

**BOSTON COLLEGE**  
**Department of Economics**

**EC 132.01 and EC 132.02**  
**Principles of Macroeconomics**  
**Fall 2009**

**INSTRUCTOR**

Alessandro Barattieri  
Office: 462 F, 21 Campanella Way  
Email: [barattie@bc.edu](mailto:barattie@bc.edu)  
Phone: 617-552-6376  
Office Hours: Tue 1:00 – 3:00 pm or by appointment

**CLASS MEETINGS**

Fulton 220  
M, W, F, 11:00 - 11:50 a.m. (EC 132.01)  
M, W, F, 12:00 - 12:50 p.m. (EC 132.02)

**TEXTBOOK**

N. Gregory Mankiw, *Principles of Macroeconomics* 5th ed., 2008 (paperback) or N. Gregory Mankiw, *Principles of Economics* 5th ed., 2008 (hardcover)

**COUSE DESCRIPTION**

This is an introductory course in Macroeconomics. It covers topics such as the measurement of national income and the cost of living, unemployment, the determinants of economic growth, the financial system, the sources of economic fluctuations, fiscal and monetary policy and the basics of international macroeconomics.

This course is designed to meet a number of needs. It is required for the economics major and for 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.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

- (1) There will be two midterms** (on Friday October 9<sup>th</sup> and Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, each accounting for 25% of the final grade) **and a cumulative final exam** (accounting for 40% of the final grade). There will be no make-up exams for either of the midterms or for the final. Please let me know in advance if serious illness or an exceptional personal matter will prevent you from taking one of the midterms. An unexcused absence from an exam will result in a score of zero.

- (2) **Homework performance will account for the remaining 10% of the final grade.** Problem sets will be assigned on a regular basis. The completed homework should be submitted on the due date at the beginning of each class.

## POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

- (1) Since the most interesting aspect of studying is the relation between what we study and the reality in which we live, I invite you to **follow the economic news in newspapers and magazines** (for instance The Wall Street Journal and The Economist). As you will see, this is a very exciting moment for studying economics!
- (2) **Ask, Ask, Ask!** Active class participation is strongly encouraged. Class participation will help you gain a better understanding of the course topics and will help me doing a better job as instructor.
- (3) **You are expected to read the assigned materials ahead of each class meeting.** This will allow you to participate and to gain a better understanding of the topics discussed. The textbook chapters for each class are indicated in the tentative schedule listed below. (The chapter numbers differ according to whether you use the paperback or the hardcover edition; I listed the chapter numbers for the paperback edition)
- (4) **Lecture notes will be available on Blackboard Vista,** but only after we cover the material in class. The aim of this is to train you to pay attention and take notes during classes, a skill that will be useful to you also in other courses. I will make available on Blackboard Vista also some sketched solutions for the problem sets. You can access Blackboard Vista either from the Portal ([portal.bc.edu](http://portal.bc.edu)) or from [www.cms.bc.edu](http://www.cms.bc.edu)
- (5) **Your work on exams is to be entirely your own.** Be sure you are familiar with the sections on academic integrity in the Boston College Catalog:  
<http://www.bc.edu/offices/stserv/academic/resources/policy.html>  
 You can work together on the problem sets (you are indeed encouraged to do so), but you cannot simply copy the work from someone else.

## COURSE OUTLINE (Tentative!)

CLASS	DATE	DAY	TOPIC	TEXT	PS
1	9-Sep	WED	Intro		
2	11-Sep	FRI	Supply and Demand	Ch 4	
3	14-Sep	MON	Supply and Demand	Ch 4	
4	16-Sep	WED	Measuring a Nation's Income	Ch10	
5	18-Sep	FRI	Measuring a Nation's Income	Ch10	#1 Due
6	21-Sep	MON	Measuring a Nation's Income	Ch10	
7	23-Sep	WED	Measuring the Cost of Living	Ch11	
8	25-Sep	FRI	Measuring the Cost of Living	Ch11	#2 Due
9	28-Sep	MON	Unemployment	Ch15	
10	30-Sep	WED	Unemployment	Ch15	

11	2-Oct	FRI	Production and Growth	Ch12	#3 Due
12	5-Oct	MON	Production and Growth	Ch12	
13	7-Oct	WED	Review		#4 Due
<b>14</b>	<b>9-Oct</b>	<b>FRI</b>	<b>FIRST-MIDTERM</b>		
	12-Oct	MON	NO CLASSES COLUMBUS DAY		
15	14-Oct	WED	Savings, Investment and Financial system	Ch13	
16	16-Oct	FRI	Savings, Investment and Financial system	Ch13	
17	19-Oct	MON	The monetary System	Ch 16	
18	21-Oct	WED	The monetary System	Ch 16	
19	23-Oct	FRI	The monetary System	Ch 16	#5 Due
20	26-Oct	MON	Money Growth and Inflation	Ch 17	
21	28-Oct	WED	Money Growth and Inflation	Ch 17	
22	30-Oct	FRI	Money Growth and Inflation	Ch 17	#6 Due
23	2-Nov	MON	The Crisis of 2007-2008	Ch 14	
24	4-Nov	WED	The Crisis of 2007-2008	Ch 14	
25	6-Nov	FRI	Review		#7 Due
<b>26</b>	<b>9-Nov</b>	<b>MON</b>	<b>SECOND MIDTERM</b>		
27	11-Nov	WED	Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply	Ch 20	
28	13-Nov	FRI	Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply	Ch 20	
29	16-Nov	MON	Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply	Ch 20	
30	18-Nov	WED	Monetary and Fiscal Policy	Ch21	
31	20-Nov	FRI	Monetary and Fiscal Policy	Ch21	
32	23-Nov	MON	The Phillips Curve	Ch22	#8 Due
	25-Nov	WED	NO CLASSES - Thanksgiving Break		
	27-Nov	FRI	NO CLASSES - Thanksgiving Break		
33	30-Nov	MON	Open Economy Macro: Basic Concepts	Ch18	#9 Due
34	2-Dec	WED	Open Economy Macro: Basic Concepts	Ch18	
35	4-Dec	FRI	Open Economy Macro: Basic Concepts	Ch18	
36	7-Dec	MON	A macro theory of the open economy	Ch19	
37	9-Dec	WED	A macro theory of the open economy	Ch19	
38	11-Dec	FRI	Review		#10 Due
	<b>14-Dec</b>	<b>MON</b>	<b>EC132.01 FINAL EXAM h 12:30 pm</b>		
	<b>18-Dec</b>	<b>FRI</b>	<b>EC132.02 FINAL EXAM h 12:30 pm</b>		