Macroeconomics

CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Number and Title: ECON 1010-N1 Macroeconomic Principles (Online)

Semester/Year Fall 2006

Credit Hours: 3

Instructor: Dr. Thomas Schellberg

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Phone: 307-268-2454

Office Hours: TTHF 11:00 - 11:50 AM, MW 1:00 - 1:50 PM, W 6:00 - 6:50 PM.

I will be in my office at Casper College during these hours. Feel free to call me or visit me in person during these hours.

e-mail: schellbe@caspercollege.edu (Note: I would strongly encourage students to use the email inside the WebCT course, if the email concerns a matter directly relating to this course.)

Course Description: An introduction to the economic theory of the economy in the aggregate. This course deals with issues of unemployment, price stability, and economic growth. The role of government in promoting these economic goals is discussed at length.

Statement of Prerequisites: The student should have computer access to WebCT and a basic knowledge of the use of the internet. Knowledge of graphing and coordinate geometry is recommended.

General Objectives: The student will gain an understanding of the functioning of the macroeconomy, and how it can be analyzed to evaluate the critical issues of our day.

Specific Objectives: See the course calendar and course contents links. These show the units to be covered in this course.
Methodology: Macroeconomic Principles will be presented using a combination of textbook readings, course outlines, homework (projects), and discussions.

The required textbook for this course is: Arnold, Roger A, Economics 7th Edition 2005, South Western/Thompson Learning, ISBN 0-324-23662-X. This hardcover text includes both macroeconomics and microeconomics. The Arnold text is also available as "splits". The splits consist of a softcover macroeconomics text and a softcover microeconomics text. Those who purchased their text through the Casper College bookstore obtained the hardcover text. If you plan to take microeconomics over the Internet through Casper College, you should hold onto the text. I want to stress that either the hardcover text or the macro split is acceptable.

Important

If you have the 6th edition of the text, or you have access to a copy of the 6th edition, that is fine to use for this course. The changes in the latest edition are minimal.

Chapter summaries (outlines) can be found by visiting the "contents" icon of the main menu for this course. Within the "contents" web page are chapter outlines, quizzes, and other self-paced learning tools.

In addition, these will occasionally be supplemented with instructor prepared tutorials. These will be found in the "Discussion Area" under the icon "Communicate".

There are no formal lectures in this course, so students are responsible for learning the material using a combination of textbook readings, course outlines, self-paced learning tools, homework assignments, and required discussions with other class members.

It can not be emphasized enough that the student is responsible for his (her) own learning. The student must read the assigned readings, study the onlined course materials, and compete the required quizzes, exams and homeworks in a timely fashion. Participation in the class discussions is also required.

My job as an instructor is that of a facilitator and evaluator. I will be available to answer any questions posed either publicly or privately, provide individual help, read your assignments, and evaluate your work.

The major difference between an online course of this form and traditional classes is the absence of a formal lecture. You are expected to learn the material using the alternative methods discussed above. For this three credit course, I would recommend the student put in at least nine hours of work per week. This is the time spent reading and studying, preparing assignments, taking tests, and contributing to class discussions. Although the nine hours is the same as is recommended in a traditional class (three lecture hours and six of outside study), it is easy to get behind in an online course. To succeed in this course, the student must keep up with the work.
At this time, I would recommend taking a tour of the online resources available in this course, if you have not already done so. To do this, click "Course Content" to the left of your screen: Visit the following links on the left of your screen: “Course Content” “Assessments” “Calendar” “Discussions” “Mail” and “My Grades.” If you see symbols rather than names to the left of your screen, press the two arrow keys to the right of the symbols, and these links will appear. Please enter “Discussions” and introduce yourself to the class by responding to the first discussion question. To exit a site, click “Course Content” to the left of your screen. To return to where you are now, click “syllabus.”

If you find all this moving around inside WebCT confusing, you may wish to print this document.

**Evaluation Criteria:**

The course will cover eleven chapters in the textbook. An online quiz will be required for each chapter. The quizzes will be open book and open note, although I recommend reading and digesting the material before attempting the quiz.

The course will be divided into seven units, each covering one or two chapters. For each unit, the student must make three significant and timely postings to the class discussions.

There will be five graded homework assignments. Your work on the homework assignments is expected to be your own.

To access the homework assignments, click the "Assignments" icon, and select the appropriate assignment (numbered one through five). Download and complete the assignment. To submit the assignment, click "upload file", then "submit assignment". You may, if you prefer, submit your assignment through email. Click the "Communicate" icon, and then click "email". Then click "Compose Message". Click "browse" to attach your file,"open", "attach file", then "send". If you wish, you may submit the assignment to me through the US or intercampus mail, or by depositing it in the drop slot in my office door (Admin. Bldg., Room 175G, Social & Behavioral Sciences, Casper College). Do not post your work on the class discussion area; you will receive a zero on the assignment if you do.

There will be a midterm exam and a final. These will be closed-book and closed-notes, and will be proctored. Those in the Casper area may take these exams at the Casper College library, the math lab, or another pre-arranged site. Those out of town must make arrangements to have the exam proctored by a disinterested third party.

**The course grade is figured as follows:**

**Seven discussion grades:** 30 points each... Total 210.

**Eleven quizzes:** 30 points each... Total 330
**Five homework assignments:** 60 points each..... Total 300

**Midterm exam:** 120 points

**Final Exam:** 120 points

Total: 1080 points, with the following grading scale:

A = 972 points or more

B = 864 - 971 points

C = 756 - 863 points

D = 648 - 755 points

F = below 648 points

These totals correspond to 90%, 80%, 70%, and 60% for the grades of A, B, C, and D, respectively.

**Deadlines:**

It is important (and required) that you keep up in this course. For that reason, there are deadlines after which work will not be accepted, or will receive reduced credit.

Refer to the online calendar. This shows seven things.

(1) The date that each unit begins

(2) The date that each quiz is made available

(3) The date that the midterm and the final exam are made available

(4) The date that each homework assignment is made available

(5) The date that each homework assignment is due

(6) The date that each quiz or test ends

(7) The date that each unit closes

The discussion questions, quizzes, exams, and homework assignments can be accessed through WebCT on the dates shown on the calendar, but not before.
Deadlines are as follows:

(1) Unit discussion postings must be completed within one week after the next unit begins. For example (refer to the calendar), unit 1 begins on August 28, and unit 2 begins on September 6. After September 13, all discussion for unit 1 will be closed off, and no further postings can be made. Unit 7, our last unit, closes at 11:30 PM on Thursday December 21, the end of the semester. These dates are also posted on the calendar.

(2) Quizzes must be competed within one month of the date they are made available. For example, quiz 1 is made available on August 31, and will close at 11:30 PM on September 30. The exception to this rule applies to quizzes at the end of the semester, since all work must be competed by Thursday December 21 at 11:30PM. Quiz 9, for example, is available on December 1, but closes on December 21. These dates are also shown under the "Assessments" link and on the calendar.

(3) The midterm exam will be made available on Friday, October 13 and will be available until Thursday October 19 at 11:30 PM. The final exam is available from Friday, December 15 through Thursday December 22 at 11:30 PM. These dates are shown under the "Assessments" link and on the calendar.

(4) Homework assignments must be submitted to the instructor within one month of the date they are made available. For example, the first assignment is made available on August 30. Your submission must be emailed, dropped in my dropbox, or postmarked by 11:30 PM September 29 for full credit. After September 29, the homework questions (for assignment 1) will not be available online. Late assignments will be assessed a fifteen point penalty for each week submitted after the due date. These dates are shown under the "Assignments" icon and on the calendar.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.

Statement of Accommodation: It is the policy of Casper College to provide appropriate accommodation to any student with a documented disability. If you have a need for an accommodation in this course, please make an appointment to see me at your earliest convenience.