



Channel Islands
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Econ 111

Principles of Macroeconomics

Spring 2020

Online Course

Instructor: Ty Robbins

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Office Hours: Wednesday, 10-11am, or by appointment

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Textbook: *Principles of Economics*, 8th edition by N. Gregory Mankiw
(Cengage Learning), 2017. **(older editions ok!!)**

Online HW: MindTap (<https://www.cengage.com/dashboard/#/course-confirmation/MTPQ557N2ND1>)

Note: Buying access to online HW (MindTap) also gives access to electronic textbook; no need for physical textbook if it's your preference

Course Description: Principles of Macroeconomics introduces the study of the aggregate economy. The course will introduce the basics (fundamentals) of economic theory and reasoning. Moreover, this course will primarily focus on understanding, measuring, and analyzing macroeconomic activity and the role of fiscal and monetary policy in the economy. The course coverage and material will emphasize historical and contemporary economic issues facing the U.S. economy and other developing countries. Topics include major schools of economic thought; aggregate supply and demand; economic measures, fluctuations, and growth; money and banking; stabilization techniques; and international macroeconomics.

Course Objectives:

1. Provide knowledge of data sources for key economic variables.
2. Provide students with the knowledge and understanding to use key economic statistics, such as the unemployment rate, inflation rate, etc. appropriately. The student will recognize the strengths and limitations of these key economic variables.
3. Improve the student's understanding of current economic trends and events and how they impact the nation's politics.
4. Identify the role of fiscal and monetary policy in macroeconomics.

Important Dates:

Exams: **MT1** – 3/12 (R), **MT2** – 4/16 (R), **Final** – 5/21 (R)

Grades: Course grades will be determined by homework (20%), a group project (10%), two midterm exams (20% each), and a final exam (30%).

Homework (20%) – There are four online problem sets for the semester. Please refer to the Course Schedule (below) for when homework is assigned. Access to these problem sets will be via the MindTap website (link above). Answers should be submitted electronically on the Sunday after a problem set is assigned by 11PM. For example, HW #1 assigned Week 3 (2/10-2/14) will be due Sunday 2/16 by 11PM. **No late work will be accepted.** Please note: although problem sets are “assigned” during a particular week, access and start earlier. MindTap permits 3 attempts per HW and keeps the best attempt.

Answers to problem sets will be posted after submission times close, listed on the MindTap website. The lowest problem set grade will be dropped. MindTap homework assignments are not overly difficult and are meant to help you identify the areas you’re struggling with. Even though this work is graded, you are encouraged to work together if you find it beneficial to do so.

Group Project (10%) – Working in groups of 2-3 students, your task is to tackle one of six open-ended macroeconomic debate topics, challenging the need for (or abuse of) governmental, fiscal, and monetary policy to impact the economy. Combining empirical evidence (current & historical data across developed & developing countries) with macroeconomic theoretical models, you’ll compose a 3-5 page report surveying your debate topic. Formal details will be provided after the first midterm.

Exams (MTs: 20% each, Final: 30%) – Three exams (2 midterms, 1 final) with multiple choice and free-response questions comprise the bulk of your course grade. Exams are 90-120 minutes and will be available in Canvas for a **24-hour period on Thursdays** (see Course Schedule below or Important Dates above). Please plan now to accommodate the exam date/time in your calendar. The final, in addition, will be available **Thursday of Finals week** for the same 24-hour window. Reading the book/lectures, completing all assigned homework, reviewing posted solutions for additional practice problems and exams, attending office hours, and forming study groups will help you thrive in this course. There will be no make-up exams. If you miss a midterm with an exceptional documentable excuse (medical emergency or death in the family), the weight of that exam may be added to the final exam provided official documentation of the incident is supplied. If you miss the final exam, you will need to file for an Incomplete in the course. Letter grades for this course are

determined according to the following traditional scale: a weighted-average score of 93% is needed for an A, 90% A-, 87% B+, 83% B, 80% B-, etc.

The final course grade may be curved at my discretion. This may be done only after the final exam is complete to adjust for the course difficulty.

Bonus Quizzes – Random bonus quizzes are given throughout the course. Questions are multiple choice and derive from class materials. 1/15th of the total random quiz points you earn will count as bonus points for the course. For example, if you receive 45 bonus points, I'll add $45/15=3$ percentage points to your final grade. The date of the quizzes will be random in nature. The objective of the bonus points is to provide some direct incentive for class attendance and actively keeping up with the material.

Participation/Attendance – While attendance is not taken and participation will not directly factor into your course grade, attending lectures and joining discussions is beneficial for your own understanding of the material, helps your peers, and maintains a lively atmosphere. Regular participation (asking insightful questions in lecture/forums and offering helpful solutions to lecture/online problems) signals extra effort and intellectual growth through the semester. Special consideration may be given to a student's final course grade if on the border between two grades and the student exhibits growth and continued classroom/office hour/forum participation through the semester.

Grade Appeals – If you believe a mistake was made in grading your exam, submit a written appeal within one week after I return the exam in class. Attach the relevant exam along with a hand-written explanation of the appeal.

E-mail: I may occasionally send out course announcements to your [CI email address](#) or through [CILEarn](#). Please be aware that the University has a spam filter that may screen out email sent from third-party email providers (e.g., Google, Yahoo), therefore it is best to send email from your accredited CI account to avoid any issues. I will respond to all administrative inquiries within 48 hours. Any questions regarding course material (lecture, problem sets, etc) should be posted to the discussion forums to ensure a timely response and for all classmates to benefit from the discussion.

Discussion Forums: We will be relying heavily on the Canvas website throughout the semester. All course materials including syllabi, lectures, extra problem sets, and quiz/exams will only be made available through the Canvas website. In addition, use of the discussion forums is strongly encouraged to ask and answer questions (see above section on Participation). If you have a question about the material, it is likely others have the same question so discussing issues in this public forum will benefit all.

Academic Integrity: All instances of academic dishonesty will be referred to CI Judicial Affairs. Cheating on an exam will result in a score of zero. However, I encourage you to work together on problem set assignments.

Disability Accommodation: CSU Channel Islands is committed to equal educational opportunities for qualified students with disabilities in compliance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. The mission of Disability Accommodation Services is to assist students with disabilities to realize their academic and personal potential. Students with physical, learning, or other disabilities are encouraged to contact the Disability Accommodation Services office at (805) 437-8510 for personal assistance and accommodations.

Course Evaluations: Online course evaluations are conducted for all CI courses at the end of the semester. The evaluation period closes before final exams begin. Email reminders will be sent when evaluations begin. I encourage you to complete the course evaluation.

Disclaimer: This syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be made in lecture and/or on the course website with at least one week of notice, except under extraordinary circumstances.

Tentative Course Schedule:

Week	Dates	Textbook Chapter(s)	Description	Assignment
1	1/27-1/31	23	Intro, Measuring a Nation's Income	MindTap Intro
2	2/3-2/7	24	Measuring Cost of Living	
3	2/10-2/14	26	Saving, Investment, Financial System	HW #1
4	2/17-2/21	28	Unemployment	
5	2/24-2/28	29	Monetary System	
6	3/2-3/6	30	Money Growth and Inflation	HW #2
7	3/9-3/13	23-30	MT1 Review, Midterm 1	
8	3/16-3/20	31	Open Economy: Basics	
9	3/23-3/27	----	SPRING BREAK	
10	3/30-4/3	32	Open Economy: Theory	
11	4/6-4/10	33	Aggregate Demand and Supply	HW #3
12	4/13-4/17	31-33	MT2 Review, Midterm 2	
13	4/20-4/24	34	Monetary/Fiscal Policy	
14	4/27-5/1	34	Monetary/Fiscal Policy	HW #4
15	5/4-5/8	----	Macro Policy Debates	
16	5/11-5/15	----	Macro Policy Debates, Final Review	
17	5/21	All	Final Exam	