Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi  
College of Business  
Course Syllabus – Fall 2011

Course Number: ECON 2301  
Section 7: T, R 11:00 - 12:15 PM / OCNR-145  
Section 8 :T, R  3:30 - 4:45 PM / OCNR-145

Course Name: Macroeconomics Principles

Instructor: Patrick M. Crowley

Office: OCNR 373

Phone & Fax: Phone: (361) 825-6011  Fax: (361) 825-5609

Office Hours: T, R: 1:15 – 3:15PM  
W: 1:00 – 3:00PM  
and by appointment

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Homepage [http://faculty.tamucc.edu/pcrowley](http://faculty.tamucc.edu/pcrowley)  
E-mail address [patrick.crowley@tamucc.edu](mailto:patrick.crowley@tamucc.edu)

(bundled package with Aplia courseware (see page 8), ISBN: 9781133615651

Optional Materials: Newspapers and Business Magazines such as Financial Times, Economist,  
Business Week, Wall Street Journal and Fortune.

Prerequisites: None. However, students taking remedial courses in Basic English (ENGL 0399) and/or Mathematics (MATH 0398 & 0399) are not recommended to take this course concurrently.

Instructional Methodology: Lecture, screencasts, class discussions, assignments, video presentations.

What is macroeconomics?

Macroeconomics is an approach in economics which looks at the economy as a whole, rather than the behavior of the individual actors in the economy (this is microeconomics). Macroeconomics therefore studies the performance of the entire economy (whether national or global), in terms of measurements such as the rate of growth of the economy, how fast prices are increasing and the number of people who are out of work.
COURSE DESCRIPTION

An overview of how the economy of the United States is organized and functions in a market system. Market processes are used to show how resources and incomes are allocated by households and businesses. Determination of national income, employment, prices, interest rates, and growth are the focus of simple analytical techniques. Monetary and fiscal policies are also examined.

Learning Objectives:
By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

1. understand the subject matter of economics and its relevance to the contemporary world,
2. apply core economic principles and reasoning to real-world economic issues,
3. discuss and analyze government policy measures and their impacts on economic welfare, and
4. assess the performance of the U.S. and other economies.
5. effectively review and prepare for the Major Field Test for business majors.

Relationship to the University Core Curriculum Program:
As an integral part of TAMU-CC’s Core Curriculum Program within the framework of the various curriculum perspectives outlined in the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi 2011-2012 Undergraduate Catalog, through its extensive coverage of related topics and other course requirements, Economics 2301 seeks to enhance students’ intellectual skills in the areas of written and oral communications, mathematical competency and critical thinking.

How Economics 2301 addresses the curriculum perspectives of the Core Program:
The analysis of contrasting views of the impact of economic policies, such as fiscal, monetary and international trade policies and of regulations such as those related to prices, banking, labor practices, social assistance program and so on, will provide Economics 2301 students with an appreciation of how individuals relate to the larger society and to the entire world.

The understanding of the operation of our free enterprise system, the economic roles of the government, consumers, businesses and other economic participants and the study of the “ethics of the marketplace” within the context of supply and demand analysis will equip Economics 2301 students with an appreciation of the principles and ethics and human interaction in the production, distribution and consumption of goods and services in our society.

Another perspective of the Core Curriculum, which deals with the relationships among abstract quantities, is addressed in Economics 2301 through the study of economic theories, which as simplifications of reality and often presented in abstract form through the use of graphs (supply and demand graphs, for example) to explain economic events or to forecast them. Additionally, related to this perspective, students in this class will learn how expectations about the future affect economic variables. Specifically, students in this class will understand how, for example, investors’ and bankers’ expectations about future inflation or about the future direction of monetary policy will affect current and future levels of prices, wages, interest rates, currency values, etc.

How Economics 2301 enhances the six Core Curriculum skills:
Throughout the course, students in Economics 2301 will have ample opportunities to enhance their proficiency in the six intellectual skills specified in the TAMU-CC Undergraduate Catalog.
This detailed course syllabus constitutes the first reading assignment for Economics 2301 students. Additionally, the last page of this document contains the topical contents and reading assignments from the textbook. Moreover, the media article projects compel students to do significant reading from outside sources, including the *Financial Times, Economist, Wall Street Journal*, other periodicals and reports on economic indicators published by government agencies such as the Department of Labor, the Department of Commerce, the Federal Reserve Board and others. These reports are widely accessible through the internet. Exposure to economic and business terminology in these materials certainly provides students with an opportunity to further develop their reading and writing skills.

Although Economics 2301 is primarily a lecture oriented course, students do have opportunities to participate in class discussions, ask and answer questions in class and communicate with the instructor outside the classroom. Homework assignments offer another opportunity for students to exchange ideas verbally and to enhance their listening and speaking skills.

The study of economics could not be possible without critical thinking and quantitative analysis. The fundamental economic concepts of “opportunity cost”, “thinking at the margin” and demand and supply and other applications in decision-making processes provide Economics 2301 students with a valuable critical thinking tool. Similarly, numerical problem-solving on topics such as converting nominal into real Gross Domestic Product, estimating the rate of inflation and the rate of economic growth, the lending capacity of a bank and many other quantitative topics covered in Economics 2301 constitute effective ways through which students can improve their mathematical competency and their critical thinking skills.

**Relationship to Other Coursework:**
An understanding of why and how the U.S. and other economies work is necessary for one to appreciate or participate in the current policy debates. Economic considerations are pervasive in public policy debates, analysis and decisions. Consequently, a basic knowledge of the macroeconomy and the use of economic reasoning are beneficial to every field of study, more especially business related studies.

**PERFORMANCE EVALUATION AND GRADING**

Student performance will be evaluated on the basis of three tests and writing assignments. The material covered on examinations may include scheduled material from the text, class lecture and activities, including assignments and class presentations.

The following is the weight distribution of coursework for determining the overall course average:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coursework</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 Midterm Tests (@ 15% each)</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Media Article Assignments (@ 15% each)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aplia Assignments</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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The three tests are compulsory for all students. **There will be no final exam in this course.**
The Official Course Grade is determined by a letter grade using the following scale: A: >90%; B: 80-89.99%; C: 70-79.99%; D: 60-69.99%; F: below 60%. **No additional work (“make-ups”) will be given after the last test to supplement a course grade.** Grades are given based solely on student performance, not needs or any personal reasons.

**Media Article Assignments:**
Students are required to use magazines or the Internet to gain access to information on current news for media article assignments. The assignments aim at providing students with hands-on applications to economic concepts using daily events. The assignments should be word-processed, double-spaced with a size 12 pitch in a readable font (such as Times Roman or Arial). See Guidelines handout for further details. Assignments missed due to absences cannot be made up except for illness or other emergencies, in which case a doctor’s note or other official University documentation is required to accompany the assignment.

**Attendance Policy:**
Students are held responsible for class attendance. Class attendance is a necessary but not sufficient condition for active class participation and will contribute towards good course performance. Students absent from classes, for whatever reason, are responsible for making arrangements to inform themselves about material discussed, announcements made in class or submittal of assignments due in class. Any absences for reasons of sports participation should be brought to the attention of the instructor at the beginning of semester, and these students should inform the instructor of any further excusable absences as soon as the student is aware of them. Spot quizzes cannot be made up for any reason, as these quizzes are regularly given and a measure of regular physical classroom presence and comprehension of the material presented in class.

**Academic Honesty:**
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, forgery, or plagiarism, which is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own. Students caught engaging in such activities should expect a zero grade on the exam/assignment for the first violation and a letter of reprimand placed in their academic file. A second violation will result in an automatic grade of F for the course. Students in the class are subject to the CoB Student Code of Ethics.

**Classroom Etiquette:**
Examples of classroom misconduct that may affect student evaluation include: **habitually** entering or leaving the classroom during class time without the consent of the instructor, talking or chit-chatting with other students, listening to a MP3 player while in class and any activities that are disruptive to the learning environment. Students caught repeatedly engaging in such activities will be asked to leave the class for the remainder of the lecture time. Two other points: i) No laptop computers will be allowed to be operated during the class and ii) please mute or turn off your cellphone when in class!

**Student Code of Ethics:** [http://www.cob.tamucc.edu/faculty-staff/ethics.php](http://www.cob.tamucc.edu/faculty-staff/ethics.php)
This course, and all other courses offered by the College of Business (CoB), requires all of its students to abide by the CoB Student Code of Ethics (available online at [www.cob.tamucc.edu](http://www.cob.tamucc.edu)). Provisions and stipulations in the code are applicable to all students taking College of Business courses regardless of whether or not they are pursuing a degree awarded by the CoB.
**Dropping a Class:** I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class.

**STUDENT-PROFESSOR COMMUNICATION**

**Office Hours:**
During office hours students are able to visit with the course instructor to ask questions, go over course material, or discuss other issues relating to the course. If office hours are cancelled or the times changed, this will be announced in class. Students who are not available to meet the instructor during regular office hours can make an appointment with the instructor outside of the published times. Office hours start 1/19 and will run to the last day of class.

**Email Communication:**
Assignments cannot be submitted by email. In addition, University email server filters regularly channel emails originating from unrecognized email addresses to junk email folders, so unless email originates from an islander email address, it is unlikely to be read or answered. Put something related to the course in the email header, otherwise the email still might not get read.

**OTHER ASPECTS OF THE COURSE**

**International Perspectives:**
Global economic trends, the economic performance and trade policy impact economic analysis and policy decisions. As a result, global and intergenerational perspectives are critical to the study of economics.

**Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance:**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you are believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services Office at (361) 825-5816 or visit the office in Driftwood 101. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.
Grade Appeals:
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Textbook</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Course Introduction</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ten Principles of Economics</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8/29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thinking Like an Economist</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interdependence and the Gains from Trade</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Market Forces of Supply</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exam 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Design of the Tax System</td>
<td>12*</td>
<td>10/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measuring a Nation’s Income</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measuring the Cost of Living</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production and Growth</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10/24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10/31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exam 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Monetary System</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>11/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money Growth and Inflation</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>11/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interdependence and the Gains from Trade</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11/28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open-Economy Macroeconomics</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>12/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exam 3</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>TBA</td>
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* Inserted chapter from “Principles of Microeconomics” in the customized textbook bundle.