Economics 1132.04: Principles of Macroeconomics
Fall 2015
MW 4:30-5:45, O’Neill Library 257

Professor: Sam Richardson
sam.richardson@bc.edu
Office hours: Tuesdays 3-5
or by appointment
Maloney 314

Course Overview
This is an introductory course in macroeconomics, which is the study of the national (and international) economy as a whole. The course is designed to teach you to be informed consumers of macroeconomic data and news stories, and to think critically about macroeconomic policy. Some questions we will investigate in the course include:
Why are some countries rich while other countries are poor?
How does the financial system work, and why is it important to the economy as a whole?
What is money, and how does monetary policy affect the economy?
What policies affect a country’s trade balance and currency exchange rates?
Where do short-run economic fluctuations come from, and what is the short-run tradeoff between inflation and unemployment?

Prerequisites: I will assume no prior background in economics, but I expect you to be comfortable with high school algebra and geometry. There is an online math and graphing assessment due at the end of the second week of class, which will give a sense of the level of math background I expect.

Readings and Assignments
The textbook for the course will be Principles of Macroeconomics, 7th edition, by N. Gregory Mankiw. We will be using the Aplia website for problem sets and other assignments, and you will automatically receive access to an electronic version of the textbook when you register and pay for Aplia. Instructions on accessing Aplia are on the last page of this syllabus. Note that reading assignments will link to the entire chapter, but you may only need to read certain sections, as indicated in the title of the assignment.
Course Requirements and Grading

10%  **Gapminder World video assignment**
To be posted on YouTube by 11:45pm, September 18. You will work in a small group to create a short *(no more than 5-minutes!)* video in which you tell the story behind some aspect of a [Gapminder World](#) graph.

20%  **Aplia problem sets and other assignments**
Problem sets are worth a relatively small portion of your grade, but they are the best way to learn the material. It will be difficult to succeed on the exams without completing the problem sets. For the most part, problem sets will be due weekly on Fridays at 4:30pm throughout the semester.
You are encouraged to work in small groups on problem sets, but note that you will not have the exact same problem set questions as your classmates. Late assignments will not be accepted for any reason, but your lowest two Aplia grades of the semester will be dropped.

40%  **Midterm exams**
In-class, closed-book exams on October 14 and November 23. You will be allowed one letter-sized sheet of notes, and may use a standard (non-graphing) calculator or a calculator app on your phone (which must be in airplane mode). Make-up midterm exams will not be given: if you miss one of the midterm exams, your final exam will count as 50% of your grade.

30%  **Final exam**
December 14. In-class, closed-book exam covering material from the entire semester (with somewhat of an emphasis on post-midterms material). You will be allowed three letter-sized sheets of notes, and may use a standard (non-graphing) calculator or a calculator app on your phone (which must be in airplane mode). Make-up final exams will only be given in extraordinary circumstances.

*Note: Although not formally part of your grade, class participation is strongly encouraged and may be used to break ties if you are on the borderline between two grades.*
Request for Accommodations
If you have a disability and will be requesting accommodations for this course, please register with either:

Dr. Kathy Duggan (dugganka@bc.edu), Associate Director, Connors Family Learning Center (learning disabilities or AHD) or
Dean Paulette Durrett (paulette.durrett@bc.edu), Assistant Dean for students with disabilities (all other disabilities).

Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations.

Academic Integrity
Students are encouraged to work together on problem sets and the Gapminder assignment. Any outside sources used for the Gapminder assignment must be cited appropriately in your written transcript. Please familiarize yourself with the university’s policy on academic integrity, available at www.bc.edu/integrity. Any violations of the standards of academic integrity will be reviewed by the Committee on Academic Integrity. Depending upon the seriousness and circumstances of the violation, possible penalties include a failing grade, university probation, suspension, or expulsion.
Course Schedule: *tentative and subject to change*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 31</td>
<td>The wealth and health of nations</td>
<td>Ch. 10.1-10.2</td>
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<td>Three central macroeconomic principles</td>
<td>Ch. 1.3</td>
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<td>Sep  2</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
<td>Ch. 10.3-10.6</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td><em>Labor Day: no class</em></td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Inflation and the cost of living</td>
<td>Ch. 11</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Supply and demand: in-class experiment</td>
<td>Ch. 4</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Productivity</td>
<td>Ch. 12.1-12.2</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Economic growth and public policy</td>
<td>Ch. 12.3-12.4</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>U.S. financial institutions and the roles they play</td>
<td>Ch. 13.1-13.2</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>The market for loanable funds</td>
<td>Ch. 13.3-13.4</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>Ch. 15.1-15.2</td>
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<td>Oct  5</td>
<td>Money and the Federal Reserve</td>
<td>Ch. 16.1-16.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Banks and bank reserves</td>
<td>Ch. 16.3-16.5</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td><em>Columbus Day: no class</em></td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Midterm exam #1: covers material through Oct. 2 (Ch. 15)</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Inflation</td>
<td>Ch. 17.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>The costs of inflation</td>
<td>Ch. 17.2-17.3</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>International trade</td>
<td>Ch. 18.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Exchange rates</td>
<td>Ch. 18.2-18.4</td>
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<td>Nov  2</td>
<td>Equilibrium in the open economy</td>
<td>Ch. 19.1-19.2</td>
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<td>Policies affecting the open economy</td>
<td>Ch. 19.3-19.4</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Short-run economic fluctuations</td>
<td>Ch. 20.1-20.2</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Aggregate demand and aggregate supply</td>
<td>Ch. 20.3-20.5</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Monetary policy and aggregate demand</td>
<td>Ch. 21.1</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Fiscal policy and aggregate demand</td>
<td>Ch. 21.2-21.3</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Midterm exam #2: covers material through Nov. 6 (Ch. 19)</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Thanksgiving: no class</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>The short-run trade-off between inflation and unemployment</td>
<td>Ch. 22</td>
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<td>Dec  2</td>
<td>Fixed vs. flexible prices: in-class experiment</td>
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<td>Three macroeconomic debates</td>
<td>Ch. 23.1-23.3</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Three more macroeconomic debates</td>
<td>Ch. 23.4-23.7</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Cumulative final exam: covers material through Dec. 4 (Ch. 22)</td>
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How to access your Aplia course

Principles of Economics II/Macroeconomics

Registration

2. Follow the prompts to register for your Aplia course.

Payment

After registering for your course, you will need to pay for access using one of the options below:

Online: You can pay online using a credit or debit card, or PayPal.

Bookstore: You may be able to purchase access to Aplia at your bookstore. Check with the bookstore to find out what they offer for your course.

Free Trial: You can access Aplia until 11:59 PM on 09/20/2015 during your free trial. After the free trial ends you will be required to pay for access.

Please note: At the end of the free trial period, your course access will be suspended until your payment has been made. All your scores and course activity will be saved and will be available to you after you pay for access.

If you already registered an access code or bought Aplia online, the course key to register for this course is: EP6Y-2E8E-NEZD

System Check

To check whether your computer meets the requirements for using Aplia, go to http://www.aplia.com/support/config.jsp