

Principles of Macroeconomics (10020/20020)

Professor Wyatt J. Brooks

University of Notre Dame

Fall 2014

Course Information

Class Time:	Tuesday and Thursday, 2:00 – 3:15
Location:	B016 Haggar Hall
Website:	www.nd.edu/~wbrooks/MacroF14.html
Office Hours:	Tuesday 11:30 – 1:30
Office Location:	712 Flanner Hall
Email:	wbrooks@nd.edu

Course Overview

This course is designed to introduce students to fundamental issues and concepts in macroeconomics. Students will learn about commonly used economic measures (such as inflation, GDP, and unemployment), major economic institutions (such as the Federal Reserve, World Bank and International Monetary Fund), and contemporary events (such as the recent financial crisis, the ongoing European debt crisis, and the growth of China). By the end of the course, students will be prepared for further study in macroeconomics and will be able to understand and critique news and commentary from the popular press.

Textbook

The only required textbook for this course is *Principles of Macroeconomics* by N. Gregory Mankiw, 6th edition. Students are required to have a calculator for exams.

Course Requirements

Problem Sets

There will be 5 assigned problem sets throughout the semester, which will be graded out of 25 points. They will be returned to students within one week of when they are turned in.

Midterm and Final Exams

Two midterm exams will be administered on October 16th and November 20th. Midterms cover material from the lectures and readings. The best study materials for the midterms are the problem sets since the previous midterm. The final exam is scheduled for Thursday, December 18th from 10:30 to 12:30 in accordance with the university exam schedule. The final exam covers all materials from the course, including material from before the midterms.

Group Presentations

Students will be put into groups of four to complete an in-class presentation on a topic related to the lectures. These presentations will take place throughout the semester. Details and requirements will be discussed two weeks after the start of class.

Term Paper

Each student will be assigned a country of study, which they will learn about as part of their homework assignments. This country is assigned randomly so that students will learn about a country they may not have otherwise thought to have selected. This country will also be the topic of the term paper, which is due on the last day of the course. The term paper will be described in more detail after the first midterm.

Course Grades

The raw course grade is determined as follows:

- 5% each from the 5 homework assignments
- 15% from the group presentation
- 15% each from the two midterms
- 15% from the term paper
- 30% from the final exam
- The lowest of the following will automatically be dropped from your grade: Midterm 1, Midterm 2, Term Paper or ½ the Final Exam.

At the end of the course, all raw course grades are adjusted by a number of points such that the class average final grade is 3.2 (A = 4, A- = 3.667, etc.). Grades are determined as: A = 93.33% - 100%, A- = 90% - 93.33%, B+ = 86.67% - 90%, etc. A grade below 60% is failing and receives a grade of F.

Policies

Make-up Exams

Any missed exam will be given a score of 0 unless the student's absence is excused according to university guidelines. If the student has an excused absence, they must notify me without delay with an explanation so that a make-up exam may be scheduled. If the student also misses the make-up (with a valid excuse) I will apply that exam's weight to the final exam.

Grade Changes

If any student believes that their work has been graded incorrectly, they must provide a written explanation of the possible error and submit it to the instructor. The instructor will re-grade the entire quiz or exam, and the student's score may increase or decrease.

Academic Dishonesty

The Code of Honor will be strictly applied as described in *The Academic Code of Honor Handbook*. Students will not give or receive aid on exams. This includes, but is not limited to, viewing the exams of others, sharing answers with others, and using books or notes while taking exams. Students can review the code at: honorcode.nd.edu