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. The end goal of economics is 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 be become an informed citizen, better able to comprehend economic news and analysis, and learn to make more rational 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
Midterm 1/Midterm 2/ Final 70% (23.3% each) Homework/Classwork 20%
Short Quizzes (3 total) 10%

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

Updated January 10, 2019
For more information on final grades, visit: [http://registrar.newark.rutgers.edu/final-grades]

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. **Midterm 2 and the final are not cumulative.**

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. 22  
**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 Roles of Government**

Jan. 29  
**Supply and Demand**  
Krugman, Wells: **Chapter 3** Supply and Demand

Feb. 5  
**Price Controls and Quotas**  
Krugman, Wells: **Chapter 4** Price Controls and Quotas

Feb. 12  
**Quiz 1 (first 20 minutes) – focus on last 2 topics**

**Part 2: Economic Growth & Value**

Feb. 12  
**Macroeconomics Overview, Measuring the Size of an Economy**  
Krugman, Wells: **Chapter 6** Macroeconomics Overview  
**Chapter 7** GDP and the CPI: Tracking the Economy

Feb. 19  
**Measuring the Size of an Economy (continuing)**  
Krugman, Wells: **Chapter 7** GDP and the CPI: Tracking the Economy

*Review for midterm (time-permitting)*

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Feb. 26  Midterm 1

Mar. 5  **The Economy in the Long-Run**
Krugman, Wells: Chapter 9 Long-Run Economic Growth

Mar. 12  **Savings, Investment, & the Financial System**
Krugman, Wells: Chapter 10 Savings, Investment, and the Financial System

Mar. 19  *No Class - Spring Break*

Mar. 26  **Quiz 2 (first 20 minutes)**

  **Part 3: Economic Fluctuations**

Mar. 26  **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. 2  **Income and Expenditure (Aggregate Spending)** – Half the chapter
Krugman, Wells: Chapter 11 Income and Expenditure

  **Aggregate Demand** – Quarter of the chapter 12
Krugman, Wells: Chapter 12 Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply

Apr. 9  Midterm 2

Apr. 16  **Aggregate Supply**
Krugman, Wells: Chapter 12 Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply

  **Fiscal Policy (start)**
Krugman, Wells: Chapter 13 Fiscal Policy

  **Part 4: Macroeconomic Policy & Institutions**

Apr. 23  **Fiscal Policy (continue)**
Krugman, Wells: Chapter 13 Fiscal Policy

  **Money, Banking, and the Federal Reserve (start, continue next week if needed)**
Krugman, Wells: Chapter 14 Money, Banking, and the Federal Reserve System

Updated January 10, 2019
Apr. 30  Quiz 3 (first 20 minutes)

Apr. 30  Last Day of Class
Monetary Policy (short)
Krugman, Wells: Chapter 14 Money, Banking, and the Federal Reserve System
Chapter 15 Monetary Policy

Final Exam Review (time-permitting)

Final Exam  Tuesday, May 14
6:20 PM
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 10, 2019