

# PRINCIPLES OF MACROECONOMICS ECONOMICS 110, ONLINE SPRING 2017

**Dr. Hofer**

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**Office Hours:** As a fully online course, if you have questions you will need to contact me via email. I will be checking my email daily and will respond as soon as possible. That might not be the same day, but it will generally be within 24 hours of your contact.

**Textbook:** McEachern, Macroeconomics: A Contemporary Introduction, 9<sup>th</sup> edition

**Optional:** There is a hard-copy Study Guide available for purchase at the bookstore.

## **Course Description:**

This course will introduce you to the basic ideas of economics, with a focus on the realm of macroeconomics. We will discuss basic characteristics of the United States economy, common business structures including business cooperatives, and develop models that focus on scarcity and costs, supply and demand, international trade, national income, unemployment and inflation, business cycles, the role of government in the economy, as well as other topics.

After the course you should be able to understand the basic tools of macroeconomics, but you should also be able to apply them to understand the macroeconomic issues we read/hear about every day in the news.

## **Course Learning Outcomes for Econ 110**

- Define unemployment, GDP, inflation, fiscal policy, and monetary policy.
- Calculate and use unemployment, GDP, and inflation to analyze macroeconomic performance.
- Apply the Aggregate Supply, Aggregate Demand model to analyze equilibrium outcomes in the macroeconomy.
- Analyze the effects of fiscal and monetary policy on the macroeconomy.

Achievement of the course outcomes will be assessed at the end of the course using a set of questions on the final exam. The School of Business and Economics will aggregate and analyze the data as part of a continuous effort to improve our programs.

## **Grade Determination:**

There will be **three exams** during the term and a **final exam**. The exams will be multiple-choice. Exam questions may require you to use graphs or calculations to determine the correct answer. You may want to use a calculator depending on the subject matter of the exam. **The exam average will count 90% towards your final grade.**

The **final exam** will include questions to measure the course learning outcomes and therefore a portion of the final is cumulative. However, a much greater number of questions will be over the last part of the course. The final exam will be weighted more heavily to reflect the cumulative part of the final exam. The first three exams will count 23% and the final exam will count 31% towards your exam average.

There will be periodic **graded quizzes**. These will be D2L online multiple-choice quizzes, and other online assignments. You will use the graded quizzes to gauge your understanding of the material before the exams. Late quizzes or other online assignments will not be accepted for

any reason. The lowest **two** quiz grades/online assignment grades (on a percentage basis) will be dropped. The average of the quizzes will count 10% towards your final grade.

Grades are based on a 90-80-70-60-50 scale. 100-90 A, 89-80 B, etc. Grades will also show plusses and minuses (89-87 B+, 86-84 B, 83-80 B-).

**No Make-Up Exams Will Be Given.** If you cannot take an exam during the assigned time period due to a MEDICAL EMERGENCY (documentation required) or other valid excuse, the final exam will be weighted more heavily. In order for an exam to be excused, I must be notified (by email) of your absence **PRIOR** to the end of the assigned exam time period. Without prior notification, there will be no excused absence on exams.

Any act of **Academic Dishonesty** will be fully pursued by following University procedures. These are outlined in UWS/UWSP Chapter 14, Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures. Complete information is available at: <http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/CommunityRights.pdf#page=11>

### **Class Lectures:**

A complete set of class lectures (voiced-over Power Points) will be provided in D2L. In general, the lectures will take *approximately* 2 ½ hours per week. You are responsible for all information and assignments presented in online lectures and other content within D2L. Class lectures are a very important source of information for this course. It is highly recommended that you **take notes on the material as you listen to the lecture**. It has been shown in numerous studies, that the act of writing down the information (definitions, graphs, etc.) significantly enhances retention and comprehension of the concepts.

There are two ways to access the lectures: PPT slide show and PPT movie via URL. There are advantages and disadvantages to these two options. Check them out and decide what works best for you. You **MUST** be able to access the lectures in order to complete the course.

The PPT slide shows are voice-over PPTs that also use a pointer. I do make extensive use of the pointer on many slides. If you are using a Mac, you will not be able to see the pointer. Therefore, you will want to watch the lectures through the URL option. This is a movie posted to a URL and should be accessible to anyone with internet access.

Lastly, everyone can print out the PPTs from D2L as slides or handouts. You may want to have the PPTs in front of you while we work through the material, but I generally recommend that students do NOT do this unless they have *very specific learning styles (such as auditory learners who find taking notes while listening is not possible)*. As mentioned above, you should be taking notes on the lectures not reading the PPTs. However, for study purposes, it is often useful to review the PPT slides (or handouts) as a quick reminder of the main points.

**Printouts/postings** will be provided in D2L. In some cases, you will be asked to have a hard copy of a printout in front of you as we work through the material during the lecture. If that is the case, be sure to have that available before you continue with the lecture.

PLEASE NOTE: The approximately 2 ½ hours per week includes only the time necessary to watch and take notes on the video lectures. This does not include time for studying, taking quizzes, other online assignments, etc. **I recommend you allow at least 5 ½ hours per week to devote to this course.** If you fall behind, you should allow ample time to get caught up as soon as possible. This online course will move through the material at a very rapid pace.

I will encourage you to stay on pace with the schedule provided. Quizzes will be available for 1 week and must be completed by the due date. Exams will be taken as scheduled. If you have an excused absence and I am notified prior to the end of the assigned time period (see above) the final exam will be weighted more heavily.

### **Basic Information:**

There are **prerequisites** for this course; you need to have **Math 100 College Algebra** or higher. Topics include: graphing linear equations and inequalities, exponents, radicals, quadratic equations, systems of equations, study of functions including exponentials and logarithmic functions. Please contact me if you are in any doubt as to whether you satisfy this criterion.

I expect students to have **read the text** over *briefly* before they cover the material in the lectures. **In the lecture** I will cover all the technical elements of the material very thoroughly. After viewing the lecture and carefully reviewing your notes, you should then **re-read the text** and the material will now be very familiar. You will then **test your understanding of the concepts** using the **graded D2L quizzes**. These will give you feedback on your knowledge of the material before taking the exams.

### **Email and D2L:**

There is an **email distribution list** for this course. I will be sending information to the class and some individuals by this method. Therefore, you must **check your email frequently**. Students with off-campus, online capability may access their email through the Web. Please feel free to email me at **thofer@uwsp.edu** with any questions or comments regarding course material, assignments, or related matters.