Econ 101 - Principles of Macroeconomics  
San Diego State University  
Fall 2014

Dr. Mike Hilmer  
Lectures: Th 9:30-10:45, ENS-280  
Office: Nasatir 306  
Office Hours: T 9:00-10:45, Th 8:15-9:15 or by appointment  
Email: mhilmer@mail.sdsu.edu

Text:

Bradley Schiller *The Macroeconomy Today, 13th edition*

Course Description:

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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework Assignments</td>
<td>Weekly, due Tuesday 11:45 pm</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm #1</td>
<td>Thursday, October 2</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm #2</td>
<td>Thursday, November 6</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm #3</td>
<td>Thursday, December 4</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>Thursday, December 11 8:00am-10:00am</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>500</strong></td>
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</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 progressively each week at 11:45 pm Tuesday night (you are responsible to keep track of which assignments are due each week).

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 on the day after the assignment closes - you are strongly encouraged to consult these to help you better learn the material; (3) you can complete each assignment three times – only the score for your highest attempt will be downloaded to my gradebook at the end of the semester.

While you are strongly encouraged to SERIOUSLY complete all 21 assignments, I will drop your lowest 3 scores. This mean that only your highest 18 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 Tuesday available, with NO EXCEPTIONS. Accordingly, I would not recommend waiting until 10 pm on the last possible Tuesday 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 consist of multiple choice questions 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).

No early or make-up exams will be given. If a Midterm Exam is missed for any reason, the Final Exam is re-weighted to be worth 200 points. This means that there is no penalty for missing a Midterm Exam; the 500 points for the course simply become weighted more heavily toward the Final Exam. If the Final Exam is missed, the 300 points from the three Midterms are re-weighted to a total of 400 points. In other words, the Final Exam is optional for students who have taken all three Midterm Exams.

Students missing two or more exams will automatically receive an F for the course.

Note that the Final Exam is scheduled for Thursday, December 11 8:00am-10:00am. Please make end-of-the-semester plans accordingly. Do not ask to reschedule the final. The answer is no for every student.

These rules are designed to ensure that all students are treated fairly (i.e. exactly the same) by preventing students taking make-up exams from possibly discussing the exam already taken with other classmates and thereby benefitting from information that others did not have when taking their exams. There are no exceptions.

WARNING:

No early or make-up exams will be given. Exams must be taken on the date they are given in class. There will be NO EXCEPTIONS under any circumstances. Please plan accordingly.

Grading:

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 based on relative performance in that total score distribution.

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 Documents’ 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 21 chapters. In each chapter folder, there are 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.

**Academic Integrity:**

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 with Disabilities:**

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

**Email Correspondence:**

If you would like me to respond to your email, you must follow three rules. If you do so, I will try to respond at my earliest convenience.

1. Be professional. I will not respond to emails written in text language.
2. You are responsible for reading and understanding the syllabus and the FAQ. If you have questions about the syllabus and FAQ, you need to discuss them with me in person. All emails with questions regarding material clearly stated on the syllabus will receive the following response “Please consult the syllabus and FAQ.”
3. Most questions relating to the class should be addressed during my office hours. If you email me with such questions, I will ask you to attend my next office hours to discuss the answer (given the nature of the class schedule, none of you should have conflicting classes during that time).
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 an online version of the text through the website that follows.

Note that option (2) is significantly cheaper because it does not include the library’s significant mark-up 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.mheducation.com/class/m-hilmer-fall-2014

You should see the following screen

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

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

To access homework assignments, detailed solutions (one day after the due date), and take exams, return to the website.