Welcome to a first course in economics. The goal for econ 101 is to provide you with the basic tools and vocabulary to conduct basic economic analysis. In macroeconomics we will focus on the large scale economy. We look at variables such as GDP, inflation, unemployment, interest rates, and the trade balance to explain both the current state of the aggregate economy as well as movements and fluctuations in the economy.

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 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.
- Know the definitions of and how to calculate various macroeconomic variables such as GDP, the CPI, the unemployment rate, and the rate of inflation
- Discuss the usefulness and limitations of macroeconomic aggregates such as GDP and CPI inflation
- Differentiate between and explain fiscal and monetary policy
- Understand the distinction between real and nominal values
- Be able to distinguish between short and long run effects of policy
- Know the differences between the Classical and Keynesian views on Economic Policy
Textbook/Reading and Class material

2. Aplia access.

(Both are sold in a bundle at the SDSU Bookstore)

** If you bought the textbook from another source, you will still need to purchase Aplia which is about $90. I recommend purchasing the bundle from the bookstore.

How to study for this course

If your goal is to get an A in this class then use this strategy.

1) Read the text before or along with class. Bring questions to class. Stay engaged in the lecture, discussions and activities.
   We will be covering 1 or 2 chapters a week, so missing a class can set you significantly behind.

2) Practice your homework. Review practice exams when posted. Tests are difficult if you are not use to taking them. The way I try to remedy this is to give you practice problems to train your thinking so when you approach an exam in this class, you will have an advantage. Economics is a bunch of conceptual ideas communicated in a mathematical framework. Practice drawing graphs and solving problems to become comfortable with them so that when you take a test, it will seem like second nature.

3) To think like an economist, you should speak like an economist by using the language of economics. Learn the vocabulary and the subtle differences.
   For example, “an increase in demand” and “an increase in quantity demanded” mean two different things on a demand curve.

4) Stay current. Do not fall behind. Macroeconomics builds on concepts from the beginning through the entire course. If you miss out on a good portion, then there will be this constant confusion throughout the remainder of the course. DO NOT think that by skipping a few classes that you can come back and read the chapters and get it in time for the test. It is my experience that most of us have to put in timely, consistent study time to earn an A.

Classroom Etiquette:

- Be an adult; act responsibly. You are of the age to join the military, to pay taxes and make your own decisions. Your professional development starts here and continues in other classes. If you do not take this class or any class seriously, then nobody will take you seriously.
- Come to class on time and stay the entire time. If you must be late, be quiet when you enter, and quiet if you need to exit early.
- Don’t chat, text, email during class. Side conversations are really distracting to those who want to learn. Besides, you’re here, it costs you money, and your opportunity cost is high, make good use of class time.
• If you come to class just to turn on a computer and check the status of your facebook account, THEN DON’T COME TO CLASS. Attendance is not required so you do not have to be here. If you choose to come to class, use it wisely and efficiently.
• Be respectful of others. We all come from different backgrounds and different parts of the world. Understand this and be cautious of the language and tone you use.
• Guard your integrity and do your own work. Cheating and plagiarism not only diminishes your character, but it will also earn you a zero for the class.
• Bothering other students, harassing them, kicking their chair, making rude comments in class or out of class will not be tolerated!

Grading
Aplia homework assignments 20%
Quizzes 10%
Exams (2 highest scores) 40% (20% each)
Final 30%

Scale
Course letter grade will be assigned by following weighted average ranges:
[100%, 93.3%] = A  (86.7%, 83.3%] = B  (76.7%, 73.3%] = C  (66.7%, 63.3%] = D
(93.3%, 90%] = A-  (83.3%, 80%] = B-  (73.3%, 70%] = C-  (63.3%, 60%] = D-
(90%, 86.7%] = B+  (80%, 76.7%] = C+  (70%, 66.7%] = D+  Below 60% = F

Example of grading: aplia + exam 1 + exam 2 + final exam
(95 X .2) + (82 X .2) + (91 X .2) + (90 X .1) + (92 X .3) = 19 + 16.4 + 18.2 + 9 + 27.6 = 90.2  A-
Test scores will be posted on blackboard.

Aplia assignments
Homework will be conducted through Aplia. Assignments will be due each week on Thursday 11:45 pm. Each assignment will be available two weeks prior to the assignment’s due date. It is important to realize that submitting the assignment late will result in a zero. If it is submitted one second past the due date time, it will be a zero. At times Aplia has been down especially during those crucial times. My recommendation is to begin the assignments early. If you are unfamiliar with Aplia, I will give you a brief run-through in class.

Exams
There are three exams and a final. Exam 1 will cover Chapters 1-4. Exam 2 will cover chapters 5-10. Exam 3 will cover 11-14, 15. The Final exam will cover the remaining chapters and will be comprehensive. For exams 1, 2, and 3, the lowest of the three will be dropped and only the best two scores will be computed into your final grade. The Final is mandatory and will count and as you can see,
is worth 30% of your grade, so do not data dump all the stuff you learned in the beginning chapters. Review material periodically.

Exam and quiz dates are tentative and subject to revisions. Quizzes and exams will be conducted on Fridays unless Friday class is cancelled, expect a quiz on Wednesday.
Exam 1 January 16
Exam 2 February 15
Exam 3 April 19
Final ????????

Calculators required! You may use any calculator for the exam, except for your cell-phone. **No cell-phones allowed during class or exams.** Purchase 4 scantrons that are the 100 question format. There are no make-up exams. Exam dates are posted, be in class, be ready. If you miss an exam, it will count as a zero. If you cannot make the scheduled exam, please see me at least **one week before** the exam. If you approach me after the exam is given, no excuse will be accepted and you will receive a zero.

**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](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

**Other things about this course**
San Diego State University has many impacted programs and Economics is one of them. Courses fill up fast and many students are on a waiting list to be added to classes. Be prepared to work hard in this course as it is fast paced and easy to fall behind.

If you are looking for a course with an easy “A” format, this is NOT the course for you. Exams and homework can be demanding. Mathematics is used extensively to find many answers. I do not want to deter any student from taking my course, but I want to warn all students that learning macroeconomics takes considerable study time. A minimum of 6 hours per week is recommended.
About me: I am a TA/graduate student given authority to teach this course at my discretion. If you feel that you prefer an instructor with Ph.D. credentials, I will not be bothered by that and you may sign up for a different course. There is space available in other classes. Just add and drop on your webportal.

I apologize for the length of this syllabus. I was trying to cover anything that might be asked and I am sure I missed something so if anything described in this syllabus is confusing, if there are errors, or contradictions, please let me know immediately so I can correct them and let the entire class know.

I reserve the right to make amendments, adjustments and changes to this course and syllabus.