

Principles of Macroeconomics (10010/20020)

University of Notre Dame

Spring 2010

Professor Michael J. Pries

Tues/Thurs 11:00a-12:15p, 109 Pasquerilla Center

Overview

This course provides an introduction to macroeconomics, which attempts to understand the economy from an aggregate perspective. Consistent with the idea of a “principles” class, we will focus on a core set of fundamental concepts that help us to understand a broad range of macroeconomic issues. Along the way, we will look at newspaper articles and a variety of data and evidence that relate to the concepts. By the end of the course, you should feel very comfortable reading (and critiquing) articles and commentary about macroeconomic issues in publications like the Wall Street Journal and The Economist.

Contact information & Office Hours

Email: mpries@nd.edu
Office: 714 Flanner Hall
Phone: 631-3046
Website: <http://www.nd.edu/~mpries>

I will hold office hours in my office on Tuesdays between 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. If this time is not convenient, you may request a different time to meet with me. If you have questions about the course and need to contact me, I much prefer that you use email to do so. I will try to respond promptly. As a last resort, you can call me by phone.

I will maintain a mailing list that I will use to communicate with the whole class. Of course, all announcements will be made in class as well, but you should check your email regularly throughout the semester to keep informed about reminders and clarifications.

Textbooks / Readings

The (required) text book that we will use is *Principles of Macroeconomics*, 5th edition, by N. Gregory Mankiw. In conjunction with the textbook, we will utilize the Aplia materials designed for the textbook. A student account for accessing Aplia is necessary in order to complete certain assignments for the class. The last page of this syllabus contains information on how to purchase (directly from Aplia) the bundle that includes the textbook and an Aplia student account. The copy of the textbook that the bookstore carries should also have Aplia access bundled with it (though I think the bookstore is more expensive than purchasing directly from Aplia). When you

register for your account with Aplia at <http://www.aplia.com>, the course key that you will need to register for this specific course is YHSN-7U89-F7PN.

In addition to the textbook, I will also occasionally suggest newspaper or magazine articles that I want you to read.

Requirements

Class Participation

Attendance is mandatory. Unless you have a legitimate excuse, you must attend class, arrive on time, and not leave early. Before coming to class, you are required to have read the assigned material so that you can respond to questions related to the readings. My lectures will be much more informative if you are already familiar with the material. If I feel that students are not doing the reading, I will give unannounced quizzes that will count for 5% of the final grade for the course (replacing 5 percentage points otherwise assigned to the midterms).

Problem Sets

There will be six problem sets administered through the Aplia website. Together they will count for 15% of your final grade. You will have the opportunity to drop your lowest score, so that the other five will each count for 3% of your final grade.

Midterm Exams

There will be two midterm exams, on February 11th and March 25th, at the same time and place as regular lectures. Each will count for 25% of the final grade.

Final Exam

The final exam will count for 35% of the final grade. In accordance with the University exam schedule, it will be given Friday, May 7, from 10:30am to 12:30pm.

Class Policies

Make-up Exams

You should make *every* effort to avoid needing a make-up exam. When a make-up exam is warranted (according to university guidelines), you must notify me of your excuse without delay.

If you also miss the make-up midterm exam (again for legitimate causes), then the weight that would have been given to that exam will be assigned to the weight used for your final exam.

If you miss one of the exams and are ineligible for a make-up exam, you will receive a zero score. You cannot choose to have the other exam weighted more heavily in order to adjust for the missed exam.

Extra Credit

There will be no opportunities for extra credit.

Re-grades

If you feel that your exam was incorrectly or unfairly graded, you have one week after the class in which it is returned to submit it for a re-grade. However, when an exam is turned in for a re-grade, the entire exam will be re-graded and the scores for individual questions can be either *increased or decreased*.

Course Schedule

We will cover the textbook chapters in the following order (though this is subject to change):

Topic	
Measuring a Nation's Income	Ch. 10
Measuring the Cost of Living	Ch. 11
Production and Growth	Ch. 12
Saving, investment, and the financial system	Ch. 13
The Basic Tools of finance	Ch. 14
Unemployment and its Natural Rate	Ch. 15
The Monetary System	Ch. 16
Money Growth and inflation	Ch. 17
International macroeconomics	Chs. 18, 19
Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply	Ch. 20
The Influence of Monetary and Fiscal Policy	Ch. 21
The Short-run Phillips curve	Ch. 22
Macroeconomic debates	Ch. 23