INTRO. TO MACROECONOMICS

Rutgers University Newark | Spring 2019

Instructor: Rubaa Saleh
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Office Hours: Tues. 4-5 PM, Wed. 8-9 AM, or by appt.

Classroom: Hill Hall 108
Class Meeting Times: M, W 10:00-11:30 PM
Office: Hill Hall 804 (yes, there's an 8th floor)

Course Description and Goals

Economics is the study of scarce resources among competing ends. A more modern approach to economics seeks to preserve the social and ecological foundations of the society and world we live in when deciding what resources to utilize and when. It is about the welfare of people and the sustainability of the planet that houses them.

Macroeconomics is the branch of economics concerned with the overall ups and downs of the economy: unemployment, inflation, the size of the economy, income distribution, etc. Macroeconomists study these fluctuations and how governments can use economic policy to minimize the damage those fluctuations cause. We will first study the basic concepts that are present in both macroeconomics and microeconomics, and then delve into the study of macroeconomics.

By the end of this course, you will have an understanding of the basic economic concepts/tools: supply and demand, price/quantity controls, imports and exports, money and banking, and monetary and fiscal policies. Ultimately, you will become an informed citizen, better able to comprehend economic news and analysis, and learn to make more rational farsighted decisions.

Recommended Texts (choose one)

  - You may also use the 3rd edition of the aforementioned text.

  - You may also use the 3rd or 5th edition of the aforementioned text.


Supplementary Material

1. NPR's Planet Money podcast
2. The Economist magazine, radio
3. Money magazine
4. Marketplace with Kai Ryssdal radio, podcast
5. The Wall Street Journal (free for Rutgers students)
6. Freakonomics Radio (WNYC: Sat. @ 4 PM)

Grade Distribution

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm 1/Midterm 2/ Final Quizzes (3 total)</td>
<td>70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework/Classwork</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm 1</td>
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A = 89.5-100
B+ = 84.5-89.49
B = 79.5-84.49
C+ = 74.5-79.49
C = 69.5-74.49
D = 59.5-69.49
F = 0-59.49

For more information on final grades, visit: <http://registrar.newark.rutgers.edu/final-grades>

Updated January 9, 2019
The final is not cumulative. If you miss either of the first two exams for a valid reason, you will have the option to take the exam on the day of the final exam. Valid reasons include religious holidays, illness, and death in the family. Documentation must be provided in the case of illness or death of family member.

Homework assignments will be posted on Blackboard and will be due a week after the assignment is posted. Late homework is not accepted and classwork cannot be made up without a valid excuse for your absence. The two lowest homework/classwork grades will be dropped.

Other Course Expectations:
- **When e-mailing** me, use your Rutgers e-mail address so I can verify your identity especially when asking about grades. (Read up on The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act [FERPA].)
- Please set your phone to silent or vibrate. It’s best to turn it off.

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**COURSE OUTLINE**

The outline below is tentative. If there are any changes, you will be notified in class and via BlackBoard.

**Jan. 23, 28**  
**Basic Economic Concepts & Principles**  
Krugman, Wells: **Chapter 1** First Principles  
**Chapter 2** Economic Models: Trade-offs and Trade  

*Jan. 29* Last day to drop without a “W” on your transcript.

**Part 1: Production and the Government**

**Jan. 30, Feb. 4**  
**Supply and Demand**  
Krugman, Wells: **Chapter 3** Supply and Demand  

**Feb. 6, 11**  
**Price Controls and Quotas**  
Krugman, Wells: **Chapter 4** Price Controls and Quotas  

**Feb. 13** **Quiz 1 (first 20 minutes) – focus on last 2 topics**

**Part 2: Economic Growth**

**Feb. 13, 18**  
**Macroeconomics Overview, Measuring the Size of an Economy**  
Krugman, Wells: **Chapter 6** Macroeconomics Overview  
**Chapter 7** GDP and the CPI: Tracking the Economy  

**Feb. 20, 25**  
**Measuring the Size of an Economy (continuing)**  
Krugman, Wells: **Chapter 7** GDP and the CPI: Tracking the Economy  

Review for midterm (time-permitting)

Updated January 9, 2019
Feb. 27   Midterm 1

Mar. 4, 6   The Economy in the Long-Run  
Krugman, Wells: Chapter 9 Long-Run Economic Growth

Mar. 11, 13   Savings, Investment, & the Financial System  
Krugman, Wells: Chapter 10 Savings, Investment, and the Financial System

Mar. 18, 20   Spring Break

Mar. 25   Quiz 2 (first 20 minutes)

Part 3: Business Fluctuations

Mar. 25, 27   Unemployment & Inflation  
Krugman, Wells: Chapter 8 Unemployment and Inflation

*Apr. 1*  
Last day to withdraw from the course. To see how withdrawing from any course affects your financial aid, visit: <https://financialaid.rutgers.edu/eligibility/enrollment-requirements/>

Apr. 1, 3   Income and Expenditure (Aggregate Spending)  
Krugman, Wells: Chapter 11 Income and Expenditure

Apr. 8   Midterm 2

Apr. 10, 15   Aggregate Demand and Supply  
Krugman, Wells: Chapter 12

Part 4: Macroeconomic Policy & Institutions

Apr. 17, 22   Fiscal Policy  
Krugman, Wells: Chapter 13

Apr. 24   Quiz 3 (first 20 minutes)

Apr. 24, 29   Money, Banking, and Federal Reserve  
Krugman, Wells: Chapter 14

Updated January 9, 2019
May 1  Monetary Policy
Krugman, Wells: Chapter 15

May 6  Last day of class
Final Exam Review

Final Exam  Monday, May 13
8:30 AM
Hill 108

Spring 2019 Final Exam Schedule
https://tls.newark.rutgers.edu/academic-scheduling/academic-scheduling-resources/final-exam-schedule-spring-2019

Final exam conflicts? Contact the dean of students at least two weeks before the first final exam day.

Updated January 9, 2019