Introduction to Macroeconomics (ECON 20B)
Summer 2013, Session 2

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Course Objectives: This course provides an introduction to macroeconomic problems confronted in the real world. Macroeconomics is the study of phenomena – such as inflation, economic growth, unemployment, interest rates, recessions, and so on – that affect the economy as a whole. In this class you will learn by doing. The term is organized into 5 learning units, each of which has a skill-based and data-based learning goal. In order the units are:
1. Analyzing and measuring the size of the economy.
2. Explaining, measuring and analyzing how prices and inflation are determined in the long-run.
3. Explaining the determination and measurement of unemployment in the long-run.
4. Analyzing and interpreting the role of financial markets (including exchange rates) in the economy.
5. Analyzing the business cycle and recommending appropriate fiscal and monetary policy.

Course Description: This course will consist of on-line lectures and hands-on activities. All of the work to be handed in will take place through Aplia. You will need to complete the readings and you need to complete them before lecture. Studies show that reading before lecture improves exam performance, on average, by 22%. This is a free lunch: you have to do the reading sometime, so by doing it earlier rather than later you will boost your grade without any extra work!

Textbook: Principles of Economics for UCI, by N. Gregory Mankiw. Cengage Learning. The Economics department has negotiated a custom bundle of the textbook, along with an Aplia, subscription for $87.50. The Aplia subscription includes access to the digital edition of the textbook. This is the least costly option. You should purchase a copy ahead of time, or have the bookstore ship the textbook to you (be sure to allow plenty of shipping time). Alternatively, you can purchase a stand alone access to Aplia (which includes the e-book version of the textbook) for $134 for one quarter of access and $149 for two quarters of access. The course web page will provide detailed instructions on how to access the course Aplia site. You need to have access to Aplia by the start of the course. If you don’t purchase a copy from the bookstore you will have to purchase the more expensive stand alone access to Aplia.

Communication in an Online Class
Almost all communication will take place through the forums on the class website. There is a forum set up for general questions. You will also be assigned a TA. Questions that are not appropriate for the general forum should be directed first to the TA. If it is a question that can only be answered by the professor, then the TA will forward your message along. Office hours are by appointment. There are many students enrolled in this course, so it may take 1-2 business days to receive a reply.

The class is located at http://summer.learn.uci.edu.

Timing of events: There are no in-class meetings or requirements to come to campus. The course website has detailed information about the tasks you need to complete each week. However, each week looks something like the following series of tasks:
1. Read the sections of the text assigned for the week.
2. View the on-line lectures posted on the web site.
3. Complete the online assignments through Aplia (see below).
4. Participate in the weekly forum.

There is a deadline of Sunday at 11:45 pm to complete the assignments and the previous week’s forum and wiki. Other than that you are free to work through the material at your own pace.
Grading:

Assignments: 30% of your final grade.
Exams:
  Midterm exam 20% of the final grade.
  Final exam 35% of the final grade.

Participation in Discussion Forums: 15% of your final grade.

There are no make-ups for assignments, the midterm or the final exam. Rescheduling the midterm or the final exam is not possible so please do not ask.

A Remark on Academic Honesty: It is the university’s policy that academic dishonesty is unacceptable and will not be tolerated at the University of California, Irvine. Here is what I expect:
  • All exams are closed note/closed book exams.
  • With the exception of assignments, you may not receive or elicit assistance from another person or student.
  • I define cheating as using the aid of notes, books, other students, or any programs in a calculator.

Code of Conduct
All participants in the course are bound by the University of California Code of Conduct, found at http://www.ucop.edu/ucophome/coordrev/ucpolicies/aos/uc100.html.

Students with Disabilities:
If you need support or assistance because of a disability, you may be eligible for accommodations or services through the Disability Services Center at UC Irvine. For more information, contact this office at (949) 824-7494 (voice), (949) 824-6272 (TTY), at www.disability.uci.edu or stop by the center at Building 313 on the UC Irvine map.

A Remark about Electronic Communications: This course has a number of “social media” outlets to increase interaction. I may choose to not answer some of your questions. Some questions may require you to see me in person. Since all communication in this course will be written it is important to be aware of the advantages and disadvantages of on-line communication. The advantages are that you have more opportunity for careful and thoughtful expression. The disadvantages are that it misses more subtle communication cues such as body language and tone. Please be aware that there is always the possibility of miscommunication and compose your comments in a positive, supportive and constructive manner.

A Remark about Course Grades: Final course grades are determined by the class distribution.
Course Schedule (tentative):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Issue</th>
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| 0    | 7/29  | Introduction to Class  
Course Orientation  
Become familiar with the course website and Aplia. |
| 1    | 8/05  | Measuring and analyzing the size of the economy (chps. 23-25) |
| 2    | 8/12  | Measuring inflation and analyzing inflation and money (chps. 24, 29-30) |
| 3    | 8/19  | Measuring and Analyzing long-run unemployment (chp. 28)  
Midterm Exam |
| 4    | 8/26  | Analyzing the Financial System and Financial Markets (chp 26-27) |
| 5    | 9/02  | Analyzing the business cycle (chps. 33-35) |
| 6    | 9/09  | Final Exam |

Note about Assignments: You will complete your assignments at http://www.aplia.com. Aplia is part of CengageBrain, which allows you to sign in to a single site to access your Cengage materials and courses. You must register on their site for access. Note: details about signing up for Aplia will be posted to the course website.

Note about the midterm and final exam: The exams will take place on the Aplia website as well. The midterm exam will be open and available to take, at a time of your choosing, during the period 8/22 – 8/24. The final exam will be open and available to take, at a time of your choosing, during the period 9/10 – 9/11.

To take the final exam you must schedule an appointment with ProctorU (proctoru.com). Details about how to schedule the final exam will be posted to the course website.

Note about course participation: There are a number of ways in which you can participate in this course. You can pose and answer questions in the course forums. You can participate in the chat room. To earn the course participation credit, though, you must participate in the weekly forums as follows:

• Each week there will be questions related to the on-line lectures that are set-up in a forum on the course webpage. Each week you must (1.) provide a response to at least one question and (2.) reply to at least one student response.

What is listed above is the minimum that you must do to earn participation credit. To earn full credit you need to participate more.

Note about Internet connectivity: Please be sure that you have a stable Internet connection when you are taking the exams and assignments. Whenever possible, use a wired connection instead of a wireless connection. Connectivity issues that arise during an exam or assignment may prevent you from completing the exam or assignment or may cause scoring errors.

Note about my expectations of students: I expect you to:

• keep up with the material every week  
• complete your assignments on time every week  
• abide by the standards of academic honesty and student conduct of conduct  
• participate actively and courteously in the forums
• seek help (TA, homework forums, professor) when you don’t understand a topic.

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<tr>
<th>Do</th>
<th>Don’t</th>
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<tr>
<td>do participate actively in course discussion forums</td>
<td>don’t assume that course activities are optional</td>
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<tr>
<td>do pay close attention to assignments and deadlines</td>
<td>don’t assume assignments and deadlines are flexible</td>
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<td>do be thoughtful and respectful in your course comments</td>
<td>don’t say anything to your professor or classmates that you wouldn’t say in person</td>
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<td>do enjoy the experience and don’t be afraid to ask questions</td>
<td>Don’t get frustrated and stop participating</td>
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<td>do commit yourself to the course just as you would an on-campus course</td>
<td>Don’t schedule vacations during your online course</td>
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<td>do log into the course as often as possible, ideally once per day</td>
<td>don’t plan to “cram” a week’s worth of activities into one day per week; you won’t succeed this way</td>
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Forum Discussion Grading Rubric

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<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Thought-provoking or challenging new idea informed by reading or lesson</td>
<td>This rating is given to posts that present a new idea or challenges others’ posts based on information from lesson or textbook or other scholarly source.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Opinion based on information from reading or lesson</td>
<td>This rating is given when a person writes a fact-based forum post. The facts could come from a lesson or a chapter from the textbook, or another scholarly external source.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Answered as required, but nothing more</td>
<td>This rating is given when a post answers all parts of my question, but does nothing more. May show an absence of depth or thought.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Inappropriate or insufficient postings</td>
<td>This rating is given to posts that do not meet my grading requirements. Used for: agreement without new substance, general humor, posts that do not fit into the current discussion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>No activity</td>
<td>No posting</td>
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