Boston College
Department of Economics
Principles of Macroeconomics (EC 132.05)
Fulton 220, 9am MWF

Instructor
Tristan Potter, Maloney 462G
Office Phone: 2-6484
Email: potter.tristan@gmail.com

Office Hours
10-11am MW, and by appointment. Students must contact me if they intend on attending scheduled office hours.

Textbook

Grading
Your final course grade will be based on the following weighting scheme. *Students regularly coming to office hours, working on problem sets and participating in class will be eligible for a half letter grade bump on their final course grade at my discretion (e.g. from B to B+). Moreover, I reserve the right to lower any student’s final grade if he or she is regularly late to or disruptive in class.*

Final Exam (35%)
Two-hour comprehensive final exam covering material from the entire semester. Emphasis on material from after the midterm. Wednesday, May 8, 2013 at 12:30pm.

Midterm Exam (25%)
Friday, March 1, 2013 in class (50 minutes).

Quizzes (20%)
There will be five unannounced pop quizzes (approx. ten minutes/three questions) throughout the semester in lieu of an attendance requirement. Pop quizzes will cover material from the class of the quiz or previous class, or the most recent problem set. Students absent for these quizzes without an officially excused absence will receive a score of zero on the missed quiz. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the semester, so the quiz portion of the final grade will be computed as the average of the best four quizzes.

Article Summaries (20%)
On Friday of each week, students will be required to turn in a one-page, single-spaced summary and analysis of a recent article relating to macroeconomics and the material covered in class. These should be roughly 1/3 summary, 2/3 analysis and discussion. Articles may be from any reputable news source (e.g. The Economist, WSJ, NYT, The Atlantic, etc.). See me if you are unsure whether a particular article/news source is acceptable. Blog posts are not permitted.

Problem Sets (Optional)
I will hand out problem sets each Friday, which will consist of both online problems from the text and my own questions. While these are optional, students are strongly encouraged to try the problem sets and to discuss questions/answers with me. Exams will be closely related to the problem sets. I will hand out answer keys approximately one week after the assignment has been given out.

Economics and the Core
This course is designed to meet a number of needs. It is required for the economics major and for all CSOM students, it is one of the choices to fulfill the social sciences CORE requirement, and it serves as an elective to anyone who wants an introduction to macroeconomics. It introduces the basic tools of macroeconomic analysis and applies these tools to problems of current and historical interest. It explores the development of macroeconomics through the work of John Maynard Keynes and post-Keynesian critics. Finally it looks at how we bring together what we learn from economics with what we learn from other fields.

Academic Integrity
Your work on exams and article summaries is to be entirely your own. Be sure you are familiar with the sections on "Academic Integrity" in the Boston College Catalog (pp. 35-36) or online at BCInfo (A-Z index, Academic Integrity). I take academic integrity very seriously, and will not hesitate to report any infractions of BC’s policy to the University administration.

Class Attendance, Exams and Quizzes
Regular class attendance is strongly encouraged and exams must be taken at their scheduled time. A persistent pattern of arriving late for class is disruptive and may lead to a lower grade for the course. Absences from exams must be officially excused by your Dean before the time of the examination, and all students must take the final exam. Students officially excused from the midterm exam will receive final grades calculated with a 60% weight on the final exam (the sum of the midterm and the final from above). Students missing more than one quiz will receive a zero on all quizzes missed after the first, unless they are able to provide an official note from the appropriate Dean excusing the absence within a week of the missed quiz. In this case, all completed quizzes will receive the additional weight of the missed quiz.

Disabilities
If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your ability to carry out assigned course work, you must contact the Disability Services Office. The Assistant Dean for Students with Disabilities, Paulette Durrett (paulette.durrett@bc.edu), will review your concerns and determine, with you, what accommodations are appropriate. No accommodations will be made for this course without official notification from the Disability Service Office. If you arranged for an accommodation for an earlier semester, you still must see Ms. Durrett to make sure that I am notified of any accommodations for this semester. All information and documentation of your disability is confidential.

Miscellany
- Although they are optional, I strongly encourage you to work on problem sets with your peers, and to consult with me during office hours if you have questions. The development of your understanding of economics hinges critically on the time spent struggling on problem sets. Moreover, they will provide useful practice for the exams.
• Any student wishing to dispute a grade received on a particular assignment or exam must provide a type-written document to me in my mailbox in the Economics Department, detailing the specific nature of the complaint, within 48 hours of receiving the grade. If this is not done, I will not consider any grade changes.

• Although Calculus is not a prerequisite for this course, on each problem set I will include several questions that apply some basic tools of Calculus to analyzing economic problems. As with the rest of the problem sets, these are strictly optional. However, those students wishing to pursue a major (or career!) in economics should consider working through these problems, and consulting with me with any questions, as mathematics is increasingly critical for economic research. That being said, none of the calculus-based questions will be covered on the exams.

• I rarely use my office phone, so all out-of-class contact must be made by email unless I instruct you otherwise. Please allow me 24 hours to respond to an email before you send a follow-up.