

Course Description: This course is an introduction to the U.S. economy. Topics include Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the business cycle, unemployment, and inflation; money, banking, and interest rates; households and consumption, businesses and investment, government taxes and spending, and international trade and exchange rates; the aggregate supply/aggregate demand model, fiscal, monetary, and trade policy; household, financial, government, and external debt. There will also be lectures on different views of macroeconomics as well as issues such as social security.

Readings: Required -- McConnell and Brue: Economics, 18th edition, and Foster and Magdoff, The Great Financial Crisis. Recommended -- Study Guide for McConnell and Brue and subscription to the Wall Street Journal.

Grading: There will be four midterms, 250 points each, and a comprehensive final exam worth 250 points. The midterm with the lowest score will be dropped so that there will be total of 1000 points. 851 points guarantees an A, 701 points for a B, 551 points for a C, and 401 points for a D. If your course score is near a cutoff point between two letter grades, your final exam grade will be considered. No extra credit is planned.

Tests: The midterms and final exam will be a combination of multiple choice and calculation/graphing questions. There will be an in-class review before each test. All tests are closed book, but you may bring one sheet of notes to the midterms and two sheets to the final. All midterms will be on Wednesday, except for Midterm #1 which is on Friday due to a holiday. Make-up midterms must be taken by Wednesday of the following week. **Dates for reviews and tests are in bold on the course outline.**

Office Hours: MW, 11 am to 12 noon, TuTh 8:30 to 9:30 am, W 5:30 to 6:30 pm, and by appointment. My office is in Room 2301, telephone (650) 738-4326, email: suzuki@smccd.net.

Other: Roll will be called in every class. Students with too many absences may be dropped. Students are expected to follow the rules in the Skyline Student Handbook and promote a positive learning environment for other students.

In coordination with the DSPS office, reasonable accommodations will be provided for eligible students with disabilities. If you do not yet have an accommodation letter, please contact the DSPS office at (650) 738-4280.

Course Outline (MWF class, continued on the back):

Week	Dates	Readings	Topics Covered
1	Aug. 19-21	Chapters 1, 28	Introduction to the class, three views of macroeconomics
2	Aug. 24-28	Chapters 24, 26	Boom and Bust (video), Gross Domestic Product, and Unemployment.
3	Aug. 31-Sept 4.	Chapters 24, 26	Inflation and the Business Cycle

Week	Dates	Readings	Topics Covered
4	Sept. 7-11		LABOR DAY HOLIDAY , Money, and Review for Midterm #1
5	Sept. 14-18	Chapters 31, 32	Midterm #1 , Banks, the Fed, and Supply and Demand
6	Sept. 21-25	Chapters 3, 33, 2, 26	Return Midterm #1, Money and Interest Rates, and Monetarism
7	Sept. 28- Oct. 2	Chapters 4, 27	Households and Consumption, Businesses and Investment, and Review for Midterm #2
8	Oct. 5-9	Chapters 4, 27	Midterm #2 , Government Finance, and International Trade
9	Oct. 12-16	Chapters 5, 28, 29	Return Midterm #2, Equilibrium GDP and the Multiplier, and Aggregate Demand/Aggregate Supply
10	Oct. 19-23	Chapter 28	Keynesian Economics, Banks and Business Cycle, and Review for Midterm #3
11	Oct. 26-30	Chapter 32	Midterm # 3 , Monetary Policy, and Government and Business Cycle
12	Nov. 2-6	Chapters 4, 30, 5, 38web	Return midterm #3, Fiscal Policy, and Exchange Rates
13	Nov. 9-13	Chapter 5	Foreign Trade, FLEX DAY (no class) , and VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY
14	Nov. 16-20	Great Financial Crisis, Ch. 1	Household debt, Financial Debt, and Review for Midterm #4
15	Nov. 23-27	Chapter 31, GFC, Ch. 4	Midterm #4 , Asset Price Bubbles, and THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY .
16	Nov. 30 - Dec. 4	GFC, Ch. 5, Chapters 30, 4	Return midterm #4, Government Deficits and Debt, and Social Security
17	Dec. 7-11	Chapter 36	Trade Deficit and External Debt, and Review for Final Exam
18	Dec. 14-18	Final Exams:	Monday, Dec. 14, 9:00 to 10:15 am (10 am class) Wednesday, Dec. 16, 9:00 to 10:15 am (9 am class)