Principles of Macroeconomics Syllabus
ECO 231 - 005

Instructor: Dr. Mark Scanlan
Office Phone: 936-468-1883
E-mail: scanlanm@sfasu.edu
Web Site: Access through MySFA http://www.cob.sfasu.edu/mscanlan/
SI: Sarah McClure, (mcclurese@titan.sfasu.edu)
SI Sessions: M W 4-5 in Wyatt Room of Library

Term: Fall 2012
Office: 392P
Office Hours: M W 9:15 – 12:00
T TR 9:15 – 11:00
T TR 4:45 – 5:15

Class Time: TR 2:00-3:15
Room Number: BU 483

Dept. of Economics & Finance

Course Description – This course is an introduction to the behavioral science of economics which focuses on the aggregate behavior of households, firms and the government. Topics covered include gross domestic product, national income, economic growth, unemployment, inflation, the business cycle, fiscal policy and monetary policy, and international trade.

Learning Objectives - Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of news relating to the economy as a whole as reported in such publications as The Wall Street Journal; the economic implications of changes in government fiscal or monetary policy; how interest rates are determined and the role of interest rates in personal and corporate decision-making; and critically apply economic concepts when participating as a citizen in a democratic society. In particular, the students should be able to calculate equilibrium national income levels, calculate and use various multipliers, convert nominal values to real values, and use a graph to explain the impact of changes in fiscal and/or monetary policy on income and price levels. In addition, students should be able to use simple models of international trade to study the flow of goods between countries and discuss the costs of protectionism within the context of such models.

Application Objectives: This course is designed to mix basic economics theory with useful knowledge regarding how the actual economy operates. Students will obtain a better understanding regarding how the price of gas is determined and why it fluctuates, what influences the rate of interest on credit card purchases or on your student loans, and how the proposed solutions for helping the U.S. economy recover from a recession are expected to work and where they may be inefficient.

Prerequisites: None

Important Skills: This class will often use graphs to simplify economic concepts. The Appendix to chapter 2 gives a good review of graphing for students.
Text: Greg Mankiw; Principles of Economics or Principles of Macroeconomics, 6th Ed, South-Western. Aplia is also required, the Course Key is posted on D2L.

Grading: Course grades will be based on four equally weighted exams worth 100 points each, eight Aplia assignments worth 10 points each, and 4 in class assignments worth 5 points each. This gives a total of 500 available points in the class.

A: At least 450 points  B: At least 400 points.  C: At least 350 points.
    D: At least 300 points.  F: Below 300 points.

Exams: Exams will be held on Tues Sept. 18th, Tues Oct. 16th, Thurs Nov. 8th, and Thurs Dec. 6th. Exams will be held during normal class hours.

Final Exam: Thursday Dec. 13th 1:00-3:00

Optional Final: The Final Exam for the course is optional and will replace the lowest test grade achieved during the semester. This can help raise a student’s average if they did poorly on a previous exam, but it can also lower a student’s grade if they do poorly on the final.

Aplia Assignments: Assignments using the online tool Aplia will be assigned regularly throughout the semester and will have firm deadlines. Nine assignments will be given with eight counting toward your grade.

Assignments/Quizzes: Small assignments will be handed out or assigned periodically. I will hand out 7 assignments of which only 4 will count toward your grade. This means that your 3 lowest grades will be dropped. These assignments are great practice for the exams and reward students who come to class regularly.

Assessment: Students’ ability to demonstrate the following Exemplary Educational Objectives will be evaluated in this course:

• Employ the appropriate methods, technologies, and data that social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
• Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories
• Analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on the area under study
• Differentiate and analyze historical evidence (documentary and statistical) and differing points of view
• Analyze, critically assess, and develop creative solutions to public policy problems

Attendance: Students are not graded on attendance, however consistent attendance is crucial to success in this class. Attendance is taken every day and may be shared with athletics and student organizations that monitor attendance (with student approval).
**Lateness and Courtesy:** Please arrive on time to class and please turn off all cell phones. Texting during class is discouraged since it often distracts other students. Do not start getting your bags together before the end of class, it makes it hard for others to hear the end of class comments.

**Topics:** This is a tentative schedule that can change

Week 1 (Aug 28th – Aug 30th) – *Intro: Definitions* - Introduction and Chapters 1 & 2

Week 2 (Sep 4th – Sep 6th) – *Production and Int’l Trade* - Chapters 2 & 3

Week 3 (Sep 11th – Sep 13th) – *Micro: Supply and demand shifters and Elasticity* – Chapters 4 & 5

Week 4 (Sep 18th – Sep 20th) – Intro to Macroeconomics

Week 5 (Sep 25th – Sep 27th) – *Macro: GDP and the circular flow diagram* - Chapter 23

Week 6 (Oct 2nd – Oct 4th) – *Macro: GDP using the circular flow diagram, GDP calculations and drawbacks* - Chapter 23

Week 7 (Oct 9th – Oct 11th) – *GDP Deflator and CPI Calculations and inflation discussion* - Chapters 23 & 24

Week 8 (Oct 16th – Oct 18th) – *Employment: Unemployment rate & Labor* - Chapter 28

Week 9 (Oct 23rd –Oct 25th) – *Unemployment continued, Investment: Determinants of the market interest rate* - Chapters 28 & 26

Week 10 (Oct 30th – Nov 1st) – *Investment continued* - Chapter 26 and U.S. Debt/Deficit

Week 11 (Nov 6th – Nov 8th) – *Aggregate Supply and Demand* - Chapter 33

Week 12 (Nov 13th – Nov 15th) – *Money and Monetary Policy* - Chapters 29 & 34, Schools of Economic Thought

Week 13 (Nov 20th – Nov 22nd) – *Policy: Fed’s organization and policy decisions* - Chapters 29 & 30

Week 14 (Nov 27th – Nov 29th) – *Advanced Policy: Policy comparisons and concerns* – Chapters 33, 34, & 36

**Syllabus Addendum**

**Program Learning Outcomes:**
Program learning outcomes define the knowledge, skills, and abilities students are expected to demonstrate upon completion of an academic program. These learning outcomes are regularly assessed to determine student learning and to evaluate overall program effectiveness. You may access the program learning outcomes for your major and particular courses at [http://cobweb.sfasu.edu/plo.html](http://cobweb.sfasu.edu/plo.html).

**General Student Policies: Academic Integrity (A-9.1)**
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp).

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)**
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Students with Disabilities**
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).

**Acceptable Student Behavior**
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic, or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/ inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the iCare Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.