MGP 202B
Business, Government & the International Economy
Course Outline
Fall 2009

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Office: Gallagher Hall, room 3215  ph. 754-9398 & by appointment

Required Text: Macroeconomics, (11th ed.) R.G. Gordon

Course Outline

Part I.
Chapter 1. Introduction to Macroeconomics
Chapter 2. Measuring Income, Prices & Unemployment
Chapter 3. Keynesian Theory
Q/A for Chapters 2 - 3  Due 10/19
Chapter 4. IS-LM Model
Q/A for Chapter 4  Due 10/26
Chapter 5. Monetary & Fiscal policy

EXAM I Nov. 2

Part II.
Chapter 6. International Trade & Exchange Rates
Chapter 7. Aggregate Demand & Aggregate Supply
Q/A for Chapters 6 - 7  Due 11/23
Chapter 8. Inflation
Chapter 12. Government Budget & the Public Debt
Q/A for Chapters 8 - 12  Due 11/30
Chapter 13. Money & Financial Markets

FINAL EXAM II Dec. 7
Course Objective

This course is offered for students interested in understanding inter-relationships between economic agents that determine business cycles, inflation, unemployment, and interest rates. We will explore the Keynesian and IS-LM models, and examine the effects of monetary and fiscal policy on economic performance. Topics covered will include: consumption expenditures, business investment, government spending and taxation, the Federal Reserve System, the demand and supply of money, and international trade and the balance of payments. Upon completing this course the successful student will have developed a foundation for understanding fundamental economic relationships and analysis of economic trends and conditions.

Performance Evaluation

Grading will be determined by one midterm and a final (non-cumulative), homework submissions, and term paper/presentation. Each exam will represent 25% of the course grade. All students must take both exams to receive a grade in this class. No makeup exams will be given. The exams will be closed book essay questions and will provide you with an opportunity to display your knowledge of the information covered. Answers containing references to, and use of specific economic terms and concepts covered in class and the textbook will prove to be most profitable. No student is allowed to provide or receive assistance from another student during an exam.

For homework each student will submit one proposed test question per chapter and provide the answer to that question. Submissions will be graded on the basis of the depth, originality, and timeliness of the question, and completeness of the answer. Submissions should be turned in at the beginning of class on the deadlines noted above. Late submissions will not be accepted and receive no credit. Homework submission will constitute 25% of the final grade.

The final element of evaluation is the team presentation and class discussion of a selected macroeconomic topic. Team proposals are due on Nov. 3 and will set forth the team members and an outline of the topic to be addressed. Each team will produce a written report, limited to 10 pages of text and as many charts and graphs as needed in addition, and provide a 20 – 30 minute in class presentation of the topic, including time available for fielding questions. The presentations will take place the last four weeks of class and will constitute 25% of the final grade.

Course grades will be consistent with GSM grade distributions for breadth courses.

Current Press Releases

Daily reading of relevant articles in the business press is required. Your instructor reads numerous resources to remain current and expects the same from class. Class time will be allowed for discussion of relevant articles of interest.