Econ 311 – Intermediate Macroeconomics
Spring 2016
Wed 3:00-5:50p, Broome Library 2490

Instructor: Ty Robbins
Office: Sage Hall, Room 2152
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:00-2:00 PM, or by appointment
Course Homepage: CSUCI Blackboard
Email: ty.robbins@csuci.edu


Course Description: Determinants of levels of national income, employment, and price levels. Analysis of secular and cyclical changes in economic activity, and the effects of monetary and fiscal policies on these changes.

Program Learning Goals:
1. Critical Thinking
2. Oral Communication
3. Written Communication
4. Collaboration
5. Conduct (Ethics)
6. Competency in Discipline

Course Learning Objectives:

1. Distinguish macroeconomic from microeconomic themes. (1, 6)
2. Identify the components of national income and the various methods for computing national income. (6)
3. Predict the effects of government policy changes on aggregate economic behavior. (1-6)
4. Describe the role of money in the economy and predict the effects of changes in the relative scarcity of money. (1-3,6)
5. Identify the purpose and effects of fiscal and monetary policy. (1-6)
6. Analyze the domestic and international economic effects of governmental policy changes. (1-4, 6)
Important Dates:

Exams: MT1 3/2 (W), MT2 3/30 (W)
Final 5/18 (W) 4-6p

Review Sessions: MT2 3/28 (M), Final 5/16 (M)
School Holidays: 3/21-3/26 Spring Recess

Grades: Your course grade will be determined by two midterm exams (20% each), a final exam (35%), and a group project (25%).

Problem Sets – The textbook contains many questions and exercises at the end of each chapter. On the course website (Resources->Assignments) you will find problems and suggested solutions that I find most useful to help you understand the material. You do not have to turn in these problem sets and they will not be graded – it is your personal choice and responsibility to work on them. Given the analytical nature of this intermediate course, it is in your best interest to practice the theory and mathematical techniques from class. Mastering these problem sets will assist in your retention of the material and improve performance on the exams. Given time availability, we may complete some of these problems together in lecture, otherwise please complete them on your own or come by during office hours and I will be glad to go over answers with you.

Exams – The three exams (2 midterms, 1 final) comprise the bulk of your course grade. Each midterm will be 75 minutes. Completing all problem sets, reviewing posted solutions for practice exams, attending office hours, and forming study groups will be your ticket to thriving 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 scale: a weighted-average score of 60 percent is needed for a D; 70 percent for a C; 80 percent for a B; and 90 percent or more for an A.

Exams and the final course grade may be curved, at my discretion. This may be done only after the final exam is complete in order to adjust for the difficulty of the class.

Group Project – Working in groups of 4 or 5 students, you will choose two countries (one developed and one non/developing nation) to study during the semester. Your task will be to undertake a comparative analysis on your
selected countries utilizing the macroeconomic tools we learn in class. Collecting data and reviewing the economic/political climate of each nation, you will compare and assess the differences in their economic structures, evaluate their impact on the overall economy, and analyze the reasons why they are different (or similar). Additionally, you will assume the role of a Central Bank and make policy recommendations for each nation to improve their economies based on current conditions and future forecasts. Formal details for this project will be provided a few weeks into 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.

Participation – While participation will not directly factor into your course grade, attending lectures and actively contributing in discussion is beneficial for your own understanding of the material, helps your peers, and maintains a lively atmosphere. Regular participation, in lecture and the Blackboard forums, signals extra effort and intellectual growth through the semester.

Investigating the real-world relevancy of this theoretical course, you are required to purchase a subscription to the Wall Street Journal (WSJ). This subscription permits a 15-week access to the print, online, and digital services of the WSJ. Building a wide breadth of knowledge in current events will help you in job interviews and professional development. [See the first week announcement on Blackboard for instructions to properly sign up at the reduced class rate.] You should post class-relevant articles and discussion on the Blackboard forum to highlight current events as they tie into the course. I will also post articles from time to time so we can informally discuss the connections between our course’s theory and real-world applications.

Special consideration may be given to a student’s final grade if on the border between two grades and the student exhibited growth and continued classroom/office hour/forum participation throughout the semester.

E-mail: I may occasionally send out course announcements to your CI email address. 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
Blackboard forums to ensure a timely response and for all classmates to benefit from the discussion.

**Blackboard:** We will be relying heavily on Blackboard throughout the semester. All course materials, including syllabi and problem sets, will only be made available through Blackboard. 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.

**Schedule of Lectures:**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Textbook Chapter(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<td>1/27</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
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<td>Open Economy/Revisited</td>
<td>HW #8</td>
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<td>Open Economy Revisited</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>5/18</td>
<td>All Chapters</td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM</strong></td>
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**Academic Integrity**: All instances of academic dishonesty will be referred to CSUCI Judicial Affairs: [http://www.csuci.edu/studentlife/judicial-affairs/](http://www.csuci.edu/studentlife/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.

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