

Economics 1B
Principles of Macroeconomics
Fall 2018

Contact Info:

Mary Cline
Department of Economics
1116 Social Science & Humanities Building

M/W 12:10-1:30

Course Meets:

Sciences Lecture Hall 123

Office Hours: Monday 3:30-5:00pm; Thursday 9:00-10:00am

Teaching Assistants: Office hours and locations will be posted on Canvas the 1st week of class

TA 1
TA 2

TA 3
TA 4

Macroeconomics is the study of the economy as a whole. Why do we have recessions? Why do some countries grow rapidly while others stagnate? Can economic policy affect unemployment or inflation? This course will introduce concepts and measures of economic growth, and build your understanding of business cycles, unemployment, inflation, and monetary and fiscal policy.

Course requirements: The course will have two midterm exams and a final exam. There will be weekly required homework, through an online homework system. Much of the material from the exams will be drawn directly from the weekly homework, so completing the homework in a careful manner can have a large effect on your course grade. Grades will be based on: highest of two midterm exams (40%), homework (10%), and a final exam (80%). I reserve the right to make and announce changes to this grading scheme as circumstances warrant.

You are also expected to attend class, and I will track course attendance using the required i-clickers. Attendance will affect your final grade if you are on the borderline between 2 letter grades. If you have attended at least 85% of all lectures and are near the cutoff, I will round your letter grade UP to the higher grade.

I will drop the lowest of your two midterm exam scores. This means there will be NO MAKE-UP EXAMS on the midterms. If you miss the first midterm for a valid medical reason or other emergency you should obtain the required documentation of this emergency, though I will ask to see it only if you miss the second midterm for a documented emergency.

Textbook and Homework: We will be using an online homework system and an associated e-textbook. If you would like to purchase a hardcopy text you are welcome to do so from Amazon or similar sites. We will also use the i-clicker response system. You must purchase an i-clicker2 from the bookstore (unless you already have one), register it and BRING IT to Class each day.

Homework will be due on **Fridays at 10 AM and late homework will not be accepted.**

To register your iclicker (and associate it with your name so that you get credit for attendance) go to iclicker.com and click on “register”.

To access the SAPLING homework system, follow the directions below:

Student Access instructions

1. Go to <http://saplinglearning.com> and click "US Higher Ed" at the top right.
- 2a. If you already have a Sapling Learning account, log in then skip to step 3.
- 2b. If you have Facebook account, you can use it to quickly create a Sapling Learning account. Click the blue button with the Facebook symbol on it (just to the left of the username field). The form will auto-fill with information from your Facebook account (you may need to log into Facebook in the popup window first). Choose a password and time zone, accept the site policy agreement, and click "Create my new account". You can then skip to step 3.
- 2c. Otherwise, click "Create Account". Supply the requested information and click "Create my new 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 term categories) and click the link.
4. Select a payment option and follow the remaining instructions. If you are using an access card from your bookstore, please use only a single course card, not a multicourse card.
5. When prompted, enter the key code for your course.
6. Work on the Sapling Learning training materials. The activities, videos, and information pages will familiarize you with the Sapling Learning user environment and serve as tutorials for efficiently drawing molecules, stereochemistry, etc. within the Sapling Learning answer modules. These training materials are already accessible in your Sapling Learning course.

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

Lecture and course behavior: There will be a lot of us sitting together in the lecture hall and certain ground rules will make this a more productive and pleasant experience for everyone. Specifically:

- NO USE OF PHONES OR TEXTING DURING LECTURE. We will learn many interesting things about macroeconomics in this class, but please wait until after lecture is over to text these insights to your BFF.
- COME TO CLASS ON TIME AND PLAN TO REMAIN FOR THE ENTIRE LECTURE. Do not get up in the middle of class, or walk in half-way through. In the RARE event that you must leave early for a previously scheduled, life-saving surgery, or similarly compelling reason, sit near the aisle and in the back and slip out quietly. It is also a good idea to tell me before class if you will need to leave in the middle.
- When communicating with me or the TAs BE RESPECTFUL, EVEN IN E-MAILS, and we will do the same in return.
- I HAVE A ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY ON CHEATING. If the TAs or I suspect you of cheating, you will be referred to Student Judicial Affairs. While I always enjoy catching up with the fine folks at SJA, most students find interactions with them less pleasant. Do not cheat in this class. Cheating

includes having anyone other than yourself complete the online homework. Cheating also includes bringing another student's i-clicker to class to falsely register their attendance.

Course schedule: The following is a rough time line for lecture topics and exam dates. Exam dates, including the final exam date, are not flexible and will not be changed.

| DATES | TOPIC | READING (CHAPTER In Taylor MACRO TEXT) | HOMEWORK DUE DATE (DUE AT 10 AM, NO EXCEPTIONS) |
|-------------------|---|---|--|
| Topic 1: Week 1 | Overview of Macroeconomics | Chapters 1 & 2 | Sept 30 |
| Topic 2: Week 2 | Supply & Demand (and why do we study microeconomics in a macroeconomics class?) | Chapter 4 | Oct 7 |
| Topic 3: Week 3 | The Macroeconomy & GDP, Economic Growth | Chapters 7 & 8 | Oct 14 |
| | MIDTERM (Topics 1-3) | | Oct 17 |
| Topic 4: Week 4 | Unemployment | Chapter 9 | Oct 21 |
| Topic 5: Week 5 | Inflation & the CPI | Chapter 10 | Oct 28 |
| Topic 6: Week 6 | Inequality | Reading TBA | Nov 4 |
| Topic 7: Week 7 | Aggregate Demand & Aggregate Supply | Chapters 12, 13, 14 | Nov 11 |
| Topic 8: Week 8 | Banks & Monetary Policy | Chapters 15 & 16 | Nov 18 |
| | MIDTERM (Topics 4-7) | | Nov 21 |
| Topic 9: Week 9 | Exchange Rates & International Capital Flows | Chapter 17 | Nov 25 |
| Topic 10: Week 10 | Fiscal Policy & Government Debt | Chapters 18 & 19 | Dec 2 |

FINAL EXAM

Friday March 21, 8:00-10:00 AM

Cumulative: covering all topics