

# ECON 311: INTERMEDIATE MACROECONOMICS

## SPRING 2014

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Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 1:30-2:30pm or by appointment

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Course Information: Section 2129—Monday & Wednesday 12:00-1:15pm, Broome 2330

Textbook: *Macroeconomics*. 8th edition, by N. Gregory Mankiw (Worth Publishers), 2012.

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: These are the skills we try to help you build in all MVS courses

1. Critical Thinking
2. Communication
3. Collaboration
4. Conduct (Ethics)
5. Competency in Discipline

Course Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

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

Extra: Macroeconomics receives a lot of attention from the public and in policy debates. As such, I encourage you to seek out additional sources of information to broaden your view of the topic. To incentivize this, I will allow you to hand in three separate, one-page reports. Each report should contain one paragraph describing the blog post, and one paragraph discussing the relevance of the post to the material being taught in class. Each report will add 1% of extra credit to your final grade. A list of blogs by economist can be found here:

<http://www.onalyticaindexes.com/2013/07/31/top-200-influential-economic-blogs-aug-2013-2/>

Grades: There will be two in-class exams and a final exam. In addition, there will be 5 problem sets assigned throughout the semester. The weights that each of these items will receive is listed below. I reserve the right to re-weight the exams at the end of the semester, if it turns out that one was significantly harder than another. Any re-weighting of grades will only apply if it improves your score. However, I will not make any decisions until after the final.

Category	Weight
First Exam	25%
Second Exam	25%
Final Exam	30%
Assignments	20%

*Exams.* There will be three exams throughout the semester, and they will comprise the bulk of your grade. Therefore, it is best to study and prepare for the exams by completing and understanding the problem sets.

*Problem Sets.* Each student must hand in his/her own copy of a problem set in order to receive full credit. However, I encourage you to work in groups, if that enhances your learning experience. Remember, problem sets are for your benefit. There will be five homework assignments, one every three weeks (approximately). Each will be worth 4% of your final grade, and each will be graded based on the following rubric:

Points	Description
4	Almost Perfect
3	Try all questions, some wrong answers
2	Missing questions, lots of mistakes
1	Well, at least you handed it in
0	You didn't hand it in

*Participation.* Regular class participation can help your grade because it signals to me that you are working on the material on a regular basis. Special consideration may be given to students whose final grade is on the border, but who demonstrate intellectual growth through class participation or Blackboard discussion forums.

Make-Up Exams: There are 2 midterms during the semester. **Note, exam 2 is scheduled for the week before spring break.** You are responsible for any changes in the schedule announced in class. In the case of a missed exam, the next exam score will replace your missed score *provided your absence was excused*. Excuses are valid for health, university events, work, or the death of family. I may require additional confirmation for the death of family and for work. Unexcused absences from exams result in a grade of zero. Regardless of the reason for missing an exam, no make-up will be given. In the event that you anticipate a conflict associated with a university-sponsored event, contact me in the first two weeks of class to discuss arranging an alternative time to take the exam.

Grade Appeals: If you believe that I made a mistake grading your exam, you may submit a written appeal within one week after I return the exam in class. Attach the relevant exam along with a written explanation of the appeal. I will respond in writing. If there is still a disagreement, we can meet during my office hours.

E-mail: Throughout the semester, I may occasionally send out course announcements to your CI email address. Be aware that the University has a spam filter that may screen out email sent from third-party email providers (e.g. yahoo, hotmail). It's best to send me email from your CI account to my CI account. However, if you have a question regarding the course materials, I would prefer that you post a question to the Blackboard discussion forums, so that all may benefit from hearing the answer.

Blackboard: We will be relying heavily on Blackboard throughout the semester. All course materials, including syllabi and problem sets, are only made available through Blackboard. In addition, I strongly encourage you to use the discussion forums to ask and answer questions. If you have a question about the material, it is likely others have the same question, so discussing it in this public forum will benefit all.

Disability Accommodations: 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.

Academic Honesty: All instances of academic dishonesty will be referred to CSUCI 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 homework assignments.

Course Schedule: We do not have a set schedule, though our goal is to finish one chapter per week. Here is the tentative schedule:

<b>Week #</b>	<b>Textbook Chapters</b>	<b>Description</b>
Week 1	Chapters 1, 2	Introduction to Macroeconomics
Week 2	Chapter 3	National Income
Week 3	Chapter 4	The Monetary System
Week 4	Chapter 5	Inflation
Week 5	Chapter 7	Unemployment
Week 6	Chapters 1,2,3,4,5,7	Exam 1
Week 7	Chapter 8	Economic Growth I
Week 8	Chapter 9	Economic Growth II
Week 9	Chapters 8,9	Exam 2
Week 10	Chapter 10	Introduction to Economic Fluctuations
Week 11	Chapter 11	Aggregate Demand I
Week 12	Chapter 12	Aggregate Demand II
Week 13	Chapter 14	Aggregate Supply
Week 14	Chapter 6	The Open Economy
Week 15	Chapter 13	The Open Economy Revisited
Finals Week	All Chapters	Final Exam