

Rhodes College
2000 N Parkway, Memphis, 38112

Department of Economics and Business Administration

Fall Semester 2006

Course Syllabus: **ECON 302 - INTERMEDIATE MACROECONOMICS**
(sections 1 and 2)

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Purpose and contents of the course: This course is a general survey of the major theoretical tools and key policy issues concerning the field of MACRO- ECONOMICS, i.e. the aggregate operation of the economy and (macroeconomic) policy.

Key questions raised in the course include:

What is macroeconomics? (The subject matter of macroeconomics)
What is the analytical tool kit macroeconomists apply?
Why are people unemployed (even when the economy is booming)?
Why are there recessions, and what causes them?
Can the government do anything to combat recessions? Should it?
What determines the price level, and why does the cost of living keep rising?
What is the government budget deficit? How does it affect the economy?
Is a trade deficit good or bad for the economy?
Why are so many countries poor?
What policies might help them grow out of poverty?

Students in the course should aim and expect to:

become familiar with the standard vocabulary and technical terms used in the area of macroeconomics.
understand key theories and models of income determination, inflation, and growth
get some idea of the development of ideas and how to access the relevant literature in the field of macroeconomics
increase their understanding of the economic problems (and potential solutions) arising in the aggregate economy
understand key requirements for – and limitations of – successful government policies in the area of macroeconomics.

Prerequisites: Students taking this course should have taken an introductory course in both micro- and macro-economics. The course does not require the knowledge of calculus, but having some knowledge of this analytical tool will be a definite advantage for anybody considering advanced studies in economics.

Text and readings: The textbook used for this course is:

N. Gregory Mankiw. *Macroeconomics* (Fifth edition). New York: Worth Publishers. 2003.

The textbook is excellent, but not necessarily easy. Students are encouraged to read chapters (at least) twice: one quick reading before the chapter issues are treated in class, and one reading following the class meeting, to make sure the material has been understood. Solving exercises at the end of each chapter is an excellent way to test whether you have understood the material presented in the chapter.

Two copies of a *Study Guide and Workbook* by Roger T. Kaufman accompanying the Mankiw text book is available at the Library Reserve Desk for Econ 302

Additional readings will be flagged in the course schedule (see below) and as the course proceeds). Students are encouraged to explore the topics discussed in class on their own using resources in the library and on the internet. This includes regular study of pertinent articles in THE ECONOMIST, the NEW YORK TIMES, and other current publications.

WebCT: I shall be using webCT for this course, and all students enrolled are expected to be familiar with this software and consult the ECON 302 WEB-CT module regularly for updates, announcements, and revisions.

Given occasional teething problems with the webCT software, the same material is also posted at the following fileserver site:

\\fileserver1\acad_dept_pgm\Econ_Bus\Sturm_Peter\Public\Fall semester classes\ECON 302 Macroeconomics

Always use this site when you have access problems in webCT. (You can normally access this site by clicking on the <Shortcut to acad_dept...> icon on your desk top and then follow the above links).

Course schedule: The course will follow the text book closely, and students are encouraged to read chapters BEFORE the material is discussed in class in order to get an idea of the issues involved and to be better prepared to ask relevant questions in class. An effort will be made to relate the textbook material to current economic policy issues. However, the amount of peripheral and supporting material discussed in class will depend on students' grasp of the basic textbook material, which will be given priority.

COURSE OUTLINE

(approximate and subject to change)

week	date	Topics treated	READINGS	
			obligatory	supplementary
			text book chapter	(see bibliography for details of reference)
1	23/8 to 25/8	Introduction and house keeping Preliminaries Macroeconomics: the subject matter	1	Handouts: 1. Computation of Value Added 2. Basic NA concepts
2	28/8 to 1/9	Macroeconomics: the data Classical Macroeconomics National income The closed economy in the long run	2 3	Readings: OECD (1996) The Economist (13/7/2006) The Economist (9/2/2006) The Economist (13/1/2005) The Economist (17/6/2004) The Economist (27/5/2004)
3	4/9 to 8/9	Money and inflation [Money Supply and Demand	4 18]	The Economist (24/2/2005) The Economist (10/6/2004)
4	11/9 to 15/9	The open economy in the long run	5	further readings to be assigned as course proceeds
5	18/9 to 22/9	Unemployment	6	
6	25/9 to 29/9	Growth Theory Factor accumulation	7	
7	2/10 to 6/10	Technical progress	8	
	9 or 11/10	MIDTERM EXAM		
8	9/10 to 20/10	Business Cycle Analysis Economic fluctuations - an introduction aggregate demand 1: basics of the I-S model	9 10	
9	23/10 - 27/10	aggregate demand 2: using the I-S model	11	
9/10 10	27/10 to 3/11	aggregate demand in an open economy aggregate supply	12 13	
11	6/11 - 10/11	Macroeconomic policy debates Stabilization policies	14	
12	13/11 - 17/11	Government debt	15	
13	20/11 - 1/12	Globalization		
14	12-Apr to 12/12	Epilogue Important lessons Unsolved puzzles	Epilogue	
	TBA	FINAL EXAM		

Examinations, assignments and quizzes: There will be a mid-term and a final exam. These exams will consist of some or all of the following: multiple choice questions, definitions, analytical problems, and discussion questions. The final exam will be cumulative across the entire course, but will stress the material covered since the midterm exam. In an effort to encourage students to read assigned subject matter there will be occasional mini-quizzes at the start of class covering assigned readings. There will also be written homework assignments requiring students to draft short essays on specific topics. These quizzes and assignments will be graded and the scores will enter the final grade (see below).

In addition, occasionally problems (usually from the text book exercises) will be assigned, and students will be called upon in the subsequent class meeting to present their solution to the assigned problem. You can collaborate with fellow students in the solution of assigned problems.

Grading:

The final grade for this course will be computed as follows:

Final exam:	20 %
Midterm exam	20 %
Mini quizzes	20 %
Writing assignments	20 %
Class participation	20 %
Total	100 %

Grades will be assigned according to the following scale,

93-100% = A	80-82% = B-	67-69% = D+
90-92% = A-	77-79% = C+	63-66% = D
87-89% = B+	73-76% = C	60-62% = D-
83-86% = B	70-72% = C-	59 or below = F

Expectations of students

- This is an advanced undergraduate course. Students should expect to be challenged. Command of the basics of economics, as is taught in introductory micro- and macro-courses is assumed.
- Students are expected to complete assignments before the announced deadline – no late work will be accepted. It is recommended to think about (and discuss with fellow students) the exercises at the end of each textbook chapter. Some of this material may be used in quizzes and exams.
- Class attendance is expected and will be recorded. Absence from class should be cleared *ex ante* with the instructor.
- No make-up examinations, quizzes, or assignments will be scheduled. You must be present on the examination dates.

- No cell phones: You may not leave the classroom to make or receive telephone calls! The ringing of cell phones during class is disruptive. Out of respect for your fellow students, please turn cell phones off during class sessions.
- Classes start at the appointed hour, on time. Out of respect for your fellow students, please be prompt. Students who arrive late (after attendance has been taken) will be marked absent for the entire class.
- Class room participation (i.e. asking questions and contributing to discussions) is strongly encouraged. Private conversation during the class is both rude and disruptive of the learning environment. Students who persist in conversations not part of the regular class discussion will be asked to leave the room.

Academic Integrity. Students must do their own work, especially on homework assignments. Copying other persons' (including fellow students') work is plagiarism. Students are expected to be familiar with the Rhodes honor code and to uphold it; cf. www.rhodes.edu/Honor/faculty/classroom-conduct.cfm (a copy is available on the ECON 302 webCT)

Additional readings/References: A selective bibliography is listed in ECON 302 webCT (and also on the Sturm_Peter Public folder).

Disability Services: see information in webCT and contact the instructor.