SYLLABUS

TEXTBOOKS


GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: This course, ECON-100 Macroeconomics, is one of four foundation courses in Cluster 1 of Curricular Area 4 (Social Institutions and Behavior) in the University’s General Education Program. It is the first of a two-course sequence. You must take one of the following courses in order to complete the General Education requirements for Cluster 1 of Curricular Area 4:

- AMST-240 Poverty and Culture
- COMM-275 Dissident Media: Voices from the Underground
- ECON-200 Microeconomics
- EDU-200 Schools and Society
- FIN-200 Personal Finance and Financial Institutions
- GOVT-210 Political Power and American Public Policy
- GOVT-215 Civil Rights and Liberties
- PHIL-240 Ethics in the Professions
- SOCY-210 Inequality: Class, Race, and Ethnicity
- WGST-225 Gender, Politics, and Power

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Standards of academic conduct are set forth in the University's Academic Integrity Code: http://www.american.edu/academics/integrity/index.htm. By registering, you have acknowledged your awareness of the Academic Integrity Code, and you are obliged to become familiar with your rights and responsibilities as defined by the Code. Violations of the Academic Integrity Code will not be treated lightly, and disciplinary actions will be taken should such violations occur. Please see me if you have any questions about the academic violations described in the Code in general or as they relate to particular requirements for this course.

In writing papers, you must properly cite all sources (1) directly quoted, (2) paraphrased, or (3) consulted in any fashion. Sources include all printed material as well as the Internet. It is also considered plagiarism if you merely rework source material, placing an author's thoughts in other words without contributing your own ideas. For that reason, you must include some kind of source citation or note whenever drawing on someone else's interpretation.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Macroeconomics deals with the aggregate behavior of a capitalist market economy. To better appreciate the workings of such an economy, this course will begin with a historical survey of the evolution of modern economic institutions and modern economic thought. Analysis will then be made of the theoretical frameworks that macroeconomists have developed to explain how contemporary capitalist economies function, the basic problems these economies face, and the solutions macroeconomists offer for these problems. The course will conclude with an examination of the economic promises and challenges generated by globalization.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
1. **Exams**: There will be two examinations: A midterm (Thursday, October 16) and a final (Thursday, December 11, 8:30-11:00 a.m.). Please note: The **use of calculators is not permitted** during the examinations.

2. **Three Reaction Papers on Readings**

Written "reaction" papers on the readings are required. These are not to be simply summaries of the readings, but rather your critical reactions to them. Papers may not be more than 1400 words in length (approximately four typewritten, double-spaced pages). **Longer papers will not be accepted.** Reaction papers will be graded "excellent", "satisfactory", or "unsatisfactory". The first two papers, if graded unsatisfactory, may be rewritten, but must be resubmitted within the forthcoming week (Originals must be resubmitted with rewrites). The third paper may **not** be rewritten. **Reaction papers must cover all the readings in the designated section(s) and each of these readings must be referenced.** For the first two papers, none will be accepted more than one week after the due date, and late papers can neither receive the grade "excellent" nor be rewritten. The "Field Trip" paper and the third reaction paper may **not** be turned in late. Papers must be submitted in hard copy.

   1. Part I Sections C & D    Sept. 15
   2. Part I Section F         Oct. 6
   3. Part II Section F (additional readings will be required for this paper; note: may **not** be turned in late) Nov. 24.

3. **One Reaction Paper on a "Field Trip" Experience**

In order to experience some aspect of our economic world beyond the textbooks, each student must participate in one of the following three activities and submit a written report.

   a) Attend two Congressional hearings on an economic issue (e.g. taxation, budgeting, poverty, regulation, trade, etc.). Note that this option requires attendance at hearings prior to Congressional recess.
   b) Volunteer to work in a soup kitchen or shelter on two different days (This should only be done by students in groups).
   c) Conduct an interview with the owner of a small business.

A "reaction" report must be submitted on or before November 3. **No late papers will be accepted.** Papers may not be more than 1400 words in length (approximately four typewritten, double-spaced pages). **Longer papers will not be accepted.** If this paper is graded unsatisfactory, it may **not** be rewritten. Papers must be submitted in hard copy.

N.B. The **Writing Center** offers free, one-on-one coaching and advice on writing to all AU students. You can schedule up to two appointments per week by calling 885-2991.

4. **Discussion Groups**: Students may participate in weekly groups. Attendance and participation are optional. However, by attending these discussion groups, students may add points to their midterm and final exam scores (one point maximum per week).

**Grading** (each letter category includes all possible pluses and minuses)

- **A** requires 90% of the total points possible on the mid-term and final, and four satisfactory reaction papers.
- **B** requires 80% of the total points possible on the mid-term and final and three satisfactory reaction papers.
- **C** requires 70% of the total points possible on the mid-term and final and two satisfactory reaction papers.
- **D** requires 60% of the total points possible on the mid-term and final and one satisfactory reaction paper.
- **F** has no requirements.

Excellent reaction papers can raise your final grade.

P.S. Except for instances of documented illnesses, no incompletes will be given for this course.

**Reading Assignments**

The readings and lectures are meant to complement each other. Although they will at times cover seemingly quite diverse subjects, they are intended to help you develop the fullest possible understanding of what the science of economics is all about. All of the material listed below, not found in the course textbooks, is on reserve in the library (reserve room on underground floor). Some of these readings, depending upon copyright restrictions, will be available on Blackboard. Note:
the works of Adam Smith, Thomas Malthus, Karl Marx and that of other notable economists can be accessed at: http://cepa.newschool.edu/het/ and http://www.socsci.mcmaster.ca/econ/ugcm/3LL3/index.html

The dates given below are approximate.

I. The History of Modern Economics

   Colander, ch. 1.
   Heilbroner and Milberg, ch. 1.

B. Pre-Industrial Economies and Some Basic Theoretics (Aug. 28, Sept. 4).
   Heilbroner and Milberg, ch. 2.
   Colander, ch. 4.

C. Origins and Emergence of Capitalism (Sept. 8, 11).
   Colander, ch. 2.
   Heilbroner and Milberg, ch. 3.
   Adam Smith, The Wealth of Nations, Book I, chs. 1-3 (about 17 pp.).

REMINDER: **REACTION PAPER 1 IS DUE SEPTEMBER 15**

D. Reaction to Capitalism (Sept. 15, 18, 22).
   Heilbroner and Milberg, ch. 4.
   Heilbroner, The Worldly Philosophers, chs. 4, 5, 6.

E. An Overview of the U.S. Economy and World Trade (Sept. 25).
   Colander, chs. 3, 5.

F. The Magic of the Market (Sept. 29, Oct. 2).
   Heilbroner and Milberg, ch. 5.
   Stephen Marglin, “Why Thinking Like an Economist Can Be Harmful to the Community,” Challenge, 51 (2),

II. Prosperity and Recession: The Keynesian Revolution

REMINDER: **REACTION PAPER 2 IS DUE OCTOBER 6**

A. Introduction (Oct. 6).
   Colander, chs. 6, 7, 8.
   Heilbroner and Milberg, chs. 6, 7.
   Heilbroner, The Worldly Philosophers, Ch. 9.

B. Keynes versus the Classical School (Oct. 9).
   Colander, ch. 9.
REMINDER: ***MIDTERM EXAMINATION WILL BE ON OCTOBER 16***

   Colander, ch. 10.

REMINDER: ***FIELD TRIP PAPER IS DUE NOVEMBER 3 ***

D. The Role of Money (Oct. 23, 27, 30, Nov. 3).
   Colander, chs. 11, 12, 13.

E. The Contemporary Struggle for Macroeconomic Stability (Nov. 6, 10, 13)
   Colander, chs. 14, 15.
   Heilbroner and Milberg, chs. 8-11.

REMINDER: ***LAST REACTION PAPER IS DUE NOVEMBER 24***

F. International Trade and Finance (Nov. 17, 20, 24)
   Colander, chs. 16, 17, 18.
   Heilbroner and Milberg, ch. 12, 14, 15.

III. The Struggle for Economic Development (Dec. 1, 4).
   Colander, ch. 19.
   Heilbroner and Milberg, ch. 13.

***FINAL EXAM: THURSDAY DECEMBER 11, 8:30-11:00 a.m.***

Interested students may find some recent articles by their professor on the class Blackboard site.