Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi  
College of Business  
Course Syllabus  
Spring 2013

Course Number: ECON 2301 Section 3  T, R: 11:00AM – 12:15PM / OCNR145  
Section 4  T, R: 2:00PM – 3:15PM / OCRN145

Course Name: Macroeconomics Principles  
Instructor: Patrick Crowley

Office: O’Connor Building (OCNR) Room 373

Phone: (361) 825-5831

Office Hours: ONLINE

Internet: Portal URL  
http://bb9.tamucc.edu  
Instructor e-mail  
patrick.crowley@.tamucc.edu  
Course website  
http://www.patrickmcrowley.com/


Financial Times of London (www.ft.com)


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: Online lectures, assignments, discussion forums & research projects.

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 examined including their international dimensions. This course satisfies the economics component of the University core curriculum.

**Learning Objectives:**

By the end of this course, the students 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 and economics majors.

**PERFORMANCE EVALUATION AND GRADING**

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%.

The student’s performance, not the instructor, determines the course grade. No additional work will be given after the final exam to supplement a course grade. Grades are given based solely on student performance, not needs or any personal reasons.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coursework</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Midterm Tests ( @ 20% each)</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MindTap Assignments</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media article assignments (2 @ 10% each)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance (physical and virtual)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ABOUT ECON 2301 IN CORE CURRICULUM**

**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 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 will 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 are 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.

The last page of this document contains the topical contents and reading assignments from the textbook. Moreover, the course project compels 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 is not possible without **critical thinking and quantitative analysis**. The fundamental economic concept of “opportunity cost” and its applications in decision-making process provide Economics 2301 students with a valuable critical thinking tool. The examination
of alternative economic theories and policies encourages students to evaluate the merits and drawbacks of each of them and, in this process, to sharpen their critical thinking skills. 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.

**GRADED ASSIGNMENTS**
In this course, you are required to complete the following graded assignments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Where and How to Submit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online attendance</td>
<td>In this Discussion Forum, you will participate in a weekly discussion by making at least one post or one response to other posts with at least 200 words.</td>
<td>Click the “Discussion Forum” link in the left-hand menu under the category of &quot;Collaboration Tools.&quot; In the Discussion Forum, click the corresponding Lesson Unit number to enter (e.g., Lesson Unit 1 for Week 1). Respond to the first thread that posts the question.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media articles</td>
<td>Two written assignments in which you collect media articles which analyze current economic issues.</td>
<td>Click the “Assessments” link in the left-hand menu. Click the &quot;Media article&quot; folders for details of the projects, their deadlines and submissions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EXAM INFORMATION

There will be TWO exams in this course. Both exams are to be taken in class and are closed-book exams.

The exams are PROCTORED. Details and instructions for each exam are listed in the "Exam" folder in the Course Content area (see the link in the left-hand menu). Both exams will be given in class and have a 70 minutes time limit.

Each exam contains 40 multiple-choice questions. In addition to textbook chapters, PowerPoint presentation and discussion activities, the MindTap graded assignments will be particularly helpful for you to prepare for the exams.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Chapters Covered</th>
<th>Time Limit</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>Modules 1 to 4</td>
<td>70 minutes</td>
<td>In class, March 25th, Tuesday</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>Modules 5 to 7</td>
<td>70 minutes</td>
<td>In class, May 6th, Tuesday</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OTHER ASPECTS OF THE COURSE

Oral and Written Communication Content:
This is an online course. Active participation in the Discussion Forum and communication of various forms are necessary to explore the limitations of various macroeconomic policies and their impact on individuals and various groups. Student written projects must meet the expected professional standards.

Technology Applications:
The course is delivered through the Internet. Student should strive to use current technological aids and online resources to enhance their coursework. All course materials will be available online. Students are encouraged to communicate with the instructor using the Internet.

Ethical Perspectives:
In this course, the main approach to macroeconomic issues is positive (what is) rather than normative (what ought to be). However, this course will also cover the concept of social responsibility for individuals, firms, and governments.
Global Perspectives:
Global economic trends, the economic performance and trade policy of other nations impact macroeconomic analysis, policies and actions. Hence, the global and intergenerational perspectives are critical to macroeconomic study.

Demographic Diversity Perspectives:
Macroeconomic policies and choices impact various groups differently, and the various groups are able to influence macroeconomic policies differently. Hence, the distributional effects of macroeconomic policies and the economic behavior of different demographic groups will be examined and discussed.

Political, Social, Legal, Regulatory, and Environmental Perspectives:
In discussing the role of the government in an economy, various political, social, legal, regulatory, and environmental issues and questions arise. These questions and issues are examined in the macroeconomic context, and sometimes, from the microeconomic view.

Major Field Test:
The Major Field Test (MFT) is required for all students pursuing the Bachelor of Business Administration degree and will be administered in the MGMT 4388 course, “Administrative Policy and Strategy.” To prepare for this test, business majors are advised to retain their class notes, textbooks, and other relevant materials from this class and the other business core courses. Students will enroll in BUSI 0088 “MFT Review” (concurrently with MGMT 4388) during their final semester; this online course should fine-tune their readiness for the MFT by encouraging them to complete the online MFT review materials and required quizzes available on the course Blackboard learning modules.

Academic Honesty:
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). 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. Observe the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

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.

**Disabilities Accommodations:**
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 believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

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.

**COURSE PRELIMINARIES**

To successfully complete this course, you should:
- First prepare your computer with access to the Internet.
- Click on each Content Folder on this page for material contents of each Lesson Unit, and complete all assignments and activities. This course contains a total of 7 Lesson Units, each corresponds to one week of this course.
- Learn by actively participating in all lesson activities and by reviewing the feedback for the graded assignments and exams.

**Help Desk:**
For technical issues on Bb9, call Island Online help desk 361-825-2825 or email iol.support@tamucc.edu

**Expectations for students:**
Keep in mind that this is a 14-week hybrid blended online/in-class course. In contrast to a regular face-to-face course that runs for nearly three months, this course is much more dependent on your doing the reading outside of class, and it requires a great deal of motivation and self-discipline from you as a learner. As a rule of thumb, you should be ready to put aside at least 8 hours each week for completing the reading and graded assignments, and studying the course material. Observe all due dates. There are assignments due every week. The deadline for the MindTap graded assignments will always be Sunday at 11.45 PM. Please check the specific dates for the exams. If you feel you’ve fallen behind or need assistance, please email the instructor (patrick.crowley@tamucc.edu) immediately.
### Suggested Weekly Time Allocation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesson Activity</th>
<th>Weekly Time Allocation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lesson Overview on Bb9</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading textbook chapters for each lesson</td>
<td>2-4 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reviewing PowerPoint lecture presentation</td>
<td>1-2 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading posts and making posts on Discussion Forum</td>
<td>30 mins to 1 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completing graded chapter assignments on MindTap</td>
<td>1-2 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reviewing lesson material and preparing for exams</td>
<td>1-2 hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## ECON 230.W SPRING 2014 — KEY COURSE COMPONENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Complete by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MODULE 1</strong>&lt;br&gt;Introduction to Economics</td>
<td>1/31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MODULE 2</strong>&lt;br&gt;Economic Interactions</td>
<td>2/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MODULE 3</strong>&lt;br&gt;Demand and Supply</td>
<td>2/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MEDIA ARTICLE 1</strong>&lt;br&gt;Demand and Supply</td>
<td>3/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MODULE 4</strong>&lt;br&gt;Government</td>
<td>3/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXAM 1</strong></td>
<td>3/25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNIT 5</strong>&lt;br&gt;Output and Economic Growth</td>
<td>4/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNIT 6</strong>&lt;br&gt;Inflation and Unemployment</td>
<td>4/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MEDIA ARTICLE 2</strong>&lt;br&gt;Macroeconomic indicators</td>
<td>4/25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNIT 7</strong>&lt;br&gt;Money</td>
<td>4/25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNIT 8</strong>&lt;br&gt;International Economics</td>
<td>5/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXAM 2</strong></td>
<td>5/6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each week also includes graded Chapter Assignments and Discussion Forum posts.