Dr. T. Parker Ballinger, Department of Economics and Finance  
Office: Economics and Finance Suite, Room 303T  
Phone: 468-1878  
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Office Hours: I will be in my office on Monday and Wednesday, 9:30 – 11:30, and on Tuesday and Thursday, 10:45 – 11:45. If you have a conflict with these times, you and I can schedule an alternative time to meet. Just send me an email or talk to me after class, and we will get it done. I also hold “online” office hours on Tuesday and Thursday, 2:30 – 4:30. During this period, feel free to send me any email if you have any questions.

Course Description: An introduction to the behavioral science of economics that 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.


- We will be using MindTap/Cengage in this course. This software is NOT optional. All of your homework assignments are completed through MindTap. The good news is it comes with an online e-book version of our text (if you don’t want to get a hard copy of the textbook).
- When you sign into your course at D2L and access the course content, you will see a Table of Contents. In the Table of Contents, there is a module called “Cengage Learning Resources.” Go to that module and click on the link provided. It will provide direction as to how to register for MindTap.
- The materials required for this course are included in Cengage Unlimited, a subscription that gives you access to all your Cengage access codes and online textbooks for $119.99 per term, $179.99 per year or $239.99 for two years. No matter how many Cengage products you use, they are included in Cengage Unlimited, and the price stays the same.
- There is a grace period for payment of the course materials of about two weeks.
- If you encounter any problems with using MindTap, please contact their technical support team. They will help you. The MindTap technical support phone number is 800-354-9706.
**Course Requirements:** We will cover the following chapters in order: 1 – 4, 6 (pp. 109 – 118), 23, 24, 26, 28 – 30, and 33 – 34. Of course, the amount of material I cover will depend on how quickly we progress. Each chapter will have a MindTap problem set due at various times during the semester, and there are four exams.

**Course Schedule:** The course is divided into the four sections shown below. Please pay special attention to all the due dates. The due dates will not be changed to accommodate any technical or scheduling issues you may have, so plan accordingly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Chapters Covered</th>
<th>Various Due Dates</th>
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</table>
| Section 1 (8/24 – 9/21) | Chapters 1 – 4    | Chapter 1 MindTap HW – 9/14  
Chapter 2 MindTap HW – 9/15  
Chapter 3 MindTap HW – 9/16  
Chapter 4 MindTap HW – 9/17  
Section 1 Practice Tests – 9/20  
**Exam #1 – 9/21** |
| Section 2 (9/22 – 10/7) | Chapters 6, 23, 24 | Chapter 6 MindTap HW – 10/1  
Chapter 23 MindTap HW – 10/4  
Chapter 24 MindTap HW – 10/5  
Section 2 Practice Tests – 10/6  
**Exam #2 – 10/7** |
| Section 3 (10/8 – 11/2) | Chapters 26, 28, 29 | Chapter 26 MindTap HW – 10/27  
Chapter 28 MindTap HW – 10/28  
Chapter 29 MindTap HW – 10/29  
Section 3 Practice Tests – 11/1  
**Exam #3 – 11/2** |
| Section 4 (11/3 – 12/7) | Chapters 30, 33, 34 | Chapter 30 MindTap HW – 12/1  
Chapter 33 MindTap HW – 12/2  
Chapter 34 MindTap HW – 12/3  
Section 4 Practice Tests – 12/6  
**Exam #4 – 12/7** |

**NO CLASS ON 11/23 AND 11/25: THANKSGIVING**

**Grading:**
- **Exam #1**  
  Tuesday, September 21\textsuperscript{st}  
  20%
- **Exam #2**  
  Thursday, October 7\textsuperscript{th}  
  20%
- **Exam #3**  
  Tuesday, November 2\textsuperscript{nd}  
  20%
- **Exam #4**  
  Tuesday, December 7\textsuperscript{th}  
  20%
- MindTap Homework  
  Due at various times  
  20%
Class Policies:

Attendance Policy: You are not required to attend class. However, I do think it is beneficial for students to come to class because I think listening to the lecture and taking notes helps you understand the material and helps you frame any questions you might have. I will take attendance the first few days of class to make sure that everyone is properly enrolled but that will stop after the 12th class day.

MindTap Homework: Each chapter covered with have a problem set associated with it on MindTap. Students will have the opportunity to try each problem set three times. The HIGHEST score is then selected. There are a total of 13 problems sets. I will drop your two lowest problems set scores when calculating your total problem set grade. If you miss a MindTap assignment, you will receive a zero on it regardless of your excuse. THE WELCOME SECTION OF THE COURSE IN D2L PROVIDES INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO TAKE YOUR THREE ATTEMPTS. PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS.

Practice Tests: Multiple choice practice tests are provided for each chapter. THE PRACTICE TESTS ARE OPTIONAL, BUT YOU CAN EARN BONUS POINTS IF YOU COMPLETE THEM. YOU CAN EARN UP FIVE POINTS ADDED TO YOUR FINAL GRADE IF YOU DO THE PRACTICE TESTS. For example, suppose I calculate your final grade, and you score an 85. I will then add your bonus problem score to the 85. For example, if you averaged 100 percent over all the practice tests (not just the problems you completed), your bonus problem score is 5 points, and you will receive a 90 in the class. If you averaged 50 percent, your bonus problem score is 2.5 points, and you will receive an 88 in the class. If you miss a practice test, you will receive a zero on it regardless of your excuse. THE PRACTICE TESTS ARE COMPLETED ONLINE ON D2L. THEY ARE MULTIPLE CHOICE PROBLEMS AND YOU ARE GIVEN TWO HOURS TO FINISH EACH PRACTICE TEST.

MindTap Homework and Practice Tests (Additional Information): You are given plenty of time to complete your MindTap homework and the practices tests. For example, the MindTap homework and practices tests for Section 1 of the course are available to you starting August 23rd, well before the due dates indicated in your course schedule. The MindTap homework and practice tests for Section 2 of the course are available September 22nd, well before the due dates indicated in your course schedule. Do not to wait until the last minute to complete your assignments. You want to avoid any last-minute technical issues that may occur the night an assignment is due. DUE DATES WILL NOT BE EXTENDED REGARDLESS OF THE EXCUSE.

Exams: Notice above that there are four scheduled exams. The dates of the exams will not change, so plan accordingly. Also, Exam #4 takes place during final exam week at the time set aside by the university for our final exam. EXAM #4 IS NOT A CUMULATIVE FINAL EXAM. ITS WEIGHT IS THE SAME AS THE OTHER THREE EXAMS AND COVERS THE THREE CHAPTERS NOTED IN YOUR CLASS SCHEDULE.

Missed Exams: If you miss an exam and have a university-approved excuse (for example, an illness, family emergency, participation in a university-sponsored event), then you and I will schedule a make-up exam when you have provided me with documentation of your excuse. If you are unable to provide me with documentation or you do not have a university-approved excuse, you and I will schedule a make-up exam that takes place during finals week.

Concluding Remarks: Economics can be a difficult course for some students. Please email me if you are unclear on any concept. I hope you enjoy the course and learn some macroeconomic concepts!
Rusche College of Business  
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://www.sfasu.edu/cob/ug-plo.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/cob/ug-plo.asp).

**General Education Core Curriculum:**

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six core learning objectives: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Teamwork, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. SFA is committed to the improvement of its general education core curriculum by regular assessment of student performance on these six objectives. By enrolling in ECON 2301 you are also enrolling in a Core Curriculum Course that fulfills the Social/Behavioral Science requirement. The chart below indicates: (a) the core objectives that are required to be taught in this course per the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), (b) how the required core objectives will be addressed.

**Core Curriculum Objective Table:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>How the Core Objective Will be Addressed.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Skills (CT)</td>
<td>To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.</td>
<td>Students are taught the underlying assumptions of economic models and how to apply the models. These skills are taught through lecture and assigned readings. Students apply these skills on both exams and assignments completed outside of lecture. These assignments require students to use and interpret economic models and manipulate graphs to communicate economic ideas.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication Skills (CS)</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas though written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
<td>A significant component of the course is not only the development of an economic vocabulary and ability to communicate using economic terminology, but also the ability to communicate using visual representations of various economic models. These include (but are not limited to) the supply and demand model, the aggregate supply and aggregate demand model, and the visual representation of government policy within this model. Students apply communication skills on both exams and assignments completed outside of lecture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empirical and Quantitative Skills (QS)</td>
<td>To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed</td>
<td>Areas of emphasis include the calculation of equilibrium prices and quantities, the calculation and interpretation of various multipliers and their use in the real world, and the mathematical calculations of interest rates, gross domestic product, the unemployment rate, and</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
conclusions. the inflation rate. Students will demonstrate their understanding and use of these skills by completing exam questions and through the completion assignments outside of class.

Social Responsibility (SR)
To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

Basic economic literacy helps students to be better informed participants in important discussions about how resources are allocated in our society. Class lectures and readings from the focus on several issues regarding social responsibility such as their role as consumers and the role of firms in markets, the tradeoff between an efficient and equal allocation of resources, the appropriate role and impact of government policies on markets, and a broad understanding of the international trade models. Students apply these skills on both exams and assignments.

Credit Hour Justification:
This course is delivered in two ways: face-to-face or online. Face-to-face courses meet twice per week for a total of 150 minutes for 15 weeks. The online course runs continuously for 8 weeks. Students have significant weekly reading assignments. Students are expected to complete various graded homework assignments designed to reinforce relevant concepts regarding basic macroeconomic principles; they are expected to complete four graded exams during the semester. Students are expected to prepare for any in-class assignments or quizzes over the material covered in class or in the reading material.

Academic Integrity:
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/student-academic-dishonesty-4.1.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-academic-dishonesty-4.1.pdf)

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy:
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/).

**Mental Health and Wellness:**
SFA values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students' mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

**On-campus Resources:**
SFA Counseling Services
[www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices](http://www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices)
Rusk Building, 3rd Floor 936.468.2401

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic
[www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp)
Human Services, Room 202 936.468.1041

**Crisis Resources:**
Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741