The University of Maine
School of Economics

ECO 121: Principles of Macroeconomics—Summer 2018

Travis Blackmer
School of Economics

June 25th – August 4th

TRAVIS.BLACKMER@MAINE.EDU

UMaine Online Technical Support Services:
umaineonline@maine.edu
Toll Free: 1-877-947-4357
Local: (207) 581-4591
Spring Office Hours: 8AM to 10AM, Monday and Wednesday

Handbook Description:
Principles of macroeconomics and their application to modern economic issues and problems. Analysis of national income and employment; fluctuations in national income; monetary and fiscal policy; control of inflation, unemployment, and growth; and international aspects of macroeconomic performance.

Course Introduction:
Economics is a social science concerned with the efficient allocation of scarce resources among competing wants and needs within human society. Economics is divided into two broad discipline areas: microeconomics and macroeconomics. Microeconomics is concerned with the economic behavior of individual entities in the economy, such as business firms (Apple, McDonalds, Walmart, Time Warner, Applebees, etc.), individuals (you and me), and markets (gasoline, mobile phones, produce, entertainment, retail clothing, etc.). Macroeconomics is the part of economics concerned with the behavior and health of an economy as a whole. Inflation and unemployment are two economic phenomena that fall under the study of macroeconomics.

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to macroeconomic science. The specific course objectives are as follows:

1. To introduce the student to how economic activity is measured and the major aggregates that macroeconomics is concerned about: production, employment, and the price level.

2. To introduce the student to macroeconomic topics that include: economic growth and its causes, the business cycle, flexible and inflexible price (level) models including the aggregate supply/demand and the aggregate expenditure models, fiscal policy, the Federal Reserve System, monetary policy, and current issues/debates in the discipline.
This course satisfies the University of Maine’s general education—aka, “gen-ed”—requirement in the area of Social Context and Institutions.

Course Objectives:
The objectives of this course include:
⇒ Expand your understanding of the economic activates in aggregated units such as local, state, national, and global economies;
⇒ Introduce you to essential measurements of an economies performance: output; unemployment; and inflation;
⇒ Understand the role that various governmental entities can have to promote stability, maintain full-employment, and control inflation.

Course Learning Outcomes:
By the end of the semester, you will be able to:
1. Use the basic terminology of macroeconomics, including a brief definition of macroeconomics;
2. Understand the tradeoffs between output, unemployment, and inflation;
3. Identify output equilibrium, on changes in aggregate demand and supply;
4. Measure changes in key macroeconomic measures;
5. Calculate how small changes in spending in the economy can yield a much larger impact on the overall economy;
6. Understand policy options that can be undertaken to correct for shortcomings in the macroeconomy; and
7. Identify the various viewpoints on how policies can be effective, damaging, or counteractive to promoting macroeconomic stability.

These objectives and course learning outcomes address the goals for the University of Maine’s general education requirement in the area of Social Context and Institutions, which states: “Courses included in the Social Context and Institutions category focus upon the ways in which social contexts shape and limit human institutions. The specific focus may be upon ways in which social contexts and institutions interact with human values, the role of institutions in expressing cultural values, or the social and ethical dimensions attendant upon particular academic disciplines.”

Instructor Information:
Office location: 200c Winslow Hall
Office phone: 581-3155 (recommended you email me!)
E-mail: travis.blackmer@maine.edu (my name on GMail)
Mailbox: 205 Winslow Hall

Admin Asst.: Karen Moffett
Karen’s office: 206 Winslow Hall
Karen’s phone: 581-3154
Course Platforms
This course will utilize Blackboard for course announcements, course materials, and Prelims (exams). For help visit http://umaine.edu/it/help/blackboard/
Aplia will be utilized to complete homework. For help visit http://services.cengage.com/dcs/aplia/start/resourcelist/#/student-resources-selftraining-videos

Textbook and Other Materials:
Author: Mankiw, N. Gregory
Title: Aplia for Principles of Macroeconomics, 8e.
Publisher: CENGAGE Learning
Note: This “Aplia w/ Blackboard access code” comes with one-semester access to an e-book version of the textbook.

OR

Title: Principles of Macroeconomics, 8th Edition
Publisher: CENGAGE Learning
Note: The loose-leaf edition available at the UMaine bookstore is packaged with Aplia w/ Blackboard for Principles of Macroeconomics, 8e.

⇒ Please make sure that you purchase the materials for this section of the course.
⇒ Additional information about Aplia is provided at the end of the syllabus.
⇒ The publisher offers a free trial of Aplia and the e-book that expires before the end of the course. This could be a good option for students who might drop the class.
IF YOU DO NOT OFFICIALLY REGISTER WITH APLIA YOU MAY LOSE ALL YOUR WORK WHEN YOUR FREE TRIAL EXPIRES. YOU WILL HAVE TO REDO ALL THE WORK IF THIS HAPPENS! NO EXCEPTIONS!

Lectures:

Terminology:

Chapter Lecture Videos: Videos of me (Travis Blackmer) going over the chapter via the textbook powerpoint. These videos are optional as you may read the textbook chapter on your own instead. They contain quizzes that are incorporated into your final grade. (no videos for Ch 13, 17, 18, 22)

Chapter Review Videos: Shorter 4-7 minutes videos that reinforce difficult or important topics from the chapter. There are quizzes to help assess how well you are grasping the material/paying attention. (no videos for Ch 2, 13, 17, 18, 22)

Students are responsible for covering the material on your own time either with the textbook and/or the Chapter Lecture Videos when available. Course material and concepts will be reinforced with short Chapter Review Videos.

***Some chapters may not have a review and/or lecture video depending on their relative importance.
**Homework Assignments:**
You will have homework sets during the semester. These assignments will be completed and submitted on-line at the Aplia course website. With Aplia, you are given three attempts at each question—the best of these attempts will be recorded as your score. The homework sets might have different numbers of questions and total point values; however, in calculating your grade, I will convert the point values to a 100-percent scale. Thus, all of the assignments will have equal weights in determining your grade in the class. The course outline shows the material that will be covered on each homework assignment. Your low homework assignment will be dropped.

**Exams:**
There will be 4 Prelims and a Final Exam all on Blackboard. All will cover the specified chapters according to the syllabus. The Final Exam will be cumulative and include some new material. The course outline shows the material that will be covered on each prelim.

The prelims will close on the due date noted in the schedule (final exam will close on Monday May 7th @ 5:00pm and the course will be over). **YOU MAY WORK AHEAD!!! PLEASE WORK AHEAD!!!** Since you may work ahead of the suggested schedule there are few acceptable excuses for missing a prelim. If you miss an exam for University accepted reasons (e.g., documented illness, family loss), please send me an email as soon as possible and send written documentation of your reason for missing the exam. It is recommended that for medical issues and family loss you inform the Dean’s Office of your College (or Academic coordinator) and request them to intercede on your behalf with all your professors. The lowest prelim is dropped so if you miss a single prelim it will not be reopened for any reason except the previously mentioned and document instances.

**Online Participation:**
Throughout the semester there will be five forms of online participation and activities that will be carried out. The first three are required; the latter two are optional.

1) Macroeconomic current event articles will be posted to the discussion folder and you must complete a short quiz about the facts of each one. In addition, you will be required to post a short response to the Blackboard discussion board explaining the connection between the article and concepts learned from course material. 75% accuracy is required for full credit. **THESE WILL TYPICALLY BE DUE WITH THE PRELIMS.**

2) Discussion Board Participation is required. Each time there is a Current Event Article you must also post your views on the Discussion Board for that article. 75% participation is required for full credit.

3) Chapter Review Video Quizzes: Every chapter that contains a review video is required to be watched. During the video there will be pauses where you must answer a quiz question. 75% accuracy is required for full credit.

**NOTE:** Some of these are new parts to the course so please bear with me if there is any confusion. To be sure you don’t miss out, complete it all and don’t worry about the minute details.
Grades:
Your final grade will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prelim 1 (due by 2.14 in BB)</td>
<td>6.67%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prelim 2 (due by 3.9 in BB)</td>
<td>6.67%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prelim 3 (due by 4.8 in BB)</td>
<td>6.67%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prelim 4 (due by 4.29 in BB)</td>
<td>6.67%</td>
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*lowest prelim dropped, prelim online through Blackboard, close on due date 20%

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final exam (due by 5.7)</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework Assignments (top 7 of 8 in Aplia)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Event Quizzes and Discussion Board (subject to change)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter Review Video Quizzes (subject to change)</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Syllabus Quiz Video (due by 1.25)</td>
<td>1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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Final grades will be assigned as follows: A (93 to 100 percent); A- (90-92.9); B+ (87-89.9); B (83-86.9); B- (80-82.9); C+ (77-79.9); C (73-76.9); C- (70-72.9); D+ (67-69.9); D (63-66.9); D- (60-62.9); F (59.9 or less). Students without missing assignments and high participation rates are likely to be bumped up 1/3 grade if close to higher grade category.

Note About Late Assignments and Prelims:
Due dates are clearly marked on the syllabus. You are encouraged to work ahead. I do not accept late submissions unless they meet the University of Maine’s criteria for documented emergencies and leave.
General Course Outline:
Please be advised that changes to this outline will be announced, if necessary, during class.

1. **Introduction to Microeconomics** (overlap with ECO 120, Microeconomics)
   - Chapter 1—Ten Principles of Economics
   - Chapter 2—Thinking Like an Economist

   **Assignments**:
   - “How to Use Aplia Homework” (ungraded)
   - Homework 1: Covers Chapters 1 and 2 completed via Aplia

   **Markets**
   - Chapter 4—The Market Forces of Supply and Demand (condensed, refer to PPT)
   - Chapter 3—Interdependence and the Gains from Trade

   **Assignments**:
   - Homework 2: Covers Chapters 4 and 3 completed via Aplia

   Prelim 1: Covers Chapters 1, 2, 4, and 3, via Blackboard

2. **Measuring a Nation’s Performance**
   - Chapter 10—Measuring a Nation’s Income
   - Chapter 11—Measuring the Cost of Living
   - Chapter 15—Unemployment
   - Phillips Curve (Ch 22, skip everything to do with Aggregate Demand and Supply)
   - Business Cycle (special topic, see powerpoint)

   **Assignments**:
   - Homework 3: Covers Chapters 10 completed via Aplia
   - Homework 4: Covers Chapters 11, 15, and 22 submitted via Aplia

   Prelim 2: Covers Chapters 10, 11, 15, and 22, via Blackboard

3. **Macroeconomic Theories**
   - Chapter 12—Production and Growth
   - Chapter 13—Savings Investing and the Financial System (abridged)
   - Chapter 16—The Monetary System (abridged)
   - Chapter 17—Money Growth and Inflation (condensed, focus on PPT)
   - Chapter 18—Open-Economy Macroeconomics: Basic Concepts (condensed, focus on PPT)

   **Assignments**:
   - Homework 5: Covers Chapters 12 and 13 completed via Aplia
   - Homework 6: Covers Chapters 16, 17, & 18 completed via Aplia

   Prelim 3: Covers Chapters 12, 13, 16, 17, and 18 via Blackboard
**General Course Outline, continued:**
Please be advised that changes to this outline will be announced, if necessary, during class.

4. **Macroeconomic Fluctuations and Policy**
   Chapter 20 — Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply
   Chapter 21 — The Influence of Monetary and Fiscal Policy on Aggregate Demand

   **Assignment:**
   Homework 7: Covers Chapter 20 and 21 completed via Aplia

   Prelim 4: Covers Chapters 20 and 21 via Blackboard

5. **International Trade**
   Ch 9-International Trade

   **Assignment:**
   Homework 8: Covers Chapter 9 completed via Aplia

**Final Exam**
The final exam is cumulative. It will be completed during finals week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thur</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Weekend</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-Jun</td>
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<td>25-Jun</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-Jul</td>
<td>Ch 3, HWK 2</td>
<td>Ch 1, 2</td>
<td>Ch 2, HWK 1</td>
<td>Ch 4</td>
<td>Ch 4</td>
<td>Ch 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-Jul</td>
<td>Ch 11</td>
<td>Ch 11, 15</td>
<td>Ch 15</td>
<td>Ch 22, HWK 4</td>
<td>Prelim 2</td>
<td>Start Sec 3!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-Jul</td>
<td>Ch 12</td>
<td>Ch 13</td>
<td>HWK 5, Ch 16</td>
<td>Ch 16</td>
<td>Ch 16, 17</td>
<td>Ch 17, 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>23-Jul</td>
<td>Ch 18, HWK 6</td>
<td>Prelim 3</td>
<td>Ch 20</td>
<td>Ch 20</td>
<td>Ch 20, 21</td>
<td>Ch 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>30-Jul</td>
<td>Ch 21</td>
<td>Ch 21, HWK 7</td>
<td>Prelim 4</td>
<td>Ch 9</td>
<td>HWK 8, Review</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
</tr>
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Homework assignments are on Aplia and due by 5:00pm on date assigned (Green Background)
Prelims and the final are in Blackboard and close at 5:00pm on designated dates (Red Background)
See syllabus and powerpoints for materials skipped in chapters

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**How to access your Aplia course**

Blackmer_ECO 121 Summer 2018 ONLINE

SEE BLACKBOARD UNDER “START HERE” FOR INSTRUCTIONS!!!

***Make sure that you register for an “ONLINE” class!!!
University of Maine administrative policy statements

Academic honesty:
Academic honesty is very important. It is dishonest to cheat on exams, to copy term papers, to submit papers written by another person, to fake experimental results, or to copy or reword parts of books or articles into your own papers without appropriately citing the source. Students committing or aiding in any of these violations may be given failing grades for an assignment or for an entire course, at the discretion of the instructor. In addition to any academic action taken by an instructor, these violations are also subject to action under the University of Maine Student Conduct Code. The maximum possible sanction under the student conduct code is dismissal from the University.

Students with Accommodations:
If you have a disability for which you may be requesting an accommodation, please contact Student Accessibility Services, 121 East Annex, 581.2319, as early as possible in the term. Students who have already been approved for accommodations by SAS and have a current accommodation letter should meet with me (the instructor of the course) privately as soon as possible.

Course schedule disclaimer (disruption clause):
In the event of an extended disruption of normal classroom activities, the format for this course may be modified to enable its completion within its programmed time frame. In that event, you will be provided an addendum to the syllabus that will supersede this version.

Sexual violence policy:
Sexual discrimination reporting: The University of Maine is committed to making campus a safe place for students. Because of this commitment, if you tell any of your teachers about sexual discrimination involving members of the campus, your teacher is required to report this information to the campus Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention or the Office of Equal Opportunity.

Behaviors that can be “sexual discrimination” include sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, relationship abuse (dating violence and domestic violence), sexual misconduct, and gender discrimination. Therefore, all of these behaviors must be reported.

Why do teachers have to report sexual discrimination?
The university can better support students in trouble if we know about what is happening. Reporting also helps us to identify patterns that might arise— for example, if more than one victim reports having been assaulted or harassed by the same individual.

What will happen to a student if a teacher reports?
An employee from the Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention or the Office of Equal Opportunity will reach out to you and offer support, resources, and information. You will be invited to meet with the employee to discuss the situation and the various options available to you.

If you have requested confidentiality, the University will weigh your request that no action be taken against the institution’s obligation to provide a safe, nondiscriminatory environment for all students. If the University determines that it can maintain confidentiality, you must understand that the institution’s ability to meaningfully investigate the incident and pursue disciplinary action, if warranted, may be limited. There are times when the University may not be able to honor a request for confidentiality because doing so would pose a risk to its ability to provide a safe, nondiscriminatory environment for everyone. If the University determines that it cannot maintain
confidentiality, the University will advise you, prior to starting an investigation and, to the extent possible, will share information only with those responsible for handling the institution's response.

The University is committed to the well-being of all students and will take steps to protect all involved from retaliation or harm.

**If you want to talk in confidence** to someone about an experience of sexual discrimination, please contact these resources:

For confidential resources on campus: **Counseling Center: 207-581-1392** or **Cutler Health Center: at 207-581-4000.**
For confidential resources off campus: **Rape Response Services: 1-800-310-0000** or **Spruce Run: 1-800-863-9909.**

**Other resources:** The resources listed below can offer support but may have to report the incident to others who can help:

For support services on campus: **Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention: 207-581-1406,** **Office of Community Standards: 207-581-1409,** **University of Maine Police: 207-581-4040** or **911.** Or see the OSAVP website for a complete list of services at [http://www.umaine.edu/osavp/](http://www.umaine.edu/osavp/)