# Southwest Minnesota State University

**Fall Semester 2012**

**SYLLABUS FOR:** **PRINCIPLES OF MACROECONOMICS**

Course Number: **ECON 202**, Three (3) Semester Credits

Section 03, MnSCU ID = 000869

Schedule: MWF, 9:30 AM - 10:20 AM, in CH 204

**INSTRUCTOR:** Gerald D. Toland, Jr., Ph.D.

Professor of Economics

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Posted Office Hours: 11AM-Noon, Monday-Friday. 2-3:30PM Tue&Thu

Other Office Hours: Please make an appointment

by phone, email or after class. If you leave a message on

e-mail or voice mail, I will reply.

**REQUIRED TEXT:** ***Macroeconomics: Principles, Problems and Policies*.**

19th Edition, Campbell McConnell, Stanley Brue and Sean Flynn.

(McGraw-Hill Publishing Co.), 2012 Copy­right.

**Note:** *Samples of student work in this course will be selected for the purposes of evaluation and assessment of the overall academic performance of student learning outcomes. Student anonymity will be maintained in all such evaluations. The assessment results will be analyzed in a summarized format, and will be used for the improvement of teaching and learning in the course.*

**GOALS FOR THIS COURSE:**

**1. Increased Macroeconomic Literacy.** You should have an increased

understanding of how to analyze and evaluate the national business cycle

(prosperity→decline→recession→recovery), and how the cycle is related to

the long-term growth trend for the entire US Economy.

1. **Improved Analytical Skills.** As you learn economic principles, you will

enhance your skills in logical thinking and problem solving.

1. **Become a Better Informed Citizen.** A knowledge of macroeconomics

enables a person to make more informed judgments about the soundness

of governmental poli­cies that are targeted at stable and sustainable growth

for the US Economy.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND:**

A major goal of this course in **Macroeconomics Principles** is to help you understand and appreciate the forces that shape the short-term and long-term performance of the entire US Economy. By analyzing the reasons for economic growth, price inflation, employment/unemployment rates, the business cycle and government counter-cyclical policies, you can get a better grasp of why the US economy has ups and downs in its overall performance.

**Mac­roeconomics** is the study of how the economy behaves in the “aggregate” (as an entire national system). In contrast, *Microeconomics* examines the motives and behaviors of individual consumers, firms and markets as they decide to allocate scarce resources among competing uses. Micro- and macroeconomics often rely upon similar methods of analysis, but they are focused on dif­ferent problem areas.

**A WORD TO THE WISE:**

This course follows a logical sequence that starts with simpler assump­tions and then proceeds to more complex analyses. **Failure to understand the concepts at the beginning will have disastrous consequences later on.** If you do not under­stand something, it is essential that you ask ques­tions. Office hours, tele­phones and e-mail are there for a purpose, so use them!

**THE COURSE PLAN:**

**Outline and Time Schedule for**

**Readings and Exams**

**Due Date**

**Organization of Topics**  **for Readings**

**I. INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMICS AND THE ECONOMY**

A. Chapter 1. Limits, Alternatives and Choices……………................Aug. 27 – Aug. 31

B. Appendix to Chap.1. Graphs & their Meaning.....……………….....…...August 31st

Start-of-Course Assessment is due (worth 15 points)………….Aug. 31, 2012

***No Class on Sept. 3, 2012: Labor DayHoliday***

1. Chapter 2. The Market System and the Circular Flow...………..Sept. 5 – Sept. 7th

**\*\*FIRST QUIZ\*\*** Covers Chap.1, Chap.1 Appendix, & Chapter 2. Given on Monday, September 10th, 2012. Worth 40 points.

**II. PRICE, QUANTITY AND EFFICIENCY**

1. Chapter 3. Demand, Supply and Market Equilibrium.……..Sept. 10 – Sept. 24

***We do have class on Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2012. This the SMSUAssessment Planning Day.***

***Classes are held until 12:20PM and resume at 4:30PM on Sept. 19th.***

***Evening classes on Sept. 19th will be held as usual.***

**\*\*SECOND QUIZ\*\*** Covers Chapter 3. Given on Wednesday, Sept. 26th, 2012. Worth 40 points.

B. Chapter 4. Elasticity………………………………..……………....Sept. 28th – Oct. 1st

C. Chapter 5. Market Failures: Public Goods and Externalities…...….Oct. 3rd - Oct. 8th

D. Review of Chapters 1 – 5………..........………..………………… Oct. 10th

**\*\*FIRST EXAM\*\*** Covers Chapters 1 through 5. Given on Friday, Oct. 12th, 2012.Worth 100 points. Please take the exam **before** you leave for Fall Break.

***Fall Break: No Class on Monday, Oct. 15, 2012. Classes also canceled on Tues., Oct. 16***

**III. GDP, GROWTH AND INSTABILITY**

A.. Chapter 6. An Introduction to Macroeconomics…………………Oct. 17th – Oct. 19th

B. . Chapter 7. Measuring Domestic Output and National Income..….Oct. 22 – Oct. 26th

C. Chapter 8. Economic Growth ……………………………………….…October 29th

**\*\*THIRD QUIZ\*\*** Covers Chapter 6, 7, & 8. Given on Wednesday, October 31, 2012. Worth 40 points.

C. Chapter 9. Business Cycles, Unemployment, & Inflation…...November 2nd – Nov. 5th

***No Class, Nov. 7th- See your academic advisor.***

***\*\*University Calendar Item\*\**** No daytime classes are scheduled on Wednesday, November 7th, 2012. Because of all-student advising, classes are held only from 5:30PM on.

Please make an appointment to **see your advisor** on Nov. 7th. Carefully plan your classes for

Spring Semester 2013.

***\*\*SMSU Calendar Item\*\**: Nov. 26, 2012 is the last day to drop a course with a grade of W.**

**IV. MACROECONOMIC MODELS AND FISCAL POLICY**

1. Chapter 10. Basic Macroeconomic Relationships..……………..Nov. 9th – Nov. 16th

***No Class, Monday, Nov. 12th, 2012: Veterans Day Holiday***

1. Chapter 11. The Aggregate Expenditures Model………...……Nov. 16th – Nov. 19st

***No Class, Wednesday & Friday, Nov. 21 & 23,2012: Thanksgiving Day Holidays***

1. Review of Chapters 10 and 11 for Quiz on Wednesday, Nov. 28th………Nov. 26th

**\*\*FOURTH QUIZ\*\*** For Chapters 10 & 11. Given on Wed. Nov. 28th, 2012. Worth 40 points.

D. Chapter 12. Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply………Nov. 30th & Dec. 3rd

E. Chapter 13. Fiscal Policy, Deficits and Debt………………..…Dec. 5th – Dec. 10th

F. Chapter 14. Money and Banking………….…………………….Dec. 10th – Dec. 12th

End-of-Course Assessment is due (worth 15 points) ………….Dec. 14, 2012

**V. REVIEW FOR THE FINAL EXAM…….………..……………………December 14th**

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**FINAL EXAM**

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The Final Exam is comprehensive. It covers chapters 1- 14. This exam is worth 100 points, and will be administered on **Thursday, Dec. 20, 2012, 10:00 AM – 11:50 AM.**

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**VI. COURSE POLICY ON ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

***Academic honesty is a requirement for passing this course.*** Any instance of academic dishonesty in this course will result in a failing grade for the entire course. Any student who fails the course in this manner will have no recourse other than to repeat the course again in a later semester. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on tests and/or assignments, plagiarism, lying to the instructor about anything related to the course, and any other student misrepresentation of his or her academic work.

**VII. GRADING**

**OVERALL COURSE GRADE**

94% to100% of total possible points = A

90% to 93% of total possible points = A-

88% to 89% of total possible points = B+

80% to 87% of total possible points = B

79% of total possible points = B-

76% to 78% of total possible points = C+

70% to 75% of total possible points = C

69% of total possible points = C-

66% to 68% of total possible points = D+

60% to 65% of total possible points = D

59% of total possible points = D-

< 59% of total possible points = F

**VIII. What is an LDA grade, and why should students avoid an LDA grade?**

SMSU is one the many higher-educational institutions in the United States (US) that is authorized to offer students financial aid through programs sponsored by the US Federal Government. The US Government is now strictly enforcing laws that make SMSU (and all similar institutions) accountable for how financial aid funds are being used. SMSU must obey US Federal law.

The US Government performs audits to ensure that all funds are being used for their designated purposes. To meet auditing standards to offer financial aid, SMSU must now report whether registered students are actually attending classes and doing academic work. An **LDA grade** will be applied to students who **do not** attend class consistently. ***An LDA grade means that a student has been dropped from the course.***

If a student in ECON 202 does **not** regularly attend class and take quizzes and exams when they are scheduled, then I (Prof. Gerald Toland) will exercise my legal responsibility and issue an LDA grade to that student. It is imperative that a student keep me informed of any circumstances that may prevent the student from fully participating in the course. If a student believes that he or she may not be able to attend class and take quizzes/exams consistently in a timely manner, then **the student must take the initiative** to contact me by email or phone, and let me know what is going on. Otherwise, an LDA grade will be applied in cases where communications have ceased.

**Here are two important rules that pertain to receiving a Last Date of Attendance (LDA) grade in the course:**

* There is a ***Federal Financial Aid Mandate*** to report a student who never attends a course that they registered for, AND also for students who quit attending courses.
* Grades that document this process are **NA (Never Attended)** and **FQ (Failure of course by quitting attending)**.

Even if a student receives no federal financial aid at all, and if that student is paying 100% of tuition and fees entirely out of his or her own private funds, the LDA requirement must still be met by SMSU. Why? Because SMSU is an institution that accepts Federal Financial Aid as a form of payment for its tuition and fees. SMSU cannot afford to be out of compliance with federal law. Consequently, the LDA requirements apply to the whole university.

**IX. EXAMS, QUIZZES, AND ASSIGNMENTS**

The midterm exam is worth 100 points. The final exam is also a 100-point exam.

There are also:

Two Course Assessments and Four Announced Quizzes

Unannounced quizzes

Take-Home Assignments

Exams and quizzes are based on the material that we cover in class, plus the assigned textbook readings. The purpose of this course is to develop your econom­ic literacy. The tests are designed to assess your mastery of macroeconomics principles.

**X. THOUGHTS AND REMARKS ABOUT STUDENT AND FACULTY RESPONSIBILITIES:**

I want you to know my policy on student-faculty inter­action. In short, I believe students and faculty actively partic­ipate in a "learning contract." In this contract, stu­dents have the right to expect that a faculty member will create a high qual­ity learn­ing experi­ence. In exchange, a faculty member has the right to expect a high quality perfor­mance from students. Faculty and stu­dents have a responsibility to abide by the condi­tions of this learning contract. I will do my best to live up to my part of the bargain, and I expect that all students who take this course to do the same. Strive for excellence this semester. Make the most of your college years. Later in life, you'll have fond memories of SMSU and of the tremendous investment that you made in yourself.