



ECO 304L: Introduction to Macroeconomics

Texas Common Number: ECON 2301

Course Format: Online, Self-Paced

Course Instructor: Helen Schneider, Ph.D. Contact using the Inbox tool in Canvas.

Course Credits: 3

Prerequisites: ECO 304K with a grade of at least C-.

How This Course Works

This course is online and is self-paced. Students have five months from their date of enrollment to complete the course. All coursework and proctored exams are submitted or taken online.

While this course is self-paced in terms of when you complete the work and submit assignments, periodic assessments are critical to ensuring that students receive adequate support and are able to achieve the intended learning outcomes. Thus, this course is organized into modules that must be completed in order. Students will only be able to move forward once they have received a grade on all assessments within a given module.

Review the course outline and assignment descriptions carefully. Computer-graded assignments are scored immediately. You can expect to receive feedback on instructor-graded assignments or exams within three business days following submission. This does not include weekends or holidays. Requests for expedited grading are not accommodated, so please plan accordingly. During certain times (end of semester, spring break, etc.), instructors may experience higher-than-usual demands on their time and may need additional time for evaluation. Students should reach out to University Extension at uex@austin.utexas.edu with any concerns regarding grading turnaround.

University Extension strongly advises students to be aware of when they may need a course grade to be recorded on their transcript. It can take up to two weeks after the final exam is complete for a grade to be officially recorded with the Office of the Registrar.

Course Overview

Whereas microeconomics concerns itself with the actions of individual business firms and consumers, macroeconomics deals with the big picture—the operation of the economy as a whole.

Macroeconomics is concerned with aggregate economic processes such as consumption, investment, government expenditures, banking, inflation, and employment.

This course is divided into four parts. The first is an overview of economic principles and an introduction to the American economy. The second deals with the Keynesian theory of output and employment and includes a discussion of fiscal policy. The third part is an introduction to banking in the United States, followed by an examination of the role of money in economic activity. The last part is an in-depth look at international trade and the international issues likely to be important to the U.S. economy in the future.

Required Materials

Required Text: *Macroeconomics: Principles, Problems, and Policies, 19th ed.*, McConnell, Brue, & Flynn, New York, NY: McGraw-Hill, 2012. ISBN 10: 0077337727; ISBN 13: 9780077337728

Study Guide to Accompany Macroeconomics, 19th ed., Walstad, Brue, Flynn, & McConnell, New York, NY: McGraw-Hill, 2012. ISBN 10: 0077337964; ISBN 13: 9780077337964

Course Organization

This course is divided into four learning modules containing a total of twelve lessons, a midterm exam, and a comprehensive final exam. Each lesson contains a list of learning objectives, a reading assignment, practice exercises from the study guide, an instructor-written overview of the lesson material, study questions for review, and an assignment to be completed and submitted for grading.

You must receive a grade on all assignments in a module before the next module will open.

Computer-Graded Assignments

Five lessons have computer-graded assignments consisting of multiple-choice quizzes. Students receive a score and feedback immediately upon completion.

Instructor-Graded Assignments

Eight lessons contain short answer essay questions, which will be submitted to the course instructor for grading.

Exams

This course requires you to complete a midterm exam and a final exam. They each include 60 multiple-choice questions and 4 short-answer questions. The midterm covers material from the first 7 lessons, while the final exam is comprehensive, covering material from all lessons.

You must pass the final exam to pass the course.

Course Outline

Module	Topics	Assessments
1	Lesson 1: Foundations of Economic Thinking	▪ Computer-Graded Assignment 1
	Lesson 2: The Operation of Market Economies	▪ Computer-Graded Assignment 2
	Lesson 3: Economics in America	▪ Instructor-Graded Assignment 3
2	Lesson 4: Measuring Economic Performance	▪ Instructor-Graded Assignment 4
	Lesson 5: Basic Macroeconomic Problems	▪ Instructor-Graded Assignment 5
	Lesson 6: Aggregate Demand, Aggregate Supply, Etc.	▪ Computer-Graded Assignment 6
	Lesson 7: Macroeconomic Equilibrium	▪ Computer-Graded Assignment 7
MIDTERM EXAM		
3	Lesson 8: Managing the Economy	▪ Instructor-Graded Assignment 8
	Lesson 9: Money and Banking	▪ Instructor-Graded Assignment 9 ▪ Computer-Graded Assignment 10
	Lesson 10: Money: From Theory to Policy	▪ Instructor-Graded Assignment 11
4	Lesson 11: Inflation vs. Unemployment	▪ Instructor-Graded Assignment 12
	Lesson 12: International Trade	▪ Instructor-Graded Assignment 13
FINAL EXAM		

Grade Calculation

Your final grade for the course will be calculated as follows:

8 Instructor-Graded Assignments	12%
5 Computer-Graded Assignments	8%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	60%

You must pass the final exam to pass the course. You must also earn an overall passing grade:

A	100-93%	B+	89-87%	C+	79-77%	D+	69-67%	F	59-0%
A-	92-90%	B	86-83%	C	76-73%	D	66-63%		
		B-	82-80%	C-	72-70%	D-	62-60%		

Getting Help

- Technical Support: uextechsupport@austin.utexas.edu
- For content questions or questions about assignment and grades, use the Inbox tool within Canvas to contact the course instructor.
- For other questions (registration, transcripts, etc.), contact University Extension.

University Extension Policies

Full University Extension policies for self-paced courses may be found on the University Extension website.

Scholastic Dishonesty

Students in this course are expected to work independently, without direct supervision, and to conduct themselves responsibly in accordance with that freedom. To obtain the greatest benefit from their course work, and for the sake of everyone enrolled in our courses, students must demonstrate the willingness to exercise self-discipline, personal responsibility, and scholastic integrity.

We expect the course work and exams that you submit for course credit to be yours and yours alone. Plagiarism and other forms of scholastic dishonesty are serious academic violations that will not be tolerated. The penalties for scholastic dishonesty include the possibility of failure in the course. Scholastic dishonesty in examinations will automatically result in a grade of *F* on the exam and an *F* in the course.

University Extension Contact Information

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