

BOSTON COLLEGE
Department of Economics

Ec 132.02
Principles of Economics-Macro
Spring, 1999

Harold Petersen
McGuinn 518, 552-4550
Office Hrs. M 2-3, W 3-4, Th 3:15-4

Text: Samuelson, Paul A. and Nordhaus, William D. Economics, 16th ed., 1998.
Plus outside readings to be assigned.

Course Requirements: 2 midterm exams (25% each), on **Feb. 16** and **March 30**
a one-page paper (10%), due **April 15**
a final exam (40%), on **May 8**, at **9:00 a.m.**
numerous problem sets (optional, but strongly recommended)
used as additional evidence for up to one notch on your
final grade (C to C+, B- to B, etc.)

Course Organization and Expectations:

The course meets for two lectures per week (Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30 to 2:45) and on most weeks for a problem-discussion section as well. Be sure to sign up for a discussion section by Thursday, January 21. Problem sets will be handed out in class by one week before they are due and are to be turned in on the day due either just prior to class or during the five-minute break in the middle of class. Your teaching assistant will return the problem sets in the discussion sessions, will go over troublesome parts, and will respond to questions you may have on either the problem sets or material presented in the lectures or the text. Time permitting, your T.A. will expand on topics from the text not covered in the lectures.

You are expected to read the text carefully, attend all classes, work through the problem sets, and to come with questions to your discussion sessions. You may work together on the problem sets--indeed you are encouraged to do so--but you are not to simply copy the work from someone else. You are to work through your own answers before turning them in.

Your work on exams is to be entirely your own. Be sure you are familiar with the section on "Academic Honesty" in the undergraduate catalog (p. 34) and be aware that your instructor and your T.A. take this most seriously.

There will be no make-up exams. If you miss an exam for good reason, let me know immediately (my phone has voice mail in the event I am not in) and you will be graded on the other exam and the final. If you do poorly on one mid-term but consistently well on the other one and the final, the one poor exam will be discounted (but not completely ignored).

I want you to follow current press reports on output, growth, unemployment, inflation, interest rates, Federal Reserve policy, the budget deficit, the trade deficit, fluctuations in foreign exchange rates, and other issues of macroeconomic policy. Raise questions in class and approach me after class. Then for the one-page paper, due April 15, you are to imagine you are a member of the Federal Reserve System's Open Market Committee. The Committee is about to meet and you are preparing a paper with your recommendation as to whether interest rates should be increased, reduced, or left where they are. Give the basis for your position as carefully as you can.

Finally, I am assuming that all of you have had a course in Principles of Economics-Micro. If you have not had this course, you will need to spend some time on material in Part I of your text. By very early in the course you will need to know the concepts of the production-possibility frontier and micro supply and demand curves.

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Syllabus

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Text Assignment</u>
Jan.	1 9 Introduction to Macroeconomics	Ch. 20A
	2 1 Measuring Income and Output	Ch. 21
	2 6 Aggregate Supply and Demand	Ch. 20 B
	2 8 Consumption, Saving, and Investment	Ch. 22
Feb.	2 The Keynesian Multiplier Model	Ch. 24 A
	4 Fiscal Policy	Ch. 24 B
	9 International Trade & the Multiplier Model	Ch. 31 A
	1 1 Aggregate Demand vs. the Micro Demand Curve	Ch. 23B
	1 6 Exam	
	1 8 Money: Origins of and Demand for Money	Ch. 25 A
	2 3 Banking and the Supply of Money	Ch. 25 B
	2 5 Central Banking and Federal Reserve Policy	Ch. 26 A
March	9 Monetary Policy: Impact on Prices and Output	Ch. 26 B
	1 1 Business Cycles	Ch. 23 A
	1 6 Unemployment: Measurement and Cost	Ch. 29 B
	1 8 Inflation: Measurement and Cost	Ch. 30 A
	2 3 Sources and Kinds of Inflation	Ch. 30 B
	2 5 The Phillips Curve and Inflation	Ch. 30 C
	3 0 Exam	
April	6 Fiscal Policy and the Budget Deficit	Ch. 33A
	8 Deficit Spending in an Open Economy	Ch. 33B
	1 3 Policies for Growth and Stability	Ch. 33C
	1 5 Economic Growth and Aggregate Supply	Ch. 29A, 27
	2 0 Monetarism and Rational Expectations	Ch. 32 B, C
	2 2 The Stock Market and Economic Activity	Ch. 25 C
	2 7 International Finance and Exchange Rates	Ch. 34 B
	2 9 Economic Crises and the Int'l Monetary Fund	Ch. 36
May	4 Summary and Review	
	8 Final Exam (9:00 a.m.)	