Instructor: Dominique Brabant

Email Address: brabant@bc.edu
Office Location: Maloney Hall 333A
Office Hours: Tuesday 3PM-5PM or by appointment

Exam schedule:

Midterm 1: Wednesday October 17th (in class)
Final: Monday December 17th 4:30 PM (usual classroom)

Course Description: This course is intended to equip the student for the analysis of the deter-
mination of employment and national income. Emphasis will be placed on the Keynesian theory
of employment, interest, and money and on post-Keynesian macroeconomic models.

By the end of the course, we will be able to answer questions such as:

- Why do production and employment increase in certain periods and fall in others?
- What can the government do to promote the goals of economic growth, low inflation, and
  stable employment?
- Do policymakers face tradeoffs between these goals?
- How do financial markets work and does the financial system matter for policy?
- What policies affect a country’s exchange rate and its imports(exports)? Are trade agreements
  good or bad?
- How do households decide how much of their income to consume today and how much to
  save for the future?

Course Goals: The main goal of this course is to macroeconomic models that shape our
understanding of how advanced economies function. The three main abilities that we will develop
throughout the course are:

- to read, understand, and interpret macroeconomic news through the lenses of macroeconomic
  models,
- to understand the strengths and weaknesses of different macroeconomic models, and
- to be able to apply different macroeconomic models to different economic policy decisions.
Author: N. Gregory Mankiw

**Grade Distribution:** There will be different assignments, one midterm exam and a final exam. They will count toward the grade as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Problem Sets</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>FREDcast exercise</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
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**Exams:** There will be one midterm exam and one final exam for this course. Make-up exams are given only for justifiable reasons. I will consider justifiable reasons for this class an illness or family emergency, proven by an email to me from your Dean, or an athletic event, proven by an adequate certificate.

**Expectations:** Students have different backgrounds, different goals, and different abilities. For this reason it is each student’s responsibility to put in place his or her own learning methods and strategies to achieve his or her goals. I offer some suggestions in this syllabus, and I am also more than happy to discuss with you and offer advice on what your own personal strategies might be.

This is a course that requires some work! It is not an easy course, so it is important that no student falls behind during the semester. To this end, I minimally expect you to:

- Attend class and participate actively
- Do the required readings before class
- Complete the required assignments in time

In return, I commit to support you in your learning by

- Explaining the hardest parts of the material in class
- Providing additional problems and other learning tools to facilitate understanding of the material
- Grading exams and assignments promptly

But also by...

- Offering individual or small group help during weekly office hours (or via email)
- Ensuring that no student feels left behind
- Understanding that all students go through different situations by offering flexibility
**Accomodations for Learning Disabilities:** If you have a disability and will be requesting accommodations for this course, please register with either: Dr. Kathy Duggan (dugganka@bc.edu), Director, Connors Family Learning Center (learning disabilities or AHD) or the Disability Services Office (from the Office of the Dean of Students). Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations.

**Academic Integrity:** The academic enterprise at Boston College requires academic integrity, which in this course means that all your work on exams and assignments is your own. Any infraction of Boston College’s Academic Integrity Policy will result in an automatic F for the course and the offense will be reported to the Dean’s office and then reviewed by the College of Arts and Sciences Academic Integrity Committee. There will be no exceptions. For additional information on the BC academic integrity, visit the following webpage: www.bc.edu/integrity.

**Advice for this course**
Here is a list of strategies I recommend in order to succeed in this course:

- Do the required readings before class.
  I do not have time to cover every detail in class. Also, this gives you the chance to identify the areas that are more challenging to you and which you need to pay special attention to in class.

- Attend class and take good notes.
  Slides will be made available before class. I recommend printing them and taking notes directly on them during the lectures. We will use graphs and equations a lot, so I do not recommend taking notes with a laptop.

- Participate in class.
  Asking questions in class and trying the review questions in class are the best ways to test your knowledge in real time and to know what to focus on when you review after class.

- Review your notes after each class.
  Identify the areas that are less clear to you and avoid falling behind. If needed, complete your notes while consulting the textbook.

- Seek help!
  Make sure you keep up with the material. It is better to ask something you already know than not understanding it on the exam! In addition to asking questions in class, options include: asking questions at the beginning or the end of class, emailing me with your questions, asking your questions during office hours, and studying with your classmates.

- Take advantage of office hours!
  I cannot emphasize this enough! Office hours are weekly times (Tuesdays between 3PM-5PM) where I am in my office, available to students who have questions. If anything remains unclear, whether it is about the functioning of the course or the course material itself, this is the best time to ask!
  If you have class during this time, or want to discuss at length in private about your progress in the course for example, I am also available by appointment. Just send me an email and we’ll find a time that fits both of our schedules.
Tentative Course Outline:

1. Introduction
   (a) Chapter 1: The Science of Macroeconomics
   (b) Chapter 2: The Data of Macroeconomics

2. Classical Theory: The Economy in the Long Run
   (a) Chapter 3: National Income: Where It Comes From and Where It Goes
   (b) Chapter 4: The Monetary System: What It Is and How It Works
   (c) Chapter 5: Inflation: Its Causes, Effects, and Social Costs
   (d) Chapter 6: The Open Economy
   (e) Chapter 7: Unemployment and the Labor Market

3. Growth Theory: The Economy in the Very Long Run
   (a) Chapter 8: Economic Growth I: Capital Accumulation and Population Growth
   (b) Chapter 9: Economic Growth II: Technology, Empirics and Policy

4. Business Cycle Theory: The Economy in the Short Run
   (a) Chapter 10: Introduction to Economic Fluctuations
   (b) Chapter 11: Aggregate Demand I: Building the IS-LM Model
   (c) Chapter 12: Aggregate Demand II: Applying the IS-LM Model
   (d) Chapter 13: The Open Economy Revisited: The Mundell-Fleming Model and the Exchange-Rate Regime
   (e) Chapter 14: Aggregate Supply in the Short-Run Tradeoff between Inflation and Unemployment

5. Topics in Macroeconomic Theory
   (a) Chapter 15: A Dynamic Model of Economic Fluctuations
   (b) Chapter 16: Understanding Consumer Behavior

*** Additional topics may be added depending on time and current events ***