Economics 211 section 23840: Macroeconomic Principles (Spring 2010)
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8-8:50am in room AG-104 at GCC

Instructor: Aleksander "Sasha" Radisich
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Textbook: Baumol and Blinder, ***Macroeconomics*** (optional)

Official Course Description: A descriptive analysis of the structure and functioning of the American economy. Emphasis on basic economic institutions and factors that determine national income and employment levels. Consideration given to the macroeconomic topics of national income, unemployment, inflation and monetary and fiscal policies. Prerequisites: None.

Course Objectives: This course will introduce economic thought, theory, and analysis. Specifically, 211 addresses topics in macroeconomics: the study of the overall economy and how it works as a unit. Do not let the theoretical framework fool you: this course intends to provide you with solid tools for analyzing real-world problems that countries and economies face every day. The official course competencies can be found online at http://www.maricopa.edu/curriculum/D-L/072ecn211.html

Attendance Policy: Attending class is mandatory for success. The material in this course is difficult to absorb and will often require guidance. Furthermore, future topics in this course build on past topics, so falling behind will often lead to an insurmountable deficit of knowledge. I will circulate an attendance sheet at the beginning of each class; failing to sign the sheet four times may result in my withdrawing you from the class. If you absolutely cannot attend class, be sure to come to my office hours to discover what you missed. Also, get a copy of the notes from someone else in the class so that you don't fall as far behind.

Quizzes: Every Friday (beginning on February 19th) during the first 15 minutes of the class we will have a quiz. While quizzes cannot be made up for any reason, I will drop your lowest quiz score. The quizzes will determine **10% of your final grade**. These quizzes are designed as a learning experience, and you should use your results on them to help focus your studying where it will benefit you the most. All quizzes will be comprehensive, but will focus primarily on the most recent materials.

Midterm: We will have a comprehensive midterm examination in class on Wednesday, March 10th. This exam will be worth **40% of your final grade** in this class.

Final: Our final examination will be on Wednesday, May 12th, at 8am. It will determine **50% of your final grade** in the class. The final will be a two-hour comprehensive examination of all materials from the entire semester.

Grading: This class will be curved. In rough terms, the top 10% of students will earn an "A," the next 20% will earn at least a "B," the middle 40% will earn at least a "C," the next 20% will earn at least a "D," and the bottom 10% will earn an "F" in this course. Extra credit can only be earned on quizzes and tests. The curve will never hurt you – it only helps. *In the interest of fairness, I offer no outside extra credit to anybody*.

Course Outline:

1. Introduction to Economics
    a. Chapter 1 – What Is Economics?
    b. Chapter 2 – The Economy: Myth and Reality
    c. Chapter 3 – The Fundamental Economic Problem: Scarcity and Choice
    d. Chapter 4 – Supply and Demand: An Initial Look

2. Aggregating Supply and Demand
    a. Chapter 5 – An Introduction to Macroeconomics
    b. Chapter 6 – The Goals of Macroeconomic Policy
    c. Chapter 8 – Aggregate Demand and the Powerful Consumer
    d. Chapter 9 – Demand-Side Equilibrium: Unemployment or Inflation?
    e. Chapter 10 – Supply-Side Equilibrium: Unemployment and Inflation?

3. The Economic Role of the Government
    a. Chapter 11 – Managing Aggregate Demand: Fiscal Policy
    b. Chapter 13 – Managing Aggregate Demand: Monetary Policy
    c. Chapter 14 – The Debate Over Monetary and Fiscal Policy
    d. Chapter 15 – Budget Deficits in the Short and Long Run
    e. Chapter 16 – The Trade-Off Between Inflation and Unemployment

Audio Taping: I allow the audio taping of my classes at any time.

Discipline: Disciplinary standards in this course will be maintained as per the current GCC student handbook.

Disability Statement: The college will make reasonable accommodations for people with documented disabilities. Students should notify the Disabled Student Resources Office and their instructor of any special needs.

Disclaimer: Course content may vary from this outline to meet the needs of this particular group.