

PRINCIPLES OF MACROECONOMICS

SUMMER II 2020 – SYLLABUS

Course: ECON 213 Section 501

Instructor: Richard Beem

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Class: M-F 11:45am – 1:15pm | 7/6 to 8/6

Office hours: Via zoom by appointment during MTW 1:30pm – 3:00pm

INSTRUCTOR’S GOAL FOR THIS COURSE

This course is designed to help provide students of the Haslam College of Business an introductory understanding of the macro economy. This course will help bridge the gap between textbook learning and the essential economic knowledge required by employers. Students will be able to read economic news stories and understand the underlying economic principles. Students will learn how economic indicators are measured, how they provide a gauge of the economy, and how to read economic data news releases. Guided by the instructor, students will track major economic indicators during the class, and by the end of the semester, be able to discuss the macro economy conversationally with industry experts, professors, interviewers, colleagues, and classmates.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

1. Macroeconomics: Principles for a Changing World, Eric Chiang, 4th edition, 2017
ISBN E-book: 9781319069346
ISBN paperback: 9781464186929
ISBN loose-leaf: 9781464188398
Note: If you’ve “opted-in” this textbook is already available to you.
2. Notebook and pencil/pen for taking class notes, working on homework problems, and reading news stories provided by the instructor.
3. Basic calculator for exams.

OPTIONAL MATERIALS

4. Wall Street Journal subscription. The student digital pack is \$4/month for digital access as long as you are a student. You can cancel your subscription after class if you choose. Subscription information can be found [here](#).

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

You are expected to prepare for and attend class, via zoom, regularly and on time, to be active learners who contribute to the classroom discussion, and to be courteous and respectful of other students and the instructor. You are expected to take notes during class. This will help you prepare for exams and complete required homework sets. Some test questions will come from class discussions and required pre-class readings. Students are encouraged to ask questions during class. Because classes will be conducted over zoom, *students that wish to ask questions should use the chat box in zoom*. This will create a queue, allowing students to ask questions in the order that they were raised.

ZOOM SESSIONS

Classes will be held using zoom from 11:45am to 1:15pm M-F starting on July 6 and ending on August 6. A meeting link will be sent to students before the first class. This course will be labeled as a “recurring” meeting, so students should bookmark the link for the duration of the semester. The class will be taught in real time. In other words, *lectures will not be recorded in advance*. Lectures, however, will be recorded and posted for students to access in preparation for exams.

INSTRUCTOR RESPONSIBILITY

The instructor is responsible for facilitating the learning process for students who are committed to learning. The instructor is also responsible for determining the extent to which students have met the stated goals in this course. This is to be done on a fair, courteous, and respectful manner that is responsive to student needs. The instructor will not discriminate based on race, gender, ethnicity, or religious preference. Grades are to be assigned based on the professional judgement of the instructor based on the quality of the work submitted by students in accordance with this syllabus.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Students are expected to attend class on time having read pre-class readings. Students are expected to be active participants *during* class by asking questions and *outside* of class by making every attempt to understand course material. *Cheating and plagiarism are strictly prohibited* and will be subject to the highest penalty. Students are expected to contact the instructor by email to schedule an office hour time slot if necessary.

EMAIL ETIQUETTE

When composing an email, it is polite to include a salutation, such as “Dear Mr. Beem,” and a signature with your name. Treat this as a formal message to your director or manager. It’s good practice. In the subject of your email, *please include your first and last name and course number*. The instructor will make every effort to respond within 24 hours.

DISABILITY

Disability Services (DS) seeks to eliminate the barriers that students with disabilities encounter and to work with them to achieve individual autonomy. The program’s primary objective is to provide these students with access to the academic, social, cultural, and recreational opportunities of the University. Any student who feels he/she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor via email to discuss specific needs. Students should contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), located in 2227 Dunford Hall, to coordinate reasonable accommodations. ODS email: ods@utk.edu. ODS phone: 865-974-6087.

CANVAS

Course material will be available on the canvas course page. Be sure to update your settings so that you get updates and are able to receive announcements. A copy of the syllabus, pre-class readings, lecture slides, homework answer keys (after the submission deadline) and other course material will be uploaded into modules for you to reference.

COPYRIGHT OF COURSE MATERIAL

The instructor of this class owns the copyright to the syllabus, handouts, assignments, quizzes, and exams associated with the class. All presentations developed by the instructor, as well as the instructor’s lectures, are also protected by copyright, whether these presentations are delivered live in-class, shared through zoom or other videoconference platforms, or uploaded to canvas or similar sites. Sharing any of this material without the written permission of the instructor is a violation of copyright law, and is therefore also a violation of the University’s policy on acceptable use of information technology resources (UT policy number IT0110). That policy states that students will not commit copyright infringement, “including file sharing of video, audio, or data without permission from the copyright owner” and that file sharing is a violation of the university’s student code of conduct. I will report all such violations to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.

GRADED MATERIALS

	Percent of grade	Number	Explanation of assignment
Attendance	20 percent	20	Each lecture counts for <i>1 percent</i> of the final grade.
Homework	20 percent	10	Each homework counts for <i>2 percent</i> of the final grade.
Exams	60 percent	3	Each exam counts for <i>20 percent</i> of the final grade.

GRADING SCALE

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
93-100	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	< 60

NEW GRADING SCALE

For students that requested to be graded on the University's new grading scale – S/CR/NC – the instructor will assign grades based on the following criteria: Satisfactory (S) will be earned with a final grade of C or higher, Credit (CR) will be earned with a final grade between C minus and D minus. No-credit (NC) will be earned with a final grade of F. If this is a course for which a student requested this new grading scale, his/her final grade in this course will not affect his/her GPA, institutional scholarships, or HOPE scholarship.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

1. **Pre-class readings:** Before each class, students will read a news article selected by the instructor. News articles will be made available on the canvas course page. These readings will help bridge the gap between textbook learning and real-time application.
2. **Attendance:** Students will be required to attend each lecture during the stated meeting time of 11:45am to 1:15pm. The instructor will determine a student's attendance on their zoom attendance. Being present during the lecture and discussion will make it much easier to prepare for exams and do well in this course.
3. **Homework:** Each chapter discussed in class will have a corresponding homework set to be completed by the student. Homework sets will be due every other class day. In other words, we will generally take two class days to discuss a single chapter, with the corresponding homework due at 11:00pm the second day. Homework sets will include questions based on lecture material and slides as well as required news article readings. Homework questions will help simulate potential exam questions and ensure that students take an active approach to learning course material.
4. **Exams:** There will be three exams in this course. Each exam will cover material discussed since the previous exam. In other words, *exams will not be cumulative*. Exam questions will stem from textbook material, lecture material, homework sets, and news articles discussed in class.

COURSE MATERIAL

Chapter	Topic	Pages	Dates of discussion
5	<i>Introduction to Macroeconomics</i>	105-130	07/06/2020 and 07/07/2020
6	<i>Measuring Inflation and Unemployment</i>	131-158	07/08/2020 and 07/09/2020
7	<i>Economic Growth</i>	159-182	07/10/2020 and 07/13/2020
8	<i>Aggregate Expenditures</i>	183-210	07/14/2020 and 07/15/2020
5-8	<i>Exam 1 – 30 questions</i>	105-210	07/16/2020
9	<i>Aggregate Demand and Supply</i>	211-236	07/17/2020 and 07/20/2020
10	<i>Fiscal Policy and Debt</i>	237-266	07/21/2020 and 07/22/2020
11	<i>Saving, Investment, and the Financial System</i>	267-292	07/23/2020 and 07/24/2020
12	<i>Money Creation and the Federal Reserve</i>	293-318	07/27/2020 and 07/28/2020
9-12	<i>Exam 2 – 30 questions</i>	211-318	07/29/2020
13	<i>Monetary Policy</i>	319-347	07/30/2020 and 07/31/2020
15	<i>International Trade</i>	377-401	08/03/2020
N/A	<i>Economic Data Revisions</i>	N/A	08/04/2020
13, 15, N/A	<i>Exam 3 – 20 questions</i>	319-401	08/05/2020

COURSE OUTLINE

Monday, July 6, 2020

Textbook: Chapter 5 – Introduction to Macroeconomics

News article: [U.S. economy shrank at 4.8% pace in first quarter.](#)

Homework: None

Tuesday, July 7, 2020

Textbook: Chapter 5 – Introduction to Macroeconomics

News article: [How do imports affect GDP?](#)

Homework: Must be submitted on canvas before 11:00pm 07/07/2020

Wednesday, July 8, 2020

Textbook: Chapter 6 – Measuring Inflation and Unemployment

News article: [COVID-19 crisis leads to largest consumer price decline since 2008.](#)

Homework: None

Thursday, July 9, 2020

Textbook: Chapter 6 – Measuring Inflation and Unemployment

News article: [The value of \\$600 across states hit hardest by COVID-19.](#)

Homework: Must be submitted on canvas before 11:00pm 07/09/2020

Friday, July 10, 2020

Textbook: Chapter 7 – Economic Growth

News article: [Is the COVID-19 pandemic a supply or demand shock?](#)

Homework: None

Monday, July 13, 2020

Textbook: Chapter 7 – Economic Growth

News article: [Changing demographics and economic growth.](#)

Homework: Must be submitted on canvas before 11:00pm 07/13/2020

Tuesday, July 14, 2020

Textbook: Chapter 8 – Aggregate Expenditures

News article: [Coronavirus relief approved by Congress.](#)

Homework: None

Wednesday, July 15, 2020

Textbook: Chapter 8 – Aggregate Expenditures

News article: [Fiscal stimulus needed to fight recessions: Lessons from the Great Recession.](#)

Homework: Must be submitted on canvas before 11:00pm 07/15/2020

Exam I

Date: Thursday, July 16 at 11:45 am (90 minutes)

Material: Textbook chapters 5, 6, 7, and 8, homework sets, readings, and lecture notes.

Format: Individual exam (no groups), open note, must be submitted on canvas no later than 1:15pm.

Friday, July 17, 2020

Textbook: Review Exam 1 and *Chapter 9 – Aggregate Demand and Supply*

News article: None

Homework: None

Monday, July 20, 2020

Textbook: *Chapter 9 – Aggregate Demand and Supply*

News article: [Understanding supply and demand shocks amid coronavirus.](#)

Homework: Must be submitted on canvas before 11:00pm 07/20/2020

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

Textbook: *Chapter 10 – Fiscal Policy and Debt*

News article: [What is fiscal policy?](#)

Homework: None

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

Textbook: *Chapter 10 – Fiscal Policy and Debt*

News article: [Making sense of the national debt.](#)

Homework: Must be submitted on canvas before 11:00pm 07/22/2020

Thursday, July 23, 2020

Textbook: *Chapter 11 – Saving, Investment, and the Financial System*

News article: [Making sense of private debt.](#)

Homework: None

Friday, July 24, 2020

Textbook: *Chapter 11 – Saving, Investment, and the Financial System*

News article: [Traditional 401\(k\) or Roth 401\(k\), which is right for you?](#)

Homework: Must be submitted on canvas before 11:00pm 07/24/2020

Monday, July 27, 2020

Textbook: *Chapter 12 – Money Creation and the Federal Reserve*

News article: [Purposes & functions: Overview of the Federal Reserve system.](#)

Homework: None

Tuesday, July 28, 2020

Textbook: *Chapter 12 – Money Creation and the Federal Reserve*

News article: [Independence, accountability, and the Federal Reserve system.](#)

Homework: Must be submitted on canvas before 11:00pm 07/28/2020

Exam 2

Date: Wednesday, July 29 at 11:45 am (90 minutes)

Material: Textbook chapters 9, 10, 11, and 12, homework sets, readings, and lecture notes.

Format: Individual exam (no groups), open note, must be submitted on canvas no later than 1:15pm.

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Textbook: Review Exam 2 and *Chapter 13 – Monetary Policy*

News article: [Purposes & functions: Conducting monetary policy.](#)

Homework: None

Friday, July 31, 2020

Textbook: *Chapter 13 – Monetary Policy*

News article: [A new frontier: Monetary policy with ample reserves.](#)

Homework: Must be submitted on canvas before 11:00pm 07/31/2020

Monday, August 3, 2020

Textbook: *Chapter 15 – International Trade*

News article: None

Homework: Must be submitted on canvas before 11:00pm 08/03/2020

Tuesday, August 4, 2020

Special topic: *Economic Data Revisions*

News article 1: [The messy truth behind GDP data.](#)

News article 2: [Revising economic indicators: Here's why numbers can change.](#)

News article 3: [Do revisions to GDP follow patterns?](#)

Homework: None

Exam 3

Date: Wednesday, August 5 at 11:45 am (60 minutes)

Material: Textbook chapters 13, 15, special topic, homework sets, readings, and lecture notes.

Format: Individual exam (no groups), open note, must be submitted on canvas no later than 12:45pm.

On Thursday, August 6, 2020 we will review Exam 3 and wrap up the course.

ECONOMIC DATA & ANALYSIS

Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) <https://www.bea.gov/>

Economy at a Glance <https://www.bea.gov/news/glance>

Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) <https://www.bls.gov/>

The Economics Daily (TED) <https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/year.htm>

National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) <https://www.nber.org/>

Federal Reserve Economic Data (FRED) <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/>

Bloomberg Economic Calendar <https://www.bloomberg.com/markets/economic-calendar>

Brookings <https://www.brookings.edu/>

Census Bureau COVID-19 Dashboard <https://covid19.census.gov/>

Bloomberg Recovery Tracker <https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/recovery-tracker/>

Harvard Economic Tracker <https://tracktherecovery.org/>

Small Business Pulse Survey <https://portal.census.gov/pulse/data/#data>

Economic Lowdown <https://www.stlouisfed.org/education/economic-lowdown-podcast-series>

WHERE TO GET ECONOMIC NEWS?

Wall Street Journal <https://www.wsj.com/>

Washington Post <https://www.washingtonpost.com/>

New York Times <https://www.nytimes.com/>

Financial Times <https://www.ft.com/>

NPR Economy <https://www.npr.org/sections/economy/>

The Economist <https://www.economist.com/>

FiveThirtyEight <https://fivethirtyeight.com/>

Reuters <https://www.reuters.com/news/archive/economicNews>

ADDITIONAL NEWS ARTICLES

Chapter 5 – *Introduction to Macroeconomics*

NBER: [NBER recession dating.](#)

WSJ: [Recession in U.S. began in February.](#)

WSJ: [Yield curve WSJ video.](#)

Chapter 6 – *Measuring Inflation and Unemployment*

WSJ: [Measuring inflation video.](#)

WSJ: [Unemployment fraud spreads across U.S. as coronavirus boosts claims.](#)

Fed: [Making sense of unemployment data.](#)

Brookings: [How does unemployment insurance work? And how is it changing?](#)

FiveThirtyEight: [Don't worry about the job market yet.](#)

FiveThirtyEight: [Are jobs returning in reopened states?](#)

Chapter 8 – *Aggregate Expenditures*

Investopedia: [COVID-19 government stimulus and financial relief guide.](#)

Forbes: [SBA releases Paycheck Protection Program loan forgiveness application.](#)

Northwestern: [Here's how Americans are spending their stimulus checks.](#)

Chapter 10 – *Fiscal Policy and Debt*

NPR: [The rich have stopped spending and that's tanked the economy.](#)

WSJ: [Federal budget deficit nears \\$2 trillion.](#)

Chapter 12 – *Money Creation and the Federal Reserve*

Fed: [Federal Reserve assets.](#)

Chapter 13 – *Monetary Policy*

Fed: [Federal Reserve announces extensive new measures.](#)

Brookings: [What's the Fed doing in response to the COVID-19 crisis?](#)

Chapter 15 – *International Trade*

Fed: [International trade: Making sense of the trade deficit.](#)

Fed: [International trade policy during COVID-19.](#)