Course Description, Goals and Instructor

Description
This is an introductory course in Macroeconomics presented in online format. The prerequisite is college sophomore standing or the consent of the instructor. Areas of study include the fundamental concepts of scarcity and opportunity cost, market supply and demand, aggregate supply and aggregate demand, macroeconomic equilibrium, inflation, unemployment, the theory of fiscal and monetary policy with applications of fiscal and monetary policy to problems of economic stabilization and growth, as well as analysis of international trade and international finance.

Goals
Successful completion of this course will enable you to identify the major macroeconomic problems confronting the United States economy and explain the causes of these problems. You will also demonstrate mastery of the economic principles relevant to these problems, and identify and evaluate possible solutions to these problems, so that you can excel in any subsequent courses requiring knowledge of macroeconomics.

Instructor
The instructor for this course is Dr. David Schutte. His office telephone number is (214) 860-8502. His office is W-225 at Mountain View College. Instructor will have no office hours during Winter Term. Emergency consultation can be arranged by appointment. His e-mail address is dschute@dcccd.edu. E-mail is always the best contact method! E-mails during the semester will be acknowledged within twenty-four hours of receipt, except on weekends and holidays.

Course Policies and Required Textbook

Keys To Success In This Course
To succeed in this course, you must purchase and read the assigned textbook and complete all online assignments. You must have access to a computer with reliable, high-speed Internet connection (computer labs with posted schedules are available on the MVC campus.) You must be able to log onto the DCCCD website, locate the e-Campus connection and access your course materials on the Blackboard 7.0 System. You must establish a disciplined and regular work schedule, and prepare yourself well in advance for all required assignments. You should be able to send and receive e-mail, and know how to use an Internet search engine for research purposes. It can also be a convenience to have access to a fax machine. You are strongly encouraged to read The Wall Street Journal or Business Week regularly, or to have some other dependable source of current macroeconomic news.

Communicating With Your Instructor
When leaving a telephone message for your instructor, please state your name and telephone number slowly and clearly, and leave a short message. When faxing, please use a cover sheet with your name, student ID number and course number (with section number.) E-mails should contain the same information. Please do not repeat transmission of faxes or e-mails unless requested to do so. E-mail is always the easiest way to communicate with the instructor and voicemail is the least reliable; if you leave a voicemail, it is helpful to confirm it with an e-mail.

Course Policies
1. Late assignments will not be accepted; missed exams cannot be made up; no exams can be repeated. Before enrolling in the course, be sure that your personal or work time commitments allow you to complete all course requirements as scheduled for the semester.
2. Withdrawal from the course with a grade of "W" can only be accomplished through the Registrar, and must be accomplished no later than the date stated on your fee receipt. Your instructor cannot assign a grade of "W".
   Do not wait until the last minute, if you should decide to drop the course!
3. Cheating, plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any kind will result in a grade of "F" on the assignment. Keeping an exam open longer than the allowed ninety minutes earns a grade of zero on that exam.
4. Financial Aid Statement: Students who are receiving any form of financial aid should check with the Financial Aid Office prior to withdrawing from classes. Withdrawals may affect your eligibility to receive further aid and could cause you to be in a position of repayment for the current semester. Students who fail to attend or participate after the drop date are also subject to this policy. Contact: MVC Financial Aid Office (W140, 8688).

Required Textbook and Suggested Reading
The textbook required for the course is Macroeconomics 10th ed. by Michael Parkin (Pearson/Addison-Wesley, copyright 2012, ISBN 13-978-0-13-139445-2). This text is available in the Mountain View College bookstore. You should also familiarize yourself with current news about the U.S. economy by reading sources such as Business Week or the Wall Street Journal on a regular basis during the semester; U.S. current events are course material.

Assignments
All assignments consist of multiple-choice questions, mathematical problems and research or discussion topics.

Homework
Eight (8) Homework Assignments are required. Homework Assignments consist of either twenty-five (25) multiple-choice questions or a twenty-five (25) point research and discussion assignment. Homework Assignments can be found in the Assignments Folder of the Blackboard webpage for this course. Related Homework Assignments can (and should) be attempted five times before attempting each Mid-Term Examination, and each mid-term examination must be completed on the specified date as indicated below in the section labeled "Course Outline."

Note: The course is not 'self-paced'.

Examinations
Each of the four examinations scheduled for the semester consists of forty (40) multiple-choice questions. These questions and problems require that you demonstrate thorough mastery of economic concepts and methods of macroeconomic analysis. The course text and study aids are intended to provide a basic reference outline of the relevant material. Some examination questions require that you extend the material of the text to new problems or current events. The fourth examination, at the end of the term, is comprehensive and contains some material from earlier parts of the semester.

Preparation for Exams
a. The best preparation for the examination is to carefully read and re-read those chapters of the textbook to be covered on the exam, and to work through the corresponding material in the online study guide
b. Answer the multiple-choice questions in the online Homework Assignments, found in the Assignments Folder of the Blackboard website for this course. Be certain that you can justify your choice of a correct answer. Each Homework Assignment may be attempted five times for credit. Only the highest score earned in the five attempts will be recorded for each homework assignment to count toward your semester grade. Merely opening a Homework Assignment for a second time will erase your previous score, so never open an assignment without completing it. Always click “Submit” to exit the homework. Realize that the homework questions are included to aid your preparation; actual examination questions may differ. Homework assignments become unavailable on the day of the exam. No homework will be available after the Final Exam opens.
c. Review your answers for accuracy and completeness, and be sure that you thoroughly understand them. Contact your instructor via e-mail, fax or telephone to resolve any difficulties.
d. When confident of your mastery of the assignment material, complete the online Mid-Term Examination.

Taking the Mid-Term Exams
All examinations are online, in the Assignments Folder of the Blackboard website for this course. Each Mid-Term Examination must be completed on the date indicated for that exam in the Course Outline section below; the examination is usually accessible during a period of approximately ten hours (11:00am - 9:00pm) on that day. Exams are timed, with ninety minutes allowed for completion. If you close your browser without clicking on the “Submit” button at the bottom of the exam page, your grade for the exam will be zero.

Note that Mid-Term Exams cannot be repeated for credit.
Evaluation Procedure

Your final grade in this course will be based upon your performance on a portfolio of eight homework assignments and four mid-term examinations. Each Homework Assignment is worth twenty (25) points, and each Mid-Term Examination is worth two hundred (200) points. The maximum semester point total is 1000 points.

Homework (8 Assignments @25 points each) As Assigned 200 points
Mid Term Exam #1 On Dec 20 200 points
Mid Term Exam #2 On Dec 24 200 points
Mid Term Exam #3 On Jan 2 200 points
Mid Term Exam #4 (Comprehensive Final) On Jan 10 200 points

TOTAL PORTFOLIO SCORE 1,000 points

Your total portfolio score out of 1000 possible points translates to a letter grade for the semester according to the following scale:

1000 – 900 = A
899 – 800 = B
799 – 700 = C
699 – 600 = D
599 or below = F
Not Participating = N

COURSE OUTLINE

NOTE: THIS COURSE IS NOT 'SELF-PACED'!

December 16 – December 20
Homework Assignments #1 and #2
Examination #1 covers Chapters 1, 2 and 3
Examination #1 is Friday, December 20, 2013 (Available 11:00am – 9:00pm).

December 21 – December 24
Homework Assignments #3 and #4
Examination #2 covers Chapters 4, 5 and 6
Examination #2 is Tuesday, December 24, 2013 (Available 11:00am – 9:00pm).

December 25 – January 2

MVC CAMPUS WILL BE CLOSED FROM DECEMBER 25, 2013 UNTIL JANUARY 2, 2014

Homework Assignments #5 and #6
Examination #3 covers Chapters 7, 8 and 9
Examination #3 is Thursday, January 2, 2014 (Available 11:00am – 9:00pm).

January 3 – January 10

The last day to withdraw from the course is Monday, January 6, 2014.

Homework Assignments #7 and #8
Examination #4 (Comprehensive Final) covers Chapters 10, 13, and 14, with selected review material.
(Note that Chapters 11, 12 and 15 of the text WILL NOT be covered in this course.)
Examination #4 is Friday, January 10, 2014 (Available 11:00am – 9:00pm).

THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHANGE THIS SYLLABUS AS NECESSARY PLEASE CHECK BACK FREQUENTLY FOR UPDATES!
ECON 2301 Principles of Macroeconomics
Student Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Explain the role of scarcity, opportunity cost, efficiency and cost/benefit analysis in economic decision-making.
2. Identify the determinants of supply and demand; demonstrate the impact of shifts in market supply and demand on equilibrium price and quantity in cases of intermediate complexity.
3. Define and measure national income, rates of unemployment, inflation and economic growth, and identify sources of economic growth.
4. Use the aggregate demand and aggregate supply model of the macro economy to identify cyclical and secular macroeconomic problems, and to evaluate potential solutions using fiscal policy, monetary policy, including financial sector regulation.

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