1. Course Description and Objectives

This course introduces the basic tools and concepts of modern macroeconomics. Students will familiarize with important notions such as supply and demand, and learn about long-run growth, inflation and unemployment. The second part of the course will focus on short-run fluctuations — the booms and busts of the economy — and how fiscal and monetary policy can be used to stabilize them. Finally, the course will also cover aspects of international economics such as international trade, balance of payments and exchange rates. The theoretical concepts developed in class will be applied to the study of real-world phenomena.

2. Course Materials and Resources

You can either purchase the physical copy of the book or purchase the bundle eBook + Access to Sapling Learning Homework. More details on the last page of this handout.

Homework Assignments: Weekly assignments will be available via Sapling Learning.

Supplementary Material: Additional readings and notes will be distributed in class during the course. All the additional material will also be available on the Canvas webpage for the course.

3. Course Requirements

You are expected to read the textbook carefully, attend all classes and actively participate. Your grade for this course will be based on three exams, a series of homework assignments and in-class participation with the following weights:
Midterm I (W, October 8) 20%
Midterm 2 (M, November 17) 20%
Final Exam (F, December 19) 35%
Homework Assignments 20%
In-class Participation 5%

**Exams:** For the exams you will be held responsible for the material covered in: (i) the lectures, (ii) the relevant chapters in the textbook, (iii) any supplementary material that we discuss in class, and (iv) the homework assignments.

**Homework Assignments:** Homework assignments covering material from each of the chapters from the textbook that we discuss in class will be made available through the Sapling Learning website and will be due on dates announced ahead of time in class. Instructions for registering for Sapling Learning are given on the last page of this handout. The web-based software provided by Sapling Learning will allow you to work on and submit your answers to these assignments online and receive immediate feedback as your answers are automatically graded. At the end of the semester, I will drop the two lowest scores on your submitted assignments.

**In-class Participation:** Participation is worth 5% of your final grade. You are encouraged to ask questions in class and I will expect you to talk about the assigned readings.

4. Policies on Late Homework Assignments and Missed Exams

**Late Homework Assignments:** Please understand that the Sapling Learning website will not accept homework assignments completed after the announced due date. However, I understand that there may be some isolated situations in which you cannot complete the assigned homework on time. Partly for this reason, I have adopted the policy described above, according to which I will drop the two lowest scores that you receive on those assignments.

**Missed Exams:** Students who cannot attend any of the exams on the announced dates because of serious illness or other exceptional events should let me know as soon as possible. We will schedule a make-up exams for those exceptional circumstances. Missing an exam for a non excusable reason will result in a zero-point score for that particular midterm or final.

5. Core Requirements

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 requirements, and it serves as an elective course to anyone who wants an introduction to macroeconomics. It introduces the basic tools of macroeconomic analysis and applies those tools to current and historical economic issues.

6. Academic Integrity

Boston College values the academic integrity of its students and faculty. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the University’s policy on academic integrity, which can be found at [http://www.bc.edu/integrity](http://www.bc.edu/integrity). If you have any questions, please let me know.
Violations of academic integrity will be reported to your class dean and judged by the academic integrity committee in your school. If you are found responsible for violating the policy, penalties may include a failing grade as well as possible probation, suspension, or expulsion, depending on the seriousness and circumstances of the violation.

7. Course Outline

A. Preliminaries
   1. First Principles (Chapter 1)
   2. Economic Models: Trade-offs and Trade (Chapter 2)
   3. Supply and Demand, Price Controls and Quotas (Chapters 3, 4)
   4. International Trade (Chapter 5)

B. Introduction to Macroeconomics
   1. The Big Picture (Chapter 6)
   2. GDP and CPI: Tracking the Macroeconomy (Chapter 7)
   3. Unemployment and Inflation (Chapter 8)

C. The Economy in the Long-Run
   1. Long-run Economic Growth (Chapter 9, notes)
   2. Savings, Investment, Spending, and the Financial System (Chapter 10)

D. Short-Run Economic Fluctuations
   1. Income, Expenditure, Aggregate Supply and Aggregate Demand (Chapters 11, 12)
   2. Fiscal Policy (Chapter 13)
   3. Money, Banking and Monetary Policy (Chapters 14, 15)
   4. Inflation and Unemployment Trade-off (Chapter 16)

E. Additional Topics
   1. Crises and Consequences (Chapter 17)
   2. Open-Economy Macroeconomics (Chapter 19)
8. Purchasing the Textbook and Access to Sapling Learning

For this course you will need both the textbook and the access to Sapling Learning for the online homework assignments. Two options are available to you, depending on your preferences:

- Get the bundle Sapling Homework Access + eBook
- Get the Access to Sapling and buy the physical textbook separately.

The Access Cards or the bundles are available both at the BC Bookstore or can be bought directly on the Sapling Learning website when you register for the online homework. The BC Bookstore also has physical copies of the textbook, should you prefer that format. Whichever you decide, you should:

1. Go to [http://saplinglearning.com](http://saplinglearning.com) and click on US Higher Ed at the top right.
2. If you already have a Sapling Learning account, log in and skip to step 3. If you have a Facebook account, you can use it to quickly create a Sapling Learning account. Click “Create an Account”, then “Create my account through Facebook”. You will be prompted to log into Facebook if you aren’t already. Choose a username and password, then click “Link Account”. You can then skip to step 3. Otherwise, click ”Create an Account”. Supply the requested information and click ”Create My Account”. Check your email (and spam filter) for a message from Sapling Learning and click on the link provided in that email.
3. Find your course in the list (you may need to expand the subject and semester categories) and click the link.
4. Here you should be able to select whether to pay with a credit card or use the Access Card that you previously bought from the BC Bookstore. Then follow the remaining instructions.

Once you have registered and enrolled, you can log in at any time to complete or review your homework assignments. During sign up or throughout the term, if you have any technical problems or grading issues, send an email to support@saplinglearning.com explaining the issue. The Sapling Learning support team is almost always faster and better able to resolve issues than your instructor.