

# Principles of Macroeconomics

ECN-F101-4006

Winter 2019-20

Middlesex Community College

**Instructor:** David Maslin,

Contact: via “messages” feature in Blackboard Learn

**Text Book:** Principles of Economics (7<sup>th</sup> edition), N. Gregory Mankiw, Cengage Learning

**Prerequisites:** Eligible for MAT\*137 or MAT\*137E, and Eligible for ENG\*101 or ENG\*101E

## **Course Description:**

An elementary study of the macroeconomic system of interrelationships among the household, business and government sectors. A study of output, income, employment, consumption, inflation, fluctuations in the economy, and fiscal and monetary policy.

The objective of this course is to gain an understanding of how the larger economic system functions utilizing basic principles of economic reasoning and tools of analysis, and to consider the complexities facing economic and financial policymaking. Beginning with the circular flow model the course will define and measure concepts of national income and expenditure, saving and investment, and production and growth of the economy; the economic implications of inflation will be examined. This will be followed by a detailed exploration of the role of money and the financial system within a more articulated model of aggregate supply and demand. Factors underlying economic fluctuations, including the 2008-09 recession, will be investigated. The course will then survey the tools of monetary and fiscal policy and engage the debate over their appropriate and effective use.

## **Course Structure:**

This course consists of 8 Sessions over a 3 week period beginning December 26, 2019, ending January 16, 2020. Most sessions represent a distinct “learning module” focused on specific chapters of the text, incorporating reading assignments, practice questions, a related quiz, and a writing/discussion requirement. Session 8 is a final exam.

In addition to the text book designated for the course, current economic issues and conditions will be examined using supplementary media. This is intended to aid the student in understanding the significant role that Economics plays in the global

events that are reported daily in the media. Incorporating “real world economics” into our course material is intended to foster an ongoing interest in the subject after completion of the course. The course will require students to think critically, and encourage them to adopt this technique in other courses and with decisions they face in their personal lives.

**Evaluation and Grading:**

1. Session quizzes based on textbook chapter assignments– 30% of grade;
  2. A “short-essay response” test (final exam); – 30% of grade.
  3. On-line discussion participation covering questions/topics posed by the instructor based on material from the textbook and/or supplemental material. Specific assignments will be detailed by the instructor – 40% of grade.
- IMPORTANT! Quizzes and the final exam (not practice questions) have a set time limit. Once you begin a test or quiz, you must finish it within the time limit shown. Once time expires, you will not be able to continue.

**Specific Learning Objectives:**

- Upon successful completion of the course a student will have gained the knowledge, and ability to demonstrate that knowledge through tests, and writing assignments, of the following economic concepts and principles:
1. Defining economics and the terms that are normally used in economic discussions
  2. How graphs and models are used to explain economic concepts (beginning with the economist’s basic tools – the Laws of Supply & Demand)
  3. How we measure a nation’s income, cost of living (inflation) and production & growth (Gross Domestic Product)
  4. The roles of savings, investment and the financial system in the economy
  5. Government’s role in the financial system (Monetary Policy)
  6. Government’s impact on the economy through taxing and spending (Fiscal Policy)
  7. The significance of Aggregate Demand (total demand for goods and services) achieving balance with Aggregate Supply (total supply of goods and services)
  8. Distinguish between the “long-run” and the “short-run” as respects economic achievements
  9. The role of trade and use of different currencies

**Course Schedule:** attached

**College Policies:**

For information about the college's policies and procedures regarding academic honesty, accessibility/disability services, attendance, audio-recording in the classroom, grade appeals, plagiarism, religious accommodations, weather and emergency closings, and more, please go to the following website: [www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/](http://www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/). Also, please become familiar with the policies regarding nondiscrimination, sexual misconduct, and general student conduct at the following website: [www.mxcc.edu/nondiscrimination/](http://www.mxcc.edu/nondiscrimination/).

**Non-Discrimination Statement:**

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The following people have been designated to handle inquiries or complaints regarding non-discrimination policies and practices:

**Primary Title IX Coordinator****Ricardo Barrett**

Counselor, Career Counseling & Development  
rbarrett@mxcc.edu; 860/343-5823; Founders Hall Room 121

**Secondary Title IX Coordinator****Anastasia Pych**

Director of Human Resources  
apych@mxcc.edu; 860-343-5751; Founders Hall Room 115

**Course Schedule:**

	<b>Session</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
<b>1:</b>	Thursday 12/26 -- 12/29	Introduction and Overview	Introduce yourself
			Read course syllabus
		Chapter 1: Ten Principles of Economics	Practice Questions
		Chapter 2: Thinking Like an Economist	Practice Questions
		Chapter 4: The Market Forces of	Practice Questions

		Supply and Demand	Chapter 4 Quiz
			Writing/Discussion Assignment #1
<b>2:</b>	Monday 12/30 -- 1/1/20	Chapter 23: Measuring a Nation's Income	Practice Questions
			Chapter 23 Quiz
		Chapter 25: Production and Growth	Practice Questions
			Chapter 25 Quiz
			Writing/Discussion Assignment #2
<b>3:</b>	Thursday 1/2 -- 1/3	Chapter 24: Measuring the Cost of Living	Practice Questions
			Chapter 24 Quiz
			Writing/Discussion Assignment #3
<b>4:</b>	Saturday 1/4 -- 1/6	Chapter 26: Saving, Investment and the Financial System	Practice Questions
			Chapter 26 Quiz
		Chapter 29: The Monetary System	Practice Questions
			Chapter 29 Quiz
			Writing/Discussion Assignment #4
<b>5:</b>	Tuesday 1/7 -- 1/8	Chapter 30: Money Growth and Inflation	Practice Questions
			Chapter 30 Quiz
			Writing/Discussion Assignment #5
<b>6:</b>	Thursday 1/9 -- 1/11	Chapter 31: Open Economy Macroeconomics	Practice Questions
			Chapter 31 Quiz
		Chapter 32: Theory of the Open Economy	Practice Questions
			Chapter 32 Quiz
			Writing/Discussion Assignment #6
<b>7:</b>	Sunday 1/12 -- 1/15	Chapter 33: Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply	Practice Questions
			Chapter 33 Quiz
		Chapter 34: The Influence of Monetary and	Practice Questions
		Fiscal Policy on	Chapter 34 Quiz
		Aggregate Demand	Writing/Discussion Assignment #7
<b>8:</b>	Thursday 1/16	Final Exam	Test