

ONLINE SYLLABUS
Econ 2: Principles of Economics II
(Macroeconomics)
Section #: 8065, 3 Units (FALL 2013)

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor: Catherine E. Levitt, Ph.D.

Contact E-mail: levittce@wla.edu

Time & Place: ONLINE in the Etudes Shell, Chat room

Office Hour & Place: Virtual Office Hours by appointment, send private message

Significant dates for Fall 2013:

Aug 26	Classes begin
Aug 30	Last day to drop classes and receive a full refund
Aug 30	Last day to drop classes without a “W” as the final grade
Sep 16	Midterm 1 will be available on Monday, September 16, 2013.
Sep 30	Midterm 2 will be available on Monday, September 30, 2013.
Oct 4	Last day to drop classes with a “W” as the final grade
Oct 14	Final exam will be available on Monday October 14, 2013.
Oct 20	Semester ends

Notation on receiving a “W” as your final grade:

“W’s” now count toward attempts at any one course. After three (3) attempts the state will not pay the college for a student to take a course.

Required Text:

The required text for the course is Econ for Macroeconomics: 2nd Edition by William McEachern ISBN-10: 1-4390-4067-2 ISBN-13: 978-1-4390-4067-6. The book retails for approximately \$ 53.49

Textbook Website

<http://www.cengagebrain.com/t1/en/US/storefront/US?cmd=catProductDetail&ISBN=9781439040676&cid=APL1>

(For each chapter of the text there are learning aids, including downloadable supplements, economic links, teaching tips, a glossary, and study tips.)

Disclaimer: The syllabus is subject to change.

* Log on

You can access Econ 2 by logging in at this URL:

<http://etudes-ng.fhda.edu/portal>

Your login ID is the first 2 letters of your first name + the first 2 letters of your last name + the last 5 digits of your Student ID Number (not your social security number). If this is your first ETUDES NG class your password is your Month and Day of birth. However, since NG passwords are permanent, if you have already taken a NG class your password has not changed. Many students who have taken NG classes from us earlier have the password “student”.

If you do not know your new Student Identification Number you can look it up using the Student Information System (SIS) at <http://www.laccd.edu> To do so, you will need to login to the SIS system using your SSN. Your SIS password is your Month and Day of birth in school records.

Example: Juan Straub, 88-459-0210, born July 4

- User ID: just90210
- Password: 0704

After you login you will see a list of the courses you are enrolled in on the top menu bar to the right of My Workspace. Just click on a course number to access a course. Once you have entered the course, use the left-side menu to navigate the course.

If you have trouble accessing the course on or after the first week of school, click on the Technical Requirements link at <http://www.wlac.edu/online> to access the Student Help Desk forum where your issue is likely addressed in the Frequently Asked Questions section. If not, scroll down to the WEST ~ WLAC section and post a message explaining the problem or contact the WLAC Distance Learning Program Office at (310)287-4305 or via email: ichone@wlac.edu.

Basic Computer Skills and System Requirements:

There are a few requirements unique to an online course. Failure to meet any of these may prevent you from getting the most from your online experience.

You must have:

- * A computer with at least 64 MB of RAM and a minimum 56K modem
- * A reliable internet service provider
- * Access and the ability to navigate the internet
- * The ability to send and receive e-mails
- * Microsoft Word, Excel and Power Point

About the Online Environment:

Your online course offers several advantages to a traditional classroom. Not only does the site offer easy communication with other students and your teacher, it allows access to a wealth of online resources. I encourage you to use this forum to exchange ideas, resources and comments with your fellow students and learn from what others know.

You are required to 'attend' class by keeping up on announcements, readings, assignments and exams, in addition to participating in weekly discussions. A student in an online course must be prepared to act independently and to encounter technical glitches of all kinds. If you experience technical difficulties that may prevent you from keeping up with the curriculum, you must let me know immediately via e-mail so we can work out a solution.

Course Description:

Macroeconomics is concerned with the economy as a whole and the relationships between broad economic indicators. The course will cover the aggregate economy: GDP, inflation, business cycles, unemployment, fiscal and monetary policies, economic growth, productivity, and the federal deficit. Some of the issues covered include the analysis of national income determination, inflation and unemployment, banking, monetary and fiscal policy, public finance, and international economics (exchange economics, trade policy) from a variety of macroeconomic perspectives.

The tools of macroeconomic analysis will be developed and applied to national economic problems facing the U.S. and other market-oriented economies. Contemporary macroeconomic problems including concern about the economy moving into a recession, economic growth rates, inflation, consumer spending and personal saving, fiscal policy, monetary policy, national debt and deficits, unemployment rates, international value of the dollar, and trade deficits will be discussed. Understanding underlying economic issues, economic policies and their probable consequences is a focal point of this course.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Collect, analyze, and interpret the data on GDP, price level, and unemployment rate.

Course Objectives for Economics 002:

- Demonstrate a solid understanding of modern macroeconomics, including the dominant theories of decision-making and markets.
- Think analytically using both the verbal and quantitative tools employed in economics and to apply those tools to solve both theoretical as well as practical real world problems.
- Evaluate how changes in technology, government regulation, and market circumstances will impact society.
- Develop communication skills, oral and written, particularly in the construction and presentation of economic analysis.
- Define and demonstrate an understanding of basic macroeconomic terms, such as gross domestic product, unemployment, inflation, and economic growth.
- Differentiate between and explain fiscal and monetary policy. Articulate fiscal and monetary policy impact on the economy.
- Use the aggregate supply and demand model to analyze the theoretical effect of fiscal and monetary policy on the economy.
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of some of the advanced issues in macroeconomic policy, such as the effects of expectations, the debate over the use of stabilization policy, and the significance of the national debt.
- Evaluate the impact of inflation or unemployment on personal/business/government decision making.

Grading:

Since this is an online course, the means by which the subject matter will be delivered to you will be different from that which would normally take place in a traditional classroom setting. This means that lectures and discussions will not be face-to face in a room but rather “virtual.” The textbook will serve as your “lecture” and online discussions will take the place of classroom dialogue. Thus, it is very important that you keep up with your reading. We will cover approximately two chapters per week.

Your grade will be based on two midterms, a final exam, discussions, and homework assignments. Weight of each evaluation component is as follows:

Midterm Exam #1:	15%
Midterm Exam #2:	15%
Homework Assignments (4 in total):	20%
Quizzes (4 in total):	15%
Discussion/Participation (7 in total):	20%
Final Exam (Oct 19):	<u>15%</u>
Total:	100%

Grading rubric/scale is as follows:

89 - 100 %	A
77 - 88 %	B
65 - 76 %	C
53 - 64 %	D
Below 53 %	F

Exams:

There will be TWO timed midterm exams. Each midterm is worth 15% and covers five chapters. There will be one final exam, worth 15%.

Midterm 1 will be available on Monday, September 16, 2013.

Midterm 2 will be available on Monday, September 30, 2013.

Final exam will be available on **Monday October 14, 2013**.

(EXAMS ARE NOT CUMULATIVE!!!)

(Class closes on October 20, Sunday, midnight)

Homework Assignments:

There will be 4 homework assignments posted with due dates on ETUDES-NG. Assignments will be questions presented under the tests tab and will usually consist of two short answer questions and 10 multiple choice questions. The homework assignments are provided as a learning aid for students and are designed to synthesize information from online course material, textbook and outside sources. If you understand the assignments, you will likely do well on the exams. Homework assignments are considered important and are therefore worth 20%.

Discussion/Participation:

Discussion topics related to current material will be posted on ETUDES-NG. They are also graded and worth 20% of the course grade. I will post a discussion question and you are required to post your response, read what your classmates have to say and respond to a minimum of five different classmates. I also join the discussions and read all of your posts to make sure the dialogue is imparting important knowledge.

Discussions are an important part of the class. It is where students and the instructor can talk about topics in detail and explore difficult issues. Your discussion questions are also considered a part of your participation grade and the forum will be closely monitored by the instructor to ensure that students are discussing relevant materials and presenting this material accurately in a public forum.

Discussion Etiquette:

Discussion should be a learning experience for everyone who posts or just reads the postings. It's a great opportunity to present information as well as ask questions. For this reason it is important that no one is turned off by someone's remarks. We want to examine controversial ideas but we want the ideas to conflict, not the people involved. If you disagree with something, make it clear that you are disagreeing with the idea, not the person posting (who may not even agree with the idea themselves). In short, treat people and their remarks with respect, even when disagreeing. The instructor will remove postings that in his judgment are abusive or inhibit the free discussion of all students.

- No profanity or foul language of any kind is allowed
- Please address everyone politely by their name
- Under no circumstances may you ask for a classmate's personal contact information or in any way ask for a personal meeting or date
- Unless I specifically ask you to do so as a proper part of an assignment, do not include in your email signatures or other material in your messages any kind of sales solicitation, information about a business, or a political or religious message of any kind. Do not include a blind or other kind of hyperlink to such information.

Discussion topics related to the video lessons and will be posted on ETUDES-NG. They are also graded and worth 20% of the course grade. I will post a discussion question and you are required to post your response, read what your classmates have to say and respond to a minimum of five different classmates. I also join the discussions and read all of your posts to make sure the dialogue is imparting important knowledge.

Discussions are an important part of the class. It is where students and the instructor can talk about topics in detail and use the videos to understand the course content. Your discussion questions are also considered a part of your participation grade and the forum will be closely monitored by the instructor to ensure that students are discussion relevant materials and presenting this material accurately in a public forum.

The following rubric is used to measure participation in the discussion forums.

	Quality	Relevance	Contribution	Bigger Picture	Quote
Excellent 5 Points	Appropriate comments: thoughtful, reflective, and respectful of other student's postings.	Clear reference to assignment or prior posting being discussed	Furtheres the discussion with questions, or statements that encourage others to respond.	Clearly connects the posting to text or reference points from previous readings, activities, and discussions.	Appropriate comments: thoughtful, reflective, and respectful of other student's postings.
Fair 3 Points	Appropriate comments and responds respectfully to other student's postings.	Some reference but taken out of context, the reader would not understand.	Participates, but does not post anything that encourages others to respond to the posting.	Vague or possible connection to reference points from previous readings, activities, and discussions.	Appropriate comments and responds respectfully to other student's postings.
Poor 1 Point	Responds, but with minimum effort or detail. (i.e. "I agree with the statement")	Posting is attached to the right discussion board, but does not clearly reflect the assignment.	Less than required number of postings. Does not further any discussions.	Mentions the videos, text or previous activity without logical link to topic.	Responds, but with minimum effort (i.e. "I agree with Bob").

Check the schedule for the days that discussions open. They also close four days after they are opened.

Online Quizzes:

There will be FOUR quizzes that will have three real world application short answer questions. The idea is to engage you and to help you understand how macroeconomics can be applied to the real world. The scenarios will be theoretical and will be based on the principles of the course. These are worth 15% of your grade also. If you have problems it is your responsibility to contact the WLAC Distance Learning Coordinator at (310) 287-4305, (310)287-4418 Fax or at ichone@wlac.edu

Useful tips:

- Mark due dates on a calendar that you regularly consult.
- Back up every written work you compose in this class, either on hard-
- Computers break down, viruses show up out of nowhere, and e-mails sometimes get lost in virtual space.
- Familiarize yourself with the website and be prepared to think outside of the box.
- Do not put an assignment off to the last moment.
- Contact the instructor through the Discussions, Private Mail section, during class.

Class Policies:

Make-up Exam Policy: An exam may be made up only for “serious and compelling reasons” and provided that arrangements are made in advance. Documentation may be required at the instructor’s discretion.

Plagiarism and Cheating Policy: Plagiarism in the homework and cheating in the exam will not be tolerated. The College Policy applies to plagiarism and cheating.

Accommodations. Students with disabilities who need any assistance or accommodations should contact the instructor. Students should also contact the Disabled Student Programs & Services (DSPS) center located in SSB 320 or call 310-287-4420, or visit: dsp@wlac.edu

WEEKLY COURSE OUTLINE, Fall 2013

Chapter	Sections	Exam/ Homework Dates/Discussion Questions	Finish Reading Chapter by.....
Chapter 1	1) Art and Science of Economic Analysis	Discussion #1 Aug 29, 2012 (Introduction)	Week 1
Chapter 2	2) Economic Tools and Economic System		Week 1
Chapter 4	3) Demand, Supply, and Markets	Quiz #1 Sep 2, 2012(Chapter 1&2)	Week 2
Chapter 7	4) Tracking the US Economy	Discussion #2 Sep 5, 2012	Week 2
Chapter 8	5) Unemployment and Inflation	Homework #1 Sep 6, 2012 (Chapter 1-2)	Week 3
Chapter 9	6) Aggregate Expenditures	Discussion #3: Sep 12	Week 3
Chapter 10	7) Aggregate Expenditure & Aggregate Demand	Midterm #1: September 12, 2013 – Chap 1-6	Week 4
		Quiz #2 : Sep 16, 2013 (Chap 9)	
Chapter 11	8) Aggregate Supply		Week 4
Chapter 12	9) Fiscal Policy	Homework #2: Sep 18, 2013 (Chap 8)	Week 5
		Discussion #4: Sep 19	
Chapter 14	10) Money and the Financial System	Quiz #3 & Discussion #5: Sep 26 – Chapter 12	Week 6
		Midterm #2 & Discussion #6 – October 3 (Chapters 7-12)	
Chapter 15	11) Banking and Money Supply	Homework #3 Oct 8, 2013 (Chap 11)	Week 6
Chapter 16	12) Monetary Theory and Policy	Quiz #4 Oct 8, 2013 (Chap 16)	Week 7
		Discussion # 7 - Oct 10	
Chapter 18 and 19	13) International Finance (Trade and Exchange Rates)	Homework #4 October 12, 2013 (Chapter 15)	Week 7/8
		Final Exam: October 19, 2013 (Chapter 13-16 & 18-19).	

*** Discussion Questions will be open for 4 Days. Homework Questions will be due four days after they open. Quizzes will be due four days after they open.**

**** Exams will be timed for 3 hours after they open and are open for four days only.**