

**ECN 211
Dr. Lamkin
Fall 2009**

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Course Objectives:

This course combines a general introduction to economics with a more detailed exploration of the principles and major theories of macroeconomics. We will define economics and familiarize ourselves with the basic concepts that underpin all market economies. We will attempt to define and distinguish the more limited focus of macroeconomics. We will identify the major economic actors in the American economy and learn how the government measures aggregate economic output, unemployment and inflation. We will learn how the national economy works. Finally, we will explore the major macroeconomic theories regarding the government's capacity to influence the national economy through fiscal and monetary policies.

Required Text:

Foundations of Macroeconomics, Robin Bade and Michael Parkin

Office Hours:

O-5 134: M-W-F, 9-10, T-R, 10-11 or by appointment

Attendance, Grading, Exams:

It is my experience that for a majority of students, economics is one of the most challenging courses they will take during their first two years of college. Research conducted by the College and my own experience both indicate that an inability to both attend class and complete the required reading almost always results in a failing grade. While I am confident that all of you are capable of earning a passing mark given sufficient time and effort, I am less confident that all of you plan to allocate sufficient **time** and **effort** to achieve this objective. Be honest with yourself, if because of work and social obligations, you do not have the time to attend class and to complete about a chapter of challenging reading a week, this may not be the class for you.

Your grade for this course will be determined by your performance on four 50-point exams and four 25-point homework assignments. Your first exam will be September 24, the second October 20, the third will be November 17, and the fourth will be during final exam period. I do not give make up exams! If you must for **any** reason miss an exam, it is **your responsibility** to notify me in advance. (Notifying me either by phone or email will be sufficient.) Whenever possible I will try to arrange for you to take the exam at another time. Any make up exam must be completed before I hand back the exam to those who took them at the scheduled class meeting. Otherwise, you will take the next exam for double points. Anyone who fails to notify me before missing an exam, no matter how legitimate the excuse, will be assessed a 10-pt penalty. (This means double points minus 10.)

Grades will be determined as follows: it will take at least 255 points (85%) to earn an A, 217.5 to earn a B (72.5%), 180 to earn a C (60%) and 150 to earn a D (50%). There will be a chance to earn extra credit described separately.

Semester Reading Assignments:

Unit 1: Chapters: 3,4,5,6,7

Unit 2: Chapters: 8,9,10

Unit 3: Chapters: 11,12,13

Unit 4: Chapters: 14,16,17

Homework:

At the start of each unit you will receive 50 multiple choice questions based upon the assigned reading. You can treat this as an open book take-home test, completing the questions as you complete the assigned reading. Each homework assignment is due the day of the corresponding unit exam. (The Unit #1 homework is due the day of the Unit #1 exam etc.) Your **homework answers** are to be handed in on a **properly filled out scantron sheet**. If you have properly notified me about missing a unit test, your homework will be due no later than the start of the next class period. Otherwise, any homework which is handed in late will be assessed a 5-pt penalty. I will distribute the homework questions on the first day of each unit. If for any reason you do not attend that class it is your responsibility to acquire a homework assignment. **You are not to work with anyone else on this homework! When students hand in the same work, neither will earn any points for the homework assignment!**

Extra Credit

Beginning the first week of September through the end of November, you can earn **15 pts** extra credit by reading two articles a day from the Wall Street Journal. One article each day must be from page 2 in the front section, which covers the **economy**. The second article each day can be one of your choosing. You are to cut out each article that you read and organize the articles by week. Then all you must do is hand in your semester's reading no later than the day you take your final exam.