ECON 101-4 – Principle of Economics Syllabus (Section 4)

Instructor: Kurt Wang
Office Hour: MWF 10:00am-10:50am and by appointment (Nasatir Hall 314)
Lecture: MWF 11:00am – 11:50am (LA2203, Library)
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Course Overview
This class will introduce the basic methods of economic analysis with an emphasis on macroeconomics. We’ll cover macroeconomic theory and the tools to study the economy as a whole (including topics like: basic finance, monetary system, international trade/exchange rate, government policies, unemployment, and inflation). We’ll also apply the economic theory to discuss recent issues such as the financial crisis of 2008-2009 and the government budget deficit.

Learning Outcomes
The course’s objective is to teach students the tools to critically think about macroeconomics issues. By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Know the definitions and key concepts of principle economic theory.
- Understand and apply the model of supply and demand.
- Apply the basic tools of finance.
- Understand and discuss the U.S. financial system.
- Understand and discuss international trade and exchange rate.
- Discuss the financial crisis of 2008-2009 and the current fiscal budget deficit.
- Discuss unemployment and inflation.

Textbook/Reading and Class material
2. Aplia access.
(Both are sold in a bundle at the SDSU Bookstore)
3. Access to Blackboard (I’ll upload some of my notes and study guide for the class)

Grading
Aplia Assignment: 20%
Midterm Exams: 40% (20% each)
Final Exam: 40%

Course letter grade will be assigned by the following:

- [100%, 93.3%] = A
- (93.3%, 90%) = A-
- (90%, 86.7%) = B+
- (86.7%, 83.3%) = B
- (83.3%, 80%) = B-
- (76.7%, 73.3%) = C
- (73.3%, 70%) = C-
- (66.7%, 63.3%) = D
- (63.3%, 60%) = D-
- Below 60% = F
Example: 95% on Aplia assignment, 86% on 1st midterm, 80.5% on 2nd midterm, 86% on final exam
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\text{[(95\% \times 0.2) + (86\% \times 0.2) + (80.5\% \times 0.2) + (86\% \times 0.4)] \times 100 = 86.7\% \Rightarrow B+}
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Aplia Assignment
We’ll be using Aplia homework program in this class. There will be homework assigned on Aplia each week, and it is due every Thursday before 11:45pm. I encourage students to complete the assignment as soon as possible to avoid any last minute technical problems. I understand that students might not be able to turn in their assignment on time due to unforeseen circumstances, so I am willing to drop students’ four lowest assignment grades. In return, I will not accept any late submissions; it’s your responsibility to turn in the assignment on time. Student registration to Aplia instruction is available in blackboard course website under “Course Document.”

Exams
There will be two midterm exams and a final exam. All exams are closed book. You must take the exam at the scheduled time and place. There will be no make up exams. If I see that you have a valid excuse of missing the exam, we can work something out. However, you must come talk to me at least a week BEFORE the exam. Exam grade will be curved around the class average. Tentative Exam Schedule:

- Midterm 1: 11:00am-11:50am, September 30th (Friday), LA 2203
- Midterm 2: 11:00am-11:50am, October 28th (Friday), LA 2203
- Final Exam: 10:30am-12:00am, December 14th (Wednesday), LA 2203

Academic Integrity
I see academic dishonesty to be a serious offense. It’s unfair to other students who made the effort to complete the assignment and study for the exams. Evidence of cheating by a student will result in an automatic “F” as that student’s grade. Students can familiarize themselves with SDSU Standard for Student Conduct available at http://csrr.sdsu.edu/conduct1.html.

Accommodating Disabilities
If you have or acquire any sort of disability that may require accommodation, feel free to discuss it with me at your convenience. You can find out what services are available on campus by contacting Student Disability Service, Suite 3100, Calpulli Center (619) 594-6473

Course Outline
- Introduction
  - Ch 3 Gains from Trade
- Intro to Microeconomics
  - Ch 4 Supply and Demand
- Macroeconomics
  - Ch 5 Measuring Nation’s Income
• The Real Economy in the Long Run
  o Ch 7 Production and Growth
  o Ch 8 Saving, Investment, and Financial system
  o Ch 9 Basic Tools of Finance
  o Ch 10 Unemployment

• Money and Price in the Long Run
  o Ch 11 The Monetary System
  o Ch 12 Money Growth and Inflation

• Macroeconomics of Open Economy
  o Ch 13 Basic Concepts
  o Ch 14 Macroeconomic Theory

• Short-Run Economics Fluctuations
  o Ch 15 Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply
  o Ch 16 Monetary and Fiscal Policy
  o Ch 17 Inflation and Unemployment

• Final Thoughts
  o Ch 18 Macroeconomic policy debates