



ECON 352 - Macroeconomics for Business, Section 26368R, Spring 2018

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Office Hours: TTH: 12:30-1:30pm and by appointment
Class: TTH 2-3:50pm JFF LL105

The materials used for this course are only for students who are registered in this section. Distributing these materials to other people or posting them to the Internet without permission of the instructor is prohibited and is a violation of the University policy.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is about how economies function on the aggregate level, both in the national and international context. A good understanding of macroeconomics is necessary for making informed business decisions. Economics is one of the foundations for other functional areas within business, such as Finance and Marketing, and understanding economic concepts will help you understand the issues involved in these more specialized fields.

This course will focus on the fundamental issues of macroeconomics, such as long run economic growth, inflation, unemployment, monetary and fiscal policy, short run fluctuations of the economy, savings and investment in the open economy, and exchange rate determination. We will use macroeconomic tools to analyze how various disturbances affect the economy and how government policies address these disturbances and improve the economy. We will spend a considerable amount of time learning macroeconomic theories since those concepts are very important in analyzing the real-world events in a sensible way.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The primary goal of this course is to enable you to make informed judgments about whether the economic environment in a given country makes it a good place to do business.

At the end of the course you will be able to:

1. Apply graphical and algebraic tools to analyze various economic models and address questions in economics.
2. Apply the basic demand and supply model to calculate equilibrium wage rates, employment, interest rates and investment in an economy.
3. Use the neoclassical growth model to measure and forecast GDP in different economies.

4. Find sources of macroeconomic data, manipulate them, and understand how they have behaved historically and how they compare across countries.
5. Understand and critically evaluate the news about the macro economy in the financial press.
6. Evaluate the effects of government policy such as changes in tax rates or money supply on individuals, firms, and the economy.
7. Collaborate with others to judge news about the U.S. and world economy.
8. Understand and control the factors that lead to effective teamwork.
9. Demonstrate an ability to gather and disseminate information and communicate it clearly, logically, and persuasively in professional contexts.

ALIGNMENT WITH MARSHALL SCHOOL OF BUSINESS PROGRAM LEARNING GOALS

Learning Goals: In this class, emphasis will be placed on the USC Marshall School of Business learning goals as follows:

Goal	Description	Course Emphasis
1	Our graduates will understand types of markets and key business areas and their interaction <i>to effectively manage different types of enterprises.</i>	High
2	Our graduates will develop a global business perspective. They will understand how local, regional, and international markets, and economic, social and cultural issues impact business decisions <i>so as to anticipate new opportunities in any marketplace</i>	High
3	Our graduates will demonstrate critical thinking skills <i>so as to become future-oriented decision makers, problem solvers and innovators.</i>	High
4	Our graduates will develop people and leadership skills to promote their effectiveness as <i>business managers and leaders.</i>	Medium
5	Our graduates will demonstrate ethical reasoning skills, understand social, civic, and professional responsibilities and aspire to add value to society.	Low
6	Our graduates will be effective communicators <i>to facilitate information flow in organizational, social, and intercultural contexts.</i>	Medium

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

1) Macroeconomics by Abel, Bernanke, and Croushore, 9th edition.

2) Blackboard Registration (<http://blackboard.usc.edu>): Power point slides and other course material will be uploaded to Blackboard.

If you have any questions or need assistance with the Blackboard Course Pages, please contact the Marshall HelpDesk at 213-740-3000 or HelpDesk@marshall.usc.edu.”

3) Pearson MyLab Registration (pearsonMyLab.com): Please follow the registration instructions provided in the Blackboard under the “Assignments” tab for Pearson MyLab Registration.

Note: You may have the option of purchasing Pearson MyLab with a digital copy of the text. Please consult the USC bookstore for your options.

When you register for Pearson MyLab, please use your school email and official registration names rather than nicknames and other email accounts

The textbook will serve as the point of departure for lectures and the homework assignments and tests. You are required to be sufficiently familiar with the topics assigned for each class meeting prior to the class in order to better benefit from the lectures and participate in the associated discussions.

Articles posted or referenced on the Bb are also part of your reading requirements. I recommend that students get in the habit of regularly reading economic and business news related to the concepts covered in this course (financial sections of NY Times and LA Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Financial Times and The Economist).

Course Requirements

PREREQUISITES

The prerequisites for this course are the introductory courses in macro, microeconomics and mathematics. Economics at ECON 352 level uses numbers, graphs, and equations to communicate economic concepts. Although I will minimize the use of mathematics in teaching this course, there is no way to avoid the use of numbers, graphs, and mathematical relations in the teaching process. Therefore, I will assume that students are familiar with line graphs (time-series plot), bar graphs, descriptive statistics, data transformation, and mathematics of average change and marginal change.

GRADING

Grades will be assigned according to the following weights:

Homework Assignments (Pearson MyLab)	10%
Quizzes	15%
Project Report and Presentation	5%
Midterm I	20%
Midterm II	20%
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>30%</u>
Total	100%

In order to pass this course successfully, a passing grade ($> 60\%$) must be achieved. Final grades represent how you perform in the class relative to other students. Two items are considered when assigning final grades:

1. Your weighted score as a percentage of the available points for all assignments (the points you receive divided by the number of points possible).
2. The overall average percentage score within the class.

According to the Marshall School grading policy, the average grade for this course should be 3.0 (B).

Tentative Exam Dates:

Midterm I: Thursday, February 15, 2018

Midterm II: Thursday, March 22, 2018

Final Exam: Please check USC schedule of finals for final exam

Homework Assignments (10%): You will have 10 homework assignments and the average of your best 8 assignments will count for 10% of your final grade. You will complete assignments on the Pearson MyLab website and you are given three attempts for each question. The goal of these assignments and the associated dates allowed for their completion is to get you to study on a weekly basis. Since Economics is a subject matter that builds on previous topics, students who study on a regular basis will perform better. You will find the detailed schedule for the

assignments and due dates once you register and access Pearson MyLab for this course. Unanticipated events, illness, religious holidays, late registration to class, or conflicts in your schedule that cause missed assignments will count towards your lowest 2 scores that get dropped out.

Important: You should work on Pearson MyLab at a regular pace and do not leave the work to the last minute. If the website crashes and you cannot do your submission by the due date, it will be your responsibility and there will not be any deadline extensions.

Quizzes (15%): There will be four quizzes the best three of which will contribute to 15% of your final grade. The purpose of each quiz is to test your understanding of the concepts covered and to help prepare you for the exams. Quizzes will be conducted online via Pearson MyLab. You will have one attempt for each question and must complete the quiz within the allocated time. There will be No makeups for quizzes.

Project (5%): Each student will participate in a team project whose product will be a PP document. Each team will consist of 6-7 students who will compile and present their findings to the class. The project guidelines, the topics, the assigned teams, the grading rubric and the schedule for the presentations are posted under the Assignments tab in the Bb.

Exams: Midterm I, Midterm II and Final exam will contribute to your grade 20%, 20% and 30% respectively. Your final letter grade will be based on your actual performance on the assignments, midterms, final, and my judgment on your class participation.

Final Exam will be cumulative, however the weight of the questions on the materials covered after the second midterm will be greater. No student is allowed to take the final exam in advance of the published date. Students arriving late to exams will not be given extra time.

There will be No make-up tests. By enrolling in the course you are committing to take the tests on the scheduled dates. If you miss an exam, you will receive an automatic zero for the missed exam. If you miss a midterm exam for a legitimate reason, the weight of other tests will be increased proportionally to compensate for the missed midterm. Approval for a missed midterm is very **rare**, and only with appropriate written documentation from an authoritative source addressed specifically to the professor indicating why the student was unable to appear for the midterm exam. I will **not** provide work for extra credit because it is unfair to the other students.

Classroom Etiquette

- Arrive on time and stay for the entire class.
- No laptops, other internet access devices and phones may be used in class for any reason.
- All phones must be turned off before entering class.
- Only students registered for this section are allowed to attend this section.

Blackboard (Bb)

The syllabus, PowerPoint slides, and notes regarding each chapter will be posted in the Bb (<http://blackboard.usc.edu>). You are expected to check Bb “Content” tab regularly for notes and updates to the schedule and reading materials included in the lectures. Bb should also be used for all communication with the professor. It is typically not feasible to give a comprehensive answer to questions via e-mail. Therefore, students are strongly encouraged to ask questions during class and during office hours.

It is always beneficial to do the required reading before class. Also, the slides and other sources posted on Blackboard are not a complete record of what we discuss in class. Therefore, attending lectures and taking notes will be required to successfully complete the course. Each class session will usually start by sharing a recent economic issue relevant to the lecture for that session, followed by the lecture. The remainder of class time will be spent on solving problems.

MARSHALL GUIDELINES

GRADE APPEALS

Regrades must be requested within one week of the day the exam was returned to the class. The student must submit a written and precise explanation of why he/she thinks the grade should be modified. The entire exam will be regraded

and the final mark may go up or down.

Returned paperwork, unclaimed by a student, will be discarded after 4 weeks and hence, will not be available should a grade appeal be pursued by a student following receipt of his/her course grade.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Videotaping faculty lectures is **not** permitted due to copyright infringement regulations. **No** audiotaping is permitted in this class. Use of any recorded or distributed material is reserved exclusively for the USC students registered in this class.

ADD/DROP PROCESS

This class will remain open enrollment (R-clearance) for the first three weeks of the semester. If there is an open seat, students will be freely able to add a class using Web Registration throughout the first three weeks of the term. If the class is full, students will need to continue checking Web Registration to see if a seat becomes available. There are no wait lists and the professor cannot add students. See USC guidelines here:

http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/cat2012/private/pdf/2012_2013/academic_policies_12.pdf

- 1) Waitlist. There are no centralized wait lists for Marshall undergraduate courses. Although there are no wait lists, the Undergraduate Advising Office provides a system by which students can indicate their interest in enrolling in classes that are currently full in order to track demand and manage classroom space effectively.
- 2) Dropping Students. The professor may drop any student who, without prior consent, does not attend the first two class sessions. The instructor is not required to notify the student that s/he is being dropped.

STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC CONDUCT AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. Students are expected to submit original work. They have an obligation both to protect their own work from misuse and to avoid using another's work as their own. All students are expected to understand and abide by the principles of academic honesty outlined in the University Student Conduct Code (see University Governance, Section 11.00) of SCampus (www.usc.edu/scampus or <http://scampus.usc.edu>). The recommended sanctions for academic integrity violations can be found in Appendix A of the Student Conduct Code.

Students with Disabilities:

USC is committed to making reasonable accommodations to assist individuals with disabilities in reaching their academic potential. If you have a disability which may impact your performance, attendance, or grades in this course and require accommodations, you must first register with the Office of Disability Services and Programs (www.usc.edu/disability). DSP provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to your TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in GFS (Grace Ford Salvatori Hall) 120 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776. Email: ability@usc.edu.

Support Systems:

Student Counseling Services (SCS) - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling/>

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1-800-273-8255

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>

Relationship & Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 - 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

<https://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp/>

Sexual Assault Resource Center

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: <http://sarc.usc.edu/>

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX compliance – (213) 740-5086

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. <https://equity.usc.edu/>

Bias Assessment Response and Support

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. <https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support/>

Student Support & Advocacy – (213) 821-4710

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. <https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa/>

Diversity at USC – <https://diversity.usc.edu/>

Tab for Events, Programs and Training, Task Force (including representatives for each school), Chronology, Participate, Resources for Students

Emergency Preparations

In case of an emergency if travel to campus is not feasible, the USC Emergency Information web site

(<http://emergency.usc.edu/>) will provide relevant information, such as the electronic means the instructors might use to conduct their lectures through a combination of USC's Blackboard learning management system (blackboard.usc.edu), teleconferencing, and other technologies.

Summary Course Schedule and Reading List

Note: This schedule is subject to change. For an updated schedule, please check the Blackboard.

		Topic and Textbook Reading Assignment
	Date	Topic
Week 1	T - 1/9	Introduction, Syllabus Review and Class Policies
	TH - 1/11	Ch 1: Introd to Macroeconomics
Week 2	T - 1/16	Ch 2: Measurement of Economic Performance
	TH - 1/18	Ch 2: Measurement of Economic Performance Continued
Week 3	T - 1/23	Ch 3: Productivity, Output and Employment
	TH - 1/25	Ch 3: Productivity, Output and Employment Continued
	1/26 - 1/29	Quiz 1: Ch 1 -3
Week 4	T - 1/30	Ch 4: Consumption, Saving and Investment
	TH - 2/1	Ch 4: Consumption Saving and Investment Continued
Week 5	T - 2/6	Ch 7: The Asset Market, Money and Prices
	TH- 2/8	Ch 7: The Asset Market, Money and Prices Continued
	2/9 -2/12	Quiz 2: Ch 4 & 7
Week 6	T- 2/13	Review
	TH - 2/15	Midterm I: Chapters 1,2,3,4 and 7
Week 7	T - 2/20	Midterm Review Ch 8 & 10: Business Cycles
	TH - 2/22	Ch 12: Unemployment and Inflation
Week 8	T - 2/27	Ch 14: Monetary Policy and the Federal Reserve
	TH - 3/1	Ch 14: Monetary Policy and the Federal Reserve Continued
Week 9	T - 3/6	Ch 6: Economic Growth
	TH - 3/8	Ch 6: Economic Growth Continued
	3/9 - 3/19	Quiz 3: Ch 6, 8, 12 & 14

	3/11 -- 3/18	Spring Recess
Week 10	T - 3/20	Review
	TH - 3/22	Midterm II: Chapters 6, 8, 12 & 14
Week 11	T - 3/27	Midterm II Review
	TH - 3/29	Ch 15: Gov Spending and Its Financing Team 1 Presentation
Week 12	T - 4/3	Ch 15: Gov Spending and Its Financing Continued Team 2 Presentation
	TH - 4/5	Ch 15: Gov Spending and Its Financing Continued Team 3 Presentation
Week 13	T - 4/10	Ch 5: Balance of Payments Team 4 Presentation
	TH - 4/12	Ch 5: Balance of Payments Continued Team 5 Presentation
Week 14	T - 4/17	Ch 5: Balance of Payments Continued Team 6 Presentation
	TH - 4/19	Ch 13: Exchange Rates Team 7 Presentation
	4/20 - 4/23	Quiz 4: Ch 5, 13 & 15
Week 15	T - 4/24	Teams 8, 9 & 10 Presentations
	TH - 4/26	Review
		Final Exam (Cumulative)