Economics 103 Syllabus
Macroeconomic Principles
Sections BL1
Spring 2011

Instructor: Professor Joseph A. Petry
Office: 116 David Kinley Hall
Phone: 333-4260
e-mail: jpetry@illinois.edu
Office hours: Th 9:30 – 10:30
Lecture hours: M/W 2:00 – 2:50
Lecture Section: BL1
Lecture Location: 114 Smith Memorial Hall

Lab Time: Varies by TA section
Lab Days: Fridays
Lab Location: 123 or 219 DKH, varies by section
TA Office Hours: See Compass for schedule

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Course Website:
https://compass.illinois.edu

Homework Platform:
https://compass.illinois.edu

Required Texts and related materials:


Iclicker.

All required materials are available at IUB and TIS campus bookstores.
**Required Materials:** We will be using Iclicker for this course. Each student is required to have their Iclicker with them for every lecture. Questions asked using Iclicker will count for credit for this course. Using another student's Iclicker in class is cheating and will be treated as such.

Please have a calculator with you in class. While use of this will be sporadic, it will be useful to have on occasion. You will be able to use a calculator on exams. There is no limitations on the type of calculator you may use.

**Course Objectives:** Macroeconomics is a fascinating and useful topic. It is also relatively complex. In this course we hope to give you an introduction to the subject matter, and in doing so help you become "economically literate". By this we mean that by the end of this course, you should be able to understand newspaper and magazine articles on current macroeconomic issues, and have an understanding of the tradeoffs inherent in macroeconomic policy-making. To do this, we will develop a basic model of how the economy operates. We also hope to demonstrate how macroeconomic variables are constantly in-play in your personal and professional lives. Finally, economics is a mental framework with which you can gain a better understanding of yourself and the world around you.

**Course Grade:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term Exam I</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Monday, February 21st, 7:00 – 9:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term Exam II</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Monday, April 4th, 7:00 – 9:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 10th, 7:00 – 10:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
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**Grading Scale:** The scale used to assign letter grades in the course will be established by the instructor at the end of the semester. A " +/- " scale will be used. The cut-offs for letter grades and the "+/-" will also be established by the instructor at the end of the semester. Grades will be posted on the Gradebook feature within Compass: [http://compass.illinois.edu/](http://compass.illinois.edu/).

**Exams:** There will be three exams (two midterms and a final) given during the semester. Each midterm will cover only the material since the last exam. The final exam will be comprehensive. All students must bring their University Student ID with them to every exam. If you do not have your Student ID, you may not be given the exam. As a rule, we do not offer conflict exams. We follow the university guidelines pertaining to exceptions to this policy as stated in the Student Code. If you believe you are eligible for a conflict exam, you must notify both your TA and Instructor in writing during the first week of class. If you do not notify us during the first week of class, you may not be eligible for the conflict. If a conflict is required, but you are unable to attend the conflict as scheduled, then the weight of the missed exam will be added to the weight of the final exam at the end of the semester.

**Homework:** Homework represents an important part of this course. You will be assigned homework after each chapter. Assignments are due Monday morning at 3:00 am the week after the chapter was completed.

You will only be allowed to turn in your homework once. The intent here is to encourage you to study before and while you are doing your homework, rather than use trial and error to get 100% on your assignment. You should be sure of your answers before you submit your
assignment. Please remember to hit the "submit" key--otherwise the homework will not be recorded.

At the end of the semester, we will eliminate two homework assignments with the lowest scores before calculating your score for the homework portion of the course. No late homework assignments will be accepted for any reason whatsoever. You need to plan on emergencies making it impossible for you to complete all the homework assignments on a timely basis; this is why we eliminate two homework assignments from your score.

**Term Paper:** The term paper will be 5 to 6 pages in length and due the last discussion section of the course. Please refer to the term paper guidelines section for additional information.

**Extra Credit Opportunity:** An opportunity to earn extra credit points may be offered by the Professor at his discretion during the semester. If so, all students will be given the same opportunity.

**Verbal Class Participation:** There is no such thing as a stupid question. Dialogue is not only strongly encouraged, it is critical to your understanding of the material. Vocalizing your questions often helps you solidify what you do and do not understand. It also provides your instructors important feedback on the areas in which we need to spend more time. During lecture, I will encourage questions and I will solicit input. If I call on you, please relax, I am NOT trying to intimidate you or embarrass you in any way--far from it. I am trying to encourage active listening, and to keep you engaged in the course. This will greatly assist you in learning the material. If you do not know the answer, I will move on to another student.

**Iclicker Class Participation:** We will be using iclicker in lecture to further encourage your active participation during lecture. You will be asked one or more questions during lecture and asked to respond with your individual clicker. Your responses will be recorded and graded. I may ask questions that are in your lecture notes already, or completely new questions. Questions will be related to the lecture material we are covering at the time. You will be given 0% credit for a "no answer", 75% for an incorrect answer and 100% for a correct answer. You will then be given a grade for that day by averaging your scores for that day. We will drop your two lowest scores at the end of the semester--this is to account for the occasional missed class due to illness or a forgotten clicker. There will be no make-ups and no accommodation for forgotten clickers.

You will need to bring your clicker to class beginning with the first day of class. You should register it as soon as possible by logging in to: [iclicker local registration](http://www.iclicker.com/registration/). All you need to provide is the iclicker ID number found on the back of your clicker. If for some reason this registration site does not work for you, try the regular iclicker registration site located at: [http://www.iclicker.com/registration/](http://www.iclicker.com/registration/). On this site, you will be asked to provide your last name, first name, "student ID" (despite the name "student ID", you should use your NET-ID) and the clicker ID number (found on the back of the clicker). Your clicker does not need to be registered before you use it in class.

**Compass Discussion Board:** Illinois Compass will be used to post announcements, as well as to give you an opportunity to ask questions online about course content. This is also a great source of help on your homework. Our TAs will be diligent in answering student questions on the Compass Discussion Board, so please take advantage of this resource. You are responsible for checking for announcements on Compass before each class session.
**Excused Absences:** On occasion, an emergency may arise which prevents you from taking an examination or otherwise performing in the course. To be considered for an excused absence, you must provide the proper documentation explaining your absence. This is done by providing verification through the Office of the Dean of Students. The Office of the Dean of Students is located in the Turner Student Services Building, 610 E. John Street, Champaign, 333-0050. To reiterate, providing a McKinley Health Center Visit Record is NOT acceptable verification for an absence. Once the proper documentation is provided to your TA and instructor, we will determine whether an excused absence is warranted.

**Academic Integrity:** Violations of academic integrity as given in the Code on Campus Affairs will be taken extremely seriously. Students found cheating in the course (or helping others to cheat) will be penalized according to the Code’s guidelines.