Bradley Schiller *The Macroeconomy Today, 13th edition*

This course is an introduction to macroeconomics. As such, we will focus on understanding how entire economies behave. During the course you will learn to:

**Understand Basic Economic Concepts:** These include the principles of marginal analysis; the laws of supply and demand; the nature of markets and market equilibria; how the government can affect the economy by spending and taxing and how the Fed can affect the economy by adjusting the money supply; economic growth; the fundamentals of international trade; and the causes and effects of trade deficits.

**Understand How To Use Economic Models:** Economics is an analytical subject. You will learn to use inductive reasoning and other scientific methodology necessary to understand this and other (social) sciences. In short, you will learn to think like an economist.

**Understand The News:** Much of what happens in the world involves economics. This course will enable you to intelligently assess real life economic events, including international and domestic policies designed to affect economic output, inflation, and unemployment. We will start each lecture with a discussion of current events focusing on current macroeconomic variables and conditions, actions taken by the Federal Reserve, and the potential effects of current fiscal legislation.

**Course Requirements:**

There will be weekly online homework assignments, 3 non-cumulative midterm exams, and one cumulative final exam. Course grades will be determined based on relative performance on a 500 point scale, with the 500 possible points being accumulated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Possible Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework Assignments</td>
<td>Weekly, due Sunday 11:45 pm</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm #1</td>
<td>Thursday, June 6 (open from 3-9 pm)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm #2</td>
<td>Thursday, June 20 (open from 3-9 pm)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm #3</td>
<td>Monday, July 1 (open from 3-9 pm)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>Wednesday, July 3 (open from 3-9 pm)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>500</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Homework assignments will be administered through the McGraw-Hill homework managing system, which is known as Connect. You MUST purchase access to Connect in order to complete the class. Instructions for registering for Connect (plus different options for purchasing access) are included at the end of the syllabus.

The best way to learn the material in this course is to work as many problems as possible and to use your relative success in correctly answering those problems to assess your true understanding of the material and whether you need to seek additional help. Accordingly, you will be given a lot of opportunities to solve problems through homework assignments. To this end, you will be assigned 20-40 multiple choice questions for each of the 21 chapters in the text. Each of these problem sets is available immediately, but access to each assignment closes weekly at 11:45 pm Sunday night according to the following schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapters</th>
<th>No Longer Accessible After 11:45 pm on</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sunday, May 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, 3, 4, 5</td>
<td>Sunday, June 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6, 7, 8, 9</td>
<td>Sunday, June 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10, 11, 12, 13</td>
<td>Sunday, June 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14, 15, 16, 17</td>
<td>Sunday, June 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18, 19, 20, 21</td>
<td>Sunday, June 30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that: (1) once an assignment is closed, you will no longer have access to the questions - this means that it might be a good idea to print out the questions before that time so that you have them to use when reviewing for exams; (2) detailed feedback for each question will be available five minutes after the assignment closes - you are strongly encouraged to consult these to help you better learn the material; (3) you can complete each assignment as many times as you would like up until the due date – only the score for your highest attempt will be downloaded to my gradebook at the end of the class.

While you are strongly encouraged to SERIOUSLY complete all 21 assignments, I will drop your lowest 6 scores. This means that only your highest 15 scores will be weighted in determining your overall homework score out of the 100 possible homework points.

**WARNING:**

It is your responsibility to complete the homework in a timely manner. Homework assignments disappear at 11:45 pm on the last Sunday available, with NO EXCEPTIONS. Accordingly, I would not recommend waiting until 10 pm on the last possible Sunday to start an assignment. All homework assignments are available on the first day of class and you can do them any time up until their due date. Keep this in mind when developing your approach to the class.

Be aware that technical problems can occur and they are beyond my control (other than assigning problems, I have absolutely no control over the Connect website). Should one happen at 11:00 pm the day an assignment is due that prevents you from completing the assignment, you will not be granted any leniency.
Exams will also be administered through Connect. You will NOT have to travel to any testing center to take the tests. Specific instructions for how to complete the exams online will be provided separately.

Exams will be open between 3 and 9 pm on the following dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Chapter Covered</th>
<th>Available Between 3 pm and 9 pm on</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm #1</td>
<td>1 - 5</td>
<td>Thursday, June 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm #2</td>
<td>6 - 13</td>
<td>Thursday, June 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm #3</td>
<td>14 - 21</td>
<td>Monday, July 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>All Chapters</td>
<td>Wednesday, July 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Once you access the exam for the first time, you will be given ONE HOUR to submit answers to all questions. After one hour has passed, you will no longer be able to submit answers to any questions. Once you start an exam, your score will count even if you decide not to answer all of the questions.

Exams will be similar in nature to homework assignments and will focus on application and problem solving skills. Midterm exams are not cumulative: Midterm #2 tests information covered since midterm #1, Midterm #3 tests information covered since Midterm #2. The final is similar in style and content to the midterms but is cumulative (tests material covered throughout the semester).

**WARNING:**

No early or make-up exams will be given. Exams must be taken on the date given during the time window given. There will be NO EXCEPTIONS under any circumstances. Please plan accordingly.

You are allowed to “miss” one of the four exams. If a Midterm Exam is missed, the Final Exam is re-weighted to be worth 200 points. This means that there is no penalty for missing one Midterm Exam; if you miss one exam, the 500 possible points for the course become weighted more heavily toward the Final Exam. A second missed Midterm (or Final) Exam results in a score of zero and likely a failing grade for the course.

If all three Midterms are taken, the final exam can be missed. In this case, the possible points for the course are re-weighted by multiplying the sum of the three midterm exams by 4/3 (in essence substituting your average score on the three midterms for your “missing” final). In other words, the Final Exam is optional for students who have taken all three Midterm Exams.
Grading Scale:

Grades for the course will be determined as follow: Once every student has accumulated 500 possible points (i.e. only after the final), I will place students in rank order from highest to lowest according to the total number of points received. Grades will then be assigned such that the following percentages of students in the class receive the following grades:

- 10%    A
- 4%     A-
- 4%     B+
- 27%    B
- 4%     B-
- 4%     C+
- 27%    C
- 4%     C-
- 4%     D+
- 4%     D
- 4%     D-
- 4%     F

Blackboard:

All remaining course material will be available through Blackboard, http://blackboard.sdsu.edu/. The course should appear automatically when you enroll in the course. The username is your Red ID. You will have to set your password the first time you login.

All course information is available in the ‘Course Information’ folder. To access it, click on the folder. At that point, you will see a file containing the course syllabus and folder containing course material to be covered during each of the 6 weeks of the class. In each weekly folder, there three types of materials: lecture slides that summarize each chapter in the text, videos that address major themes in the chapters (not available for all chapters), and audio files that review the important topics covered in the chapter. As the class progresses, I will add additional material to these files so please check back often.

Online office hours will be held in the communication portion of Blackboard. Click on communication and then Wimba Classroom in blackboard. The first time that the Wimba Classroom can be used, there is a check of your computer that is performed. Please do that soon so you can attend the online office hours.
Academic integrity is one of the fundamental principles of a university community. San Diego State University expects the highest standards of academic honesty from all students. Violations of academic integrity include the following: (1) unauthorized assistance on an examination, (2) falsification or invention of data, (3) unauthorized collaboration on an academic exercise, (4) plagiarism, (5) misappropriation of research materials, (6) unauthorized access of an instructor’s files or computer account, and (7) any other serious violation of academic integrity as established by the instructor.

If your academic integrity is not maintained on a test or assignment, you will automatically receive a grade of fail for the class and you will be reported to the Dean’s Office, in accordance with SDSU academic integrity policy. Penalties can be severe. More specific information is available in the SDSU Bulletin, both in print and on-line.

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](http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/sds/index.html)
Purchasing the Text and Registering for Connect:

The text you purchase will contain with a code that is required for accessing Connect. There are two options for purchasing the text. You can either: (1) purchase a hard copy through the book store - double-check that an access code is included before purchasing, or (2) purchase on online version of the text through the website that follows.

Note that option (2) is significantly cheaper and that the on-line text contains a number of options not available in the hard copy of the text.

(1) Go to http://connect.mcgraw-hill.com/class/m_hilmer_summer_2013

You should see the following screen

![Welcome screen](image)

If you have purchased a hard copy of the text and have an access code

(2) Click the ‘Register Now’ button and follow the instructions

If you would like to purchase an online copy of the text

(2) Click the ‘How to Buy Access Online’ button and follow the instructions

To access homework assignments, detailed solutions, and take exams, return to the website http://connect.mcgraw-hill.com/class/m_hilmer_summer_2013