



## SYLLABUS

**ECO 234-03: Principles of Macroeconomics**  
**CID 8193, Summer 2008**  
**M-T-W-Th-F: 10:00 – 11:50 a.m.**  
**139 Smith-Hutson Building**

**Instructor:** Isabel Ruiz  
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**Office Hours:** Mon-Wed: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. *or* by appointment. To email me, you need to use your university account: [username@shsu.edu](mailto:username@shsu.edu)

### Textbook:

**Required:** Macroeconomics, by: *Glenn Hubbard and Anthony O'Brien*. First Edition, Prentice Hall.

You can also use the broad version of the book: Economics, by: *Glenn Hubbard and Anthony O'Brien*. First (or second) Edition, Prentice Hall.

### Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the principles of macroeconomics. Macroeconomics is the study of the functioning and performance of national economies and the policies that the government uses to try to improve that performance. The course will provide the students with the tools to analyze macroeconomic policy. The topics will cover concepts such as gross domestic product (GDP), general price level, inflation, unemployment rate, stock prices, interest rates, fiscal policy and monetary policy.

### Course Objectives:

(i) Gaining factual knowledge; (ii) Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, and theories; and (iii) Learning to apply course materials to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions.

### Course Expectations:

Consistent attendance is essential for acceptable performance in this course. Many students find economic concepts difficult to grasp. Missing class will only make the process of absorbing the material more difficult. **I will present material in class that will not be found in the text. I will also give extra-credit for some in-class activities.** Much of this course is cumulative, with each period's lesson depending on

comprehension of what came before. I therefore urge that you keep up to date on a period-by-period basis. Falling behind will make this a much more difficult course. There are several ways to keep up: 1) Make sure you ask questions from unclear material. 2) Spend five or ten minutes prior to the start of each class looking over the notes from the previous class and 3) Copy your class notes into a second notebook. This should be done as soon after class as possible.

### **Three Requests:**

Avoid carrying private conversations during class. Do not read the newspaper or work on your laptop or assignments from other courses during the lecture. Turn off cell phones, pagers, etc. during class.

### **Evaluation:**

The final grade will be determined on the basis of students' performance on the following:

- ✓ Four mid-term exams: 75% of your final grade. Only your best three scores will count for your grade. (25% each one). Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions.
- ✓ A comprehensive final exam: 25% of your final grade

*In Class Exercises:* There will be in class assignments which will add extra points to total exam scores. *Under no circumstances* will individual extra credit assignments be given, as it is not fair to other students.

<b><u>The grading scale is:</u></b>
90 – 100 A; 80 – 89 B; 70 – 79 C; 60 – 69 D; Below 60 F

### **Notes On Exams and Make-Up Policy:**

1. With the exception of the final examination, each examination will be on Friday (of each week).
2. The comprehensive final examination will be held on Thursday, Aug. 7, 2008 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.
3. You must take all exams. Out of the midterms, only one grade will be dropped. If you miss one exam, this would be the one dropped. No Make-Up tests (at all). Final exam is mandatory.
4. Special Needs Students: Please talk to me if you need any special arrangements. Students who are members of the university athletic teams should submit their respective games schedules properly signed by the officials in the athletics department at the beginning of the semester.
5. Everything presented in class and in the assigned reading is considered "fair game" on examinations.

### **On-Time Attendance Policy:**

Attendance will be checked at each time class meeting. Only three hours of absences during the whole term are allowed, so long the absences do not occur on examination days or when assigned work is due. Students not on time when attendance is taken will be counted as a tardy if they make their presence to me known before leaving the class. Each tardy counts as a one-half (1/2) absence. If you do not make your presence known to me before leaving the class, that counts as an absence. Not coming to class excludes you from gaining extra-credit points.

### **Academic Honesty:**

Students are expected to conduct their academic work with integrity and honesty. Acts of dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in the failure of the course and dismissal from the University. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion –the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit, the abuse of resource materials, and misrepresentation of credentials or accomplishments as a member of the university. The University policy on academic honesty and appeal procedures can be found in the manual entitled Student Guidelines, distributed by the Division of Student Services. (Reference Section 5.3 of the SHSU Student Guidelines)

### **Students with Disabilities:**

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic, Student Life program, or activity. Disabled students may request academic assistance/accommodation when needed from a Committee for Continuing Academic Assistance for Disabled Students by visiting the Director of the Counseling Center in the Lee Drain Building Annex, or by calling ext. 1720. Note that no accommodation can be made until a student registers with the Counseling Center.

### **Religious Holy Day Policy:**

Section 51.911 (b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuses a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. The student desiring to absent himself/herself in order to observe a religious holy day must notify the instructor of his/her intent no later than *July 12*.

## PRELIMINARY COURSE OUTLINE

### **1. Introduction to Economics**

- (i) Economics: Foundations and Models (Ch.1)
- (ii) Trade-offs, Comparative Advantage, and the Market System (Ch.2).
- (iii) Where Prices Come From: The Interaction of Demand and Supply (Ch.3).
- (iv) Economic Efficiency, Government Price setting and Taxes (ch.4)

*Exam 1*

### **2. Macroeconomic Definitions and Measurements**

- (i) GDP: Measuring Total Production and Income (Ch.7)
- (ii) Unemployment and Inflation (Ch.8)

*Exam 2*

### **3. The Economy in The Long Run**

- (i) Economic Growth, The Financial System, and Business Cycles (Ch.9)
- (ii) Long Run Economic Growth: Sources and Policies (Ch. 10)

### **4. The Economy in The Short Run**

- (i) Output Expenditure in The Short Run (Ch. 11)
- (ii) Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply Analysis (Ch.12)

*Exam 3*

### **5. Policy Analysis**

- (i) Money, Banks and the Federal Reserve System (Ch.13)
- (ii) Monetary Policy (Ch. 14)
- (iii) Fiscal Policy (Ch.15)

### **6. The world Economy (if time allows)**

- (i) The International Financial System (Ch. 18)

*Exam 4*

**NOTE:** The above chapter numbers refer to *Macroeconomics*, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, by Glenn Hubbard and Anthony O'Brien. I reserve the right to change the order in which the material is presented. You can also use the broad version of the book: *Economics*, by: *Glenn Hubbard and Anthony O'Brien*. First (or second) Edition, Prentice Hall.