the assignment or exam, re-submission of the work, make-up exam, failure of the course, or expulsion from the university. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf

Course Grades (University Policy 5.5)

At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F, except as allowed through policy related to active military service. If students register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average. Please refer to the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades.pdf.

Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Room 325 in the Human Services Building, 468-3004/468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Student Conduct (University Policy 10.4)

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the full Student Conduct Code at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-conduct-code.pdf.) Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic, or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/ inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the iCare Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.