ECONOMICS 101: PRINCIPLES OF MACROECONOMICS (SEC 9)
San Diego State University
Fall 2012

Instructor: David Simons
Lectures: MWF 11:00 – 11:50am, Music 265
Office Hours: MW 12:00 – 1:30pm, or by appointment
Office: 4201 Adams Humanities
Email: simonsd@rohan.sdsu.edu

Course Description:
This course is designed to introduce students to some of the basic tools and concepts used in
macroeconomics as well as explore the pragmatic applications of macroeconomic theories. This
course will broaden students’ understanding of the economic models and processes that are put
in place to manage the economy as a whole, as well as the factors that influence short-term and
long-term impacts. Some of the topics covered will include determinants of national income and
product in the long run and short run, inflation, unemployment, business cycles, and monetary
and fiscal policies.

Required Text:
Modern Principles: Macroeconomics, Second Ed. Tyler Cowen and Alex Tabarrok

Grading:
Exams: 75% (25% each)
Homework Assignments: 25%

Students’ overall letter grades will be contingent upon three exams and homework assigned
throughout the semester. Course letter grades will be assigned using the following scale:

100-93% = A  92-90% = A-  89-87% = B+  86-83% = B
82-80% = B-  79-77% = C+  76-73% = C  72-70% = C-
69-67% = D+  66-63% = D  62-60% = D-  59-0% = F

Homework Assignments:
Homework assignments and respective due dates will be announced in class and posted on
Blackboard, https://blackboard.sdsu.edu/ throughout the course of the semester. Homework
assignments are designed to be completed individually and to test students’ knowledge of the
material in preparation for the exams. All homework assignments will be completed using
EconPortal unless otherwise stated. Students can access EconPortal at

It is important that students complete the homework assignments by the scheduled due date and
time as it will not only account for 25% of your grade, but also help in better preparing students
for the application of their knowledge of the material for exams. Failure to complete the
homework will make the exams more difficult for you and negatively impact your overall grade
for the course.
No homework assignments will be accepted late. NO EXCEPTIONS. Failure to submit a homework assignment by the scheduled due date and time will result in a zero for that assignment.

Exams:
There will be a total of four exams throughout the semester: three non-cumulative midterm exams and a cumulative final exam. All exams are closed book/note, and each student must take the exam at the scheduled date and time. There will be no make-up exams. If a student is unable to sit for an exam, he/she should contact me prior to the exam date. However, because grades are contingent upon only three exams, each student’s lowest exam score will be dropped. This also means that the final exam is optional. Thus, if students are satisfied with their first three midterm exam scores, then they can choose not to take the final exam.

Each exam will cover topics and material presented and discussed in class as well as material from the textbook and supplemental items. Attending class consistently and taking detailed notes of what is discussed in lecture is highly recommended, as the majority of exam questions will be based on lecture discussions.

If the majority of students REGULARLY attend lecture, the class will be given the opportunity to take a vote to have a review of the material during the class before a scheduled exam. However, if it is obvious that the majority of students are not regularly attending lecture (at the instructor’s discretion), then a review session before a scheduled exam will not be an option.

If you are late to an exam, you may only be allowed to take the exam if no other student has finished and left at the time you arrive to the classroom. If you arrive to the classroom after the first person to finish his/her exam has handed-in their exam and left, you will not be allowed to take the exam and your grade for that exam will result in a zero.

Academic Integrity:
Academic dishonesty and cheating is a serious offense. San Diego State University expects the highest standards of academic honesty from all students. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, unauthorized assistance on an examination, falsification or fabrication of data, unauthorized collaboration on an academic exercise, plagiarism, misappropriation of research materials, and unauthorized access of an instructor's files or computer account. If your academic integrity is not maintained on an exam or assignment, you may receive an "F" for the class and may face further disciplinary action from the university. Please familiarize yourself with the SDSU Standard for Student Conduct.

Class Conduct:
It is exceedingly important that students be respectful during class lectures and maintain a behavior that is appropriate for classroom environment. Refrain from behavior and/or activities that may be disruptive or distracting to me or other students. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Eating/Drinking – Do not eat during class.
- Personal Conversations – Do not have personal conversations during class. If you have questions, raise your hand and I will call on you.
Cell Phones – Silence or turn off your cell phones before coming to class, and do not take them out during lecture. If you have to make/take a phone call, leave the classroom quietly to do so.

Arriving to Class – If you arrive after class has already begun, find a seat quickly and quietly.

Attendance:
Attendance is not mandatory but it is highly recommended, as students are encouraged to come to class with questions, and exams will be based primarily on what is discussed in lecture. Should there be any reason that a student misses class, it is his/her responsibility to find out what they missed from a fellow classmate.

Students with Disabilities:
Students who need accommodation of their disabilities should contact me privately to discuss specific accommodations for which they have received authorization. If you have a disability, but have not contacted Student Disability Services at 619-594-6473 (Calpulli Center, Suite 3101), please do so before making an appointment to see me. The web site for Student Disability Services is: http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/sds/index.html.

Email Correspondence:
If you email me with questions or concerns regarding course material, assignments, etc., follow these guidelines and I will respond at my earliest convenience:

(1) Be sure to type ECON 101 in the subject field, otherwise your email may not be read
(2) Refer to the syllabus to see if your questions might already be addressed before writing an email
(3) Be professional

Learning Objectives:
Upon completion of this course, students should leave with a much better general understanding of international and domestic economic issues and events, be able to understand economic news reports, and engage in discussions in the following areas:

• The main ideas and principles of macroeconomics
• The supply and demand model and market equilibrium
• Economic characteristics of various countries
• The relationship between savings and investment in the open market
• Labor force participation and unemployment
• International trade, exchange rates, and financial crises
• The relationship between savings and investment in the loanable funds market
• The functions of central banks
• The implications of Fiscal and Monetary Policy