

BOSTON COLLEGE

Department of Economics

EC 132.13: PRINCIPLES OF ECONOMICS - MACRO **Spring 2001**

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Office Hours: TTh 12:00 - 1:00 and by appointment

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Class: TTh 9:00 - 10:15

Course Homepage: <http://www2.bc.edu/~zanardi/principles/ec13213.html>

1. Course Objectives

This course is an introduction to the study of macroeconomics. Topics to be studied include the analysis of national income and employment, economic fluctuations, monetary and fiscal policy, inflation, growth, and international aspects of macroeconomic policy. Special attention will be paid to real world applications and you are encouraged to follow the economic news (you may find it helpful to regularly read the business section of “The Globe” or the Wall Street Journal).

The objective of this course is to provide you with the tools necessary to understand the economic and policy debate in regard to business cycles fluctuations and monetary and fiscal policies.

2. Requirements

Required textbook: Paul A. Samuelson, William D. Nordhau
Macroeconomics
Irwin McGraw-Hill, 16th edition

or:¹ Paul A. Samuelson, William D. Nordhau
Economics
Irwin McGraw-Hill, 16th edition

¹ This version also contains the material covered in Principles of Microeconomics. If you are using this textbook, add 16 to the chapter’s numbers and 308 to the pages’ numbers.

Exposition in class will closely follow the required textbook so that you are encouraged to read the book before coming to class. However, some extra material may be covered and handouts distributed. Remember that you are responsible for any information and announcement made in class!

The midterm will be in class on Tuesday, February 20. The cumulative final exam is scheduled for Tuesday, May 8 at 12:30. Make up exams will not be offered. If you miss the midterm exam for an excusable reason, the weights on problem sets, paper, and final exam will be increased.

Problem sets will be distributed generally every two weeks and they will be due one week after. No late problem sets will be accepted since solutions will be distributed and available on-line. You are encouraged to work together but you have to write your own answers otherwise the problem set will not be graded. Problem sets will be part of your final grade but only your best 5 grades out of 6 problem sets will be considered, in order to give you some flexibility. Note that problem set 5 will be a commentary of journal article that you will choose; more information will be provided in class.

The problem set schedule is:

Problem set:	Due:
PS #1	January 30
PS #2	February 13
PS #3	March 1
PS #4	March 27
PS #5	April 10
PS #6	April 26

The overall grade for the course will be determined in the following way:

Problem sets (5 out of 6):	25%
Midterm exam:	35%
Final exam:	40%

Class participation is an important element of learning. You are encouraged to ask questions and interact as much as possible. Feel free to come to my office hours for any possible question you may have and check the course homepage for assignments and solutions. You may also consider to get tutoring at the Academic Development Center (for appointments: 552-0611).

Be advised that cheating on any exam will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic failing grade. Please refer to page on Academic Integrity in BC Student Handbook.

3. Course outline

1. Growth and Business Cycles

Chapter 4: pages 63-79.
Chapter 5: pages 82-101.
Chapter 6: pages 103-121.
Chapter 7: pages 124-135.
Chapter 8: pages 138-154.
Chapter 9: pages 157-174.
Chapter 10: pages 185-203.

(7 weeks)

2. Growth and Macroeconomic Policy

Chapter 11: pages 209-227.
Chapter 12: pages 230-242.
Chapter 13: pages 249-267.
Chapter 14: pages 270-291.
Chapter 17: pages 336-352.
Chapter 16: pages 313-333.

(5 weeks)

3. Open-Economy Macroeconomics and International Trade

Chapter 15: pages 295-310.
Chapter 18: pages 365-377.
Chapter 19: pages 380-401.

(2 weeks)

Please note that handouts and journal articles may be assigned.

I strongly suggest reading the Appendix to Chapter 1.

Tentative class schedule:

Tuesday 16 January:	Chapter 4	Thursday 15 March:	Chapter 11 Chapter 12
Thursday 18 January:	Chapter 4	Tuesday 20 March:	Chapter 12 PS #4 handed out
Tuesday 23 January:	Chapter 5 PS #1 handed out	Thursday 22 March:	Chapter 13
Thursday 25 January:	Chapter 5	Tuesday 27 March:	Chapter 13 Chapter 14 PS #4 due
Tuesday 30 January:	Chapter 6 PS #1 due	Thursday 29 March:	Chapter 14
Thursday 1 February:	Chapter 6	Tuesday 3 April:	Chapter 17
Tuesday 6 February:	Chapter 7 PS #2 handed out	Thursday 5 April:	Chapter 17 Chapter 16
Thursday 8 February:	Chapter 7	Tuesday 10 April:	Chapter 16 PS#5 due
Tuesday 13 February:	Chapter 8 PS #2 due	Thursday 13 April:	HOLIDAY
Thursday 15 February:	Chapter 8	Tuesday 17 April:	Chapter 15
Tuesday 20 February:	Midterm	Thursday 19 April:	Chapter 15 Chapter 18 PS #6 handed out
Thursday 22 February:	Chapter 9 PS #3 handed out	Tuesday 24 April:	Chapter 18
Tuesday 27 February:	Chapter 9 Chapter 10	Thursday 26 April:	Chapter 19 PS #6 due
Thursday 1 March:	Chapter 10 PS #3 due	Tuesday 1 May:	Chapter 19
Tuesday 6 March:	SPRING BREAK	Tuesday 8 May:	FINAL EXAM
Thursday 8 March:	SPRING BREAK		
Tuesday 13 March:	Chapter 11		