

ECON 202: Macroeconomics Principles

Section 4: MW 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM (ST 110)

Section 101: MW 5:00 PM - 6:15 PM (ST 113)

Instructor: Dr. Shantanu Bagchi
Office: ST 101-A
Email: sbagchi@towson.edu
Textbook: Mankiw, Gregory N., *Brief Principles of Macroeconomics*,
Cengage Learning, 7th ed. with Aplia access.
Office hours: MW 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM and by appointment.

This syllabus is our contract, so please read it carefully.

- **Course Objectives:**

Economics is a quantitative social science that looks at how individuals and societies efficiently manage scarce resources to meet their seemingly endless needs. Economics provides a lens through which any decision problem, whether faced by a consumer, a firm, or a government, can be viewed as a comparison of benefits and costs. In this course, we will learn how to use this methodology to interpret economic and business events at the U.S. and the global level. At the end of this course, you should be able to analyze books, blogs, news publications, and government press releases and their conclusions using the concepts that you have learned in this course.

- **Textbook:**

There is one required textbook for this course: *Brief Principles of Macroeconomics*, 7th edition by Gregory N. Mankiw. We will primarily follow the sequence of topics as laid out in the textbook, but I will cover some topics out of sequence because of their relevance. In addition to the textbook, I will assign you reading from news websites and blogs, which we will analyze using the concepts that we learn in this course.

- **Book Club:**

This course has a mandatory “Book Club” activity, in which we will read and discuss a popular book that relates to important economic concepts. This year’s book will be *Freakonomics: a rogue economist explores the hidden side of everything*, by Steven D. Levitt. The book club will meet once every month to discuss questions on the book that I will share with you one week before the meeting. The Cook Library has this book available in electronic format, and you can access it using the link posted on Blackboard.

- **Blackboard:** Blackboard will be our primary information-sharing platform. It will be your responsibility to check Blackboard regularly for any class updates. Two major functions will be handled through Blackboard:

- Announcements will be posted on Blackboard.
- Course documents, e.g. Slides, assignments and solution sets will be available for download on Blackboard.

As you will notice throughout this course, I will break down material from every chapter into slides. These slides will only be a summary of the material, and they will simply serve as pointers to the concepts and examples that I want you to learn. These slides are **NOT** a substitute for the textbook, and you will **NOT** pass this course if you do not read the

textbook. You will need to read the textbook to successfully complete all the homework assignments and tests.

- **Cell Phone Policy:** No cell phones are allowed in class. If a cell phone rings or vibrates in class, or if I see you using it, I will make a note of it and take 20% off of your next graded work. There are no exceptions. If you need to have your cell phone in the “on” position because of an out-of-the-ordinary situation, then you will need to let me know in advance.

- **General Classroom Policies:**

The following rules will be enforced in the classroom:

1. No entry after 5 min. into class time. **NOTE:** Any violation of this policy will lead to the student being marked absent for that day.
2. No cell phone calculators during tests; only regular calculators allowed.

- **Assignments and Projects:**

There will be two (2) mid-terms and one (1) final exam (100 points each). Also, I will give out a homework assignment at the end of every chapter. All the exams will consist of multiple choice questions, and the final exam will be comprehensive. You will need **Form Number 882-E** scantron sheets to answer the exams, and the homework assignments will be on Aplia. Also, throughout the semester there will be several extra credit opportunities available to you. I will usually drop the two lowest homework scores, and substitute them with the two highest extra credit scores. There are also participation credits for this course: participation will count for 20% of the overall points, and will be awarded to only those students with **3 (three) or less** absences.

NOTE: late homework assignments will receive **zero** credits with absolutely no exceptions.

- **Important dates:**

Following are the important dates and activities of our course:

Activity	Date
First day of class	August 26, 2015
First Book Club meeting	September 28, 2015
Mid-term 1	October 7, 2015
Second Book Club meeting	October 21, 2015
Mid-term 2	November 18, 2015
Third Book Club meeting	November 23, 2015
Final Book Club meeting	December 9, 2015
Final Exam	Section 4: December 11, 2015, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM Section 101: December 14, 2015, 5:15 PM - 7:15 PM

- **Grading Policy:**

Item	Weight
Mid-terms (2)	30% (15% each)
Final	20%
Book Club	15%
Homework assignments	25%
Participation	10%

- **Grade Scale:**

Percentage score	Grade
100-93	A
92-90	A-
89-87	B+
86-83	B
82-80	B-
79-77	C+
76-70	C
69-60	D
59 or less	F

- **Academic Integrity:**

Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning as well as to evaluating academic performance. While I encourage cooperation and study groups, you must abide by Towson University's Student Academic Integrity Policy.

- **Students with Disabilities:**

In accordance with university policy, if you have a documented disability and require accommodations in this course, you will need to contact me at the beginning of the semester, and also before any assignment for which you will require an accommodation. Students with disabilities must verify their eligibility through the Student Disability Support Service (DSS) office, located in the Administrative Building.

- **Course Outline:**

Introduction	Ten Principles of Economics	Ch. 1
	Thinking like an Economist	Ch. 2
	Interdependence and the Gains from Trade	Ch. 3
How Markets Work	The Market Forces of Demand and Supply	Ch. 4
Mid-term 1		
The Data of Macroeconomics	Measuring a Nation's Income	Ch. 5
	Measuring the Cost of Living	Ch. 6
	Unemployment	Ch. 10
The Real Economy in the Long Run	Production and Growth	Ch. 7
	Mid-term 2	
	Saving, Investment, and the Financial System	Ch. 8
Money and Prices in the Long Run	The Monetary System	Ch. 11
	Money Growth and Inflation	Ch. 12
Final Exam		