Principles of Macroeconomics
Instructor Website: http://hicksd.oucreate.com

This syllabus is a contract between you and me. By taking this course you agree to abide by the policies and rules listed within.

Course Description:

In its simplest form, economics is the study of choice. Macroeconomics, which considers aggregations of individual actions and institutional decision making, is thus a wide ranging and commonly misunderstood field. This course will focus on providing students with the tools and insights necessary to think critically about the economy and to weigh in on current economic debates. Common topics include the determinants of national income, economic growth, business cycles, interest rates, prices, employment, consumer behavior, and exchange rates.

Readings:

The textbook for this class is “Principles of Macroeconomics, 7th edition, by Frank, Bernanke, Antonovics, and Heffetz.” Your homework and the preponderance of your exams will rely on this material. You need to purchase the e-book version with Connect Access in order to access the online homework and practice problems. You can do this through the McGraw Hill Connect website ($90) or through the OU bookstore ($135). The course website has a link you can follow to purchase the book. After you purchase Connect Access and the Ebook, you have the option to acquire a reduced priced physical copy of the book. This choice is entirely up to you. If you have a problem using the connect website you can obtain assistance McGraw Hill by calling (800) 331-5094 rather than taking this issue to your instructor or course teaching assistants.

I will also expose you to insights from current macroeconomic research. I will make these sources available on Canvas for those interested, but only the portions of this material I present in lecture or post as lecture notes may appear on tests. You are not responsible for reading these original articles, some of which are technical, but are provided for your reference.

Canvas and Online Resources:

Canvas has a number of helpful resources: it contains the class schedule, details Connect and textbook setup, links directly to assignments on Connect, provides easy access to your on-line homework, practice exams, and the e-book. Homework provides a platform to engage with questions that are very similar to exam questions. Canvas contains course information as well as discussion boards which are a great place to ask questions which can benefit the entire class.
Contact and Review:

This is a very large lecture, so your first point of contact should always be the course teaching assistants, of which we have three:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Mayberry</td>
<td><a href="mailto:anthony.a.mayberry-1@ou.edu">anthony.a.mayberry-1@ou.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veronica Loera-Vargas</td>
<td><a href="mailto:veronica.c.loera.vargas-1@ou.edu">veronica.c.loera.vargas-1@ou.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rafael Zago</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Rafael_zago@ou.edu">Rafael_zago@ou.edu</a></td>
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If a question comes to a teaching assistant and they need my input, they will forward it to me. You may also direct administrative questions on the Canvas “Discussion Boards” – this way the answer can be viewed by the entire class. A list of office hours are posted on canvas. Any office hour interruptions or changes will be posted as an announcement to Canvas as well.

I will not hold formal review sessions – however, I will briefly provide a summary of recent material in the class prior to each examination and the Learn Smart practice system and assigned homework along the way should provide ample review prior to the exam.

Academics and Grading:

Homework on Connect:
You have roughly 15 on-line assignments (one for each chapter covered in class, so this number may change slightly). They come from the “LearnSmart” application and are designed to help you learn the material in a manner tailored to your own style and strengths. The homework is worth **20% of your final grade.** You can and should score extremely well – that is my intent and it should be your goal. The LearnSmart homework requires a certain number of correct replies before an assignment is complete. Missed questions don’t count against your grade, but they make the assignment take longer. If you “guess” your way through the homework (e.g., getting tons wrong but eventually enough correct to satisfy the goal) you only cheat yourself out of valuable learning. Unfamiliarity with the concepts will harm the 80% of your grade coming from exams.

Please read the next section very carefully!!!

Exams:
There are four exams and an optional make-up exam that can be used to replace your lowest score (including a 0) on any one of Exams 1-3. It does not replace Exam 4. Exams 1-3 are given in class, Exam 4 is given during the finals period. Dates for these exams are listed in the schedule on Canvas. All students who want to use the DRC for extended testing windows are encouraged to do so. The optional make-up is cumulative over the material covered on Exams 1-3. For this reason, individual make-up exams will generally not be given for any of Exams 1-3. The two hour final slot listed on one.ou.edu will be used to administer both Exam #4 and the optional make-up exam. If you have an emergency and you miss the final, contact me as soon as possible. All exams are multiple choice.

- **Calculators may be used, but NO laptops, I-pads, cell phones, etc.**
- **YOU NEED YOUR OU ID to turn in the exam.** The information you enter on your Exam Scan Tron will be checked against your OU ID card when you finish.
Exam Curve:
10 points will be added to each natural exam score, including the optional make-up exam. The scores you see in Canvas will ALREADY have these 10 points added. **There is no other curve for the course and there is no individual extra credit. [Collective class extra credit may be given at instructor's discretion.]**

**Grades & Grade Calculation:**
Use the following formula to calculate your grade. Do not use CANVAS to do so, as it may not accurately reflect outcomes along the way given that the makeup replaces an exam.

Calculate the SUM: [Exam 1 + Exam 2 + Exam 3 + Exam 4 + HW Average]

*Note: be sure to have replaced Exam 1, 2, or 3 with the Make-up if it is higher.*

Letter grades are
A: 450 points or more  
B: 400 points or more  
C: 350 points or more  
D: 300 points or more  
F: 299 points or less

To address the unavoidably arbitrary nature of these cutoffs, I already have a curve on each exam score. Out of fairness, **NO GRADES WILL BE ADJUSTED on the basis of being “close.”** If you are concerned about a particular threshold, work to be well above it. Please understand that in a class of 300 students, usually about 40 students are 1 point below any given threshold, so for each point I round, it just makes yet another 40 students 1 point away. The grades you have are already rounded at least 10 points on each exam… and the homework score will reach 100 if completed.

**Academic Honesty:**

Cheating is forbidden, prohibido, interdit, verboten, முனை, Запрещается, المحرم، ممنوع. In order to be fair to students who put in hard work to succeed in this course, all forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. If you are uncomfortable when taking an exam – please raise your hand and we will move you to another seat.

Similarly, it is unfair for students to request specific grades in the course or additional extra credit assignments which are not available to other students. This includes contacting the instructor or TA to inform them that one "needs" a specific grade for graduation, enrollment, or other financial issues. **Do not make grade or additional credit requests during or after the course ends! The only one with any power to change your grade is you!** You may contact us when there is a grading error (typically a yellow exam read in the white scantron pile or vice versa). This class is graded on an entirely formulaic basis with anonymized tests, and this syllabus contract ensures no scope for discretion on our part in assigning grades.

**Special Accommodation:**

If you require special accommodation for exams or lecture, you must let me know during the first week of classes. Ultimately, your point of contact is the University of Oklahoma Disability Resource Center ([http://www.ou.edu/drc/home.html](http://www.ou.edu/drc/home.html), 620 Elm Avenue, Suite 166 - Goddard Health Center) which will provide me with documented need for accommodation.
Additional Help:
The economics department can provide helpful resources for students looking to hire a private tutor (http://www.ou.edu/cas/economics/people/tutors) and for general advising questions (http://www.ou.edu/cas/economics/people/advising).