

[ECN100, Principles of Macroeconomics, Autumn Semester 2018] - Leg 1

I. COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Edoardo BERETTA

Instructor's Email: eberetta@fus.edu

Office Hours (before/after classes): by appointment in Office 2 (Kaletsch Campus)

Class location: LAC2

Class meeting times: Monday/Thursday (10.00-11.15)

Final exam: Thursday, 13 December 2018 (8.30-10.30)

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the study of economics as a field of knowledge within the social sciences. In the first part, we focus on the definition, the explanation, and the significance of national income, business fluctuations, the price level, and aggregate employment. In the second part, we devote special attention to the functioning of a payment system based on currency and bank money. Finally, we discuss the instruments and the functioning of public policy aimed to stabilize prices and maintain high levels of output and employment within the current macroeconomic context. We regularly scrutinize current economic news.

III. RATIONALE

This entry-level course in economics covers the fundamentals of macroeconomics and is aimed at students who choose it as an elective or plan to continue their studies in economics. Together with ECN 101, it provides the necessary prerequisites for any other upper-level course in economics. The course is a program requirement for the majors in International Banking and Finance, International Economics, International Relations, International Management, and Environmental Science. It is also a prerequisite for Economics as a combined major as well as a minor. It fulfils core requirements in the Area of Knowledge "International Engagement".

IV. COURSE GOALS

Critical thinking: Identify questions, use models when processing thought, judge conclusions; Use statistical data analysis to answer empirical questions, using appropriate software; Use theoretical models to predict the behavior of individuals, firms, and economic systems. **Problem-solving:** Apply a given technique to new requests. **Communication:** Demonstrate the ability to read, evaluate, and interpret general economic information. **Collaboration:** Provide and receive feedback, ideas, and instruction in a professional manner; Explain the impact of each team

member (including oneself) on the collaborative project and the role each member plays. *Technology*: Make appropriate and effective use of information technology for research. *Business knowledge*: Explain the relationships among business, government, and markets. *Lifelong Learning*: Use a model approach to understand and evaluate new economic events. *Social Responsibility*: Describe how alternative courses of action affect various individuals and social groups.

V. SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- describe the interactions of private and public sectors;
- recognize what lets output and productivity grow;
- illustrate how current payment systems work;
- discuss what causes (un)employment and price fluctuations;
- explain the functioning mechanisms of monetary and fiscal policy.

VI. REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

- David C. Colander, *Macroeconomics*, McGraw-Hill Irwin, 9th ed., 2013.
- *Course Website* (on Moodle platform) offers additional resources, information, and updates pertaining this course. Students are responsible for checking this platform regularly.
- [Online Learning Center](#) offers tutorials, quizzes, and applications that you should use routinely and independently.

VII. ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

At the end of the semester, you will receive a score from 0 to 100 percent. These (total) points will be translated into a final letter grade (plus/minus when applicable) using the following scale:

100 - 93 (%) = A	82 - 80 (%) = B-	69 - 67 (%) = D+
92 - 90 (%) = A-	79 - 77 (%) = C+	66 - 63 (%) = D
89 - 87 (%) = B+	76 - 73 (%) = C	62 - 60 (%) = D-
86 - 83 (%) = B	72 - 70 (%) = C-	59 - 0 (%) = F

Score is based on the following:

- **class contribution: 10%;**
- **final examination: 40%;**
- **general recaps and presentations (by students): 20%;**
- **one midterm examination: 30%.**

General recap and group presentations (by students): in order to 1) maximize class participation, 2) give students those learning (as well as rhetorical) skills to explain economic concepts and phenomena, 3) clarify any remaining doubts before examinations there will be four general recaps and presentations (by students themselves). Therefore, there will be group presentations (of which the maximum number of participants would be later declared) aiming at summing up the theoretical and practical contents of the textbook chapters previously discussed. More precisely, the following group presentations will be organized as follows:

- **6 September 2018:** Chapters 1, 2, 3;
- **20 September 2018:** Chapters 6, 9 and 10;
- **15 October 2018:** Chapters 12, 13 and 14;
- **19 November 2018:** Chapters 14, 15 and 16;
- **6 December 2018:** Chapters 17 and 18.

In order to do so students will have to write to the Instructor (eberetta@fus.edu) **by 3 September 2018** and tell him to which group presentations they want be enrolled. Please note that each student has to opt for only one group presentation. After having reached the maximum number of students per round the group composition will be not anymore changeable. Exceptions will be made only in case of a medical emergency. Proper official documentation will have to be provided. Any student, who should not have contacted the Instructor by the date stated above, will be enrolled by the Instructor himself to the remaining groups. During each presentation the Professor will let students explain once again relevant aspects of the textbook Chapters previously discussed and ask further (theoretical as well as practical) questions. After the presentation itself the Instructor will be evaluate each student's performance by assigning a corresponding grade; **class participation:** 10% of the final grade will be based on class participation. In fact, students are expected to participate in class discussions (this includes asking relevant questions, making thoughtful comments during class discussions, bringing in relevant issues to the classroom). More generally, professional behavior will be always required. Undocumented absences will also have a direct impact on the 10% of your total grade that is based on class participation and attendance.

VIII. ASSESSMENT DETAILS AND EXPECTATIONS

Attendance: Learning is an active process. To succeed in this course you should be rather active both during class meetings and outside of class. Nonattendance lowers your score. Should you miss a class, you are responsible for any missed information. Extended absences may result in you being asked to withdraw from the class.

In-class contribution to learning: This is based on how you add to the learning environment for the betterment of yourself and your peer. Demonstrate class preparation and involvement, provide recapitulations and summaries, offer interpretation and analysis of case material, make observations that integrate concepts and discussions, ask key questions that lead to revealing discussions, provide reasoned analysis, bring in relevant issues, respond thoughtfully to other students' comments, contribute to the cooperative argument-building, disagree with the instructor in ways that promote further exploration of the issue.

Scheduled presentations: Once assigned, presentations cannot be postponed without documented evidence of a major disruption to your work.

Exam dates: All exam dates are binding. Please do not ask to take your exam at a different date than the one posted on this calendar. No make-up of exams can be given. The weight of any missed exam will be shifted to the final exam only when two conditions are both met: 1) a condition of illness or serious family emergency is explained in writing and formally certified; and 2) the student makes every effort to notify the instructor in advance of the exam to be missed by phone or email. If any of these conditions are not met, the score of the missed exam is zero.

XIX. HOW TO DO WELL IN THIS COURSE (POLICIES / REQUIREMENTS)

It may help to take note of the following tips to assist you in your studies:

- visit the Moodle page and check your Franklin email regularly to make sure you are informed of announcements and posts;
- do the required reading before attending class;
- come to class prepared to learn and participate in class;
- ask questions in class. Don't let your questions go unanswered;
- take good notes and review them soon after class;
- visit the Online Learning Center regularly and practice the material working the online tests with feedback.

X. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: STATEMENT ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

A student whose actions are deemed by the University to be out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives or the spirit of good conduct as fostered by the University and Swiss community, may be placed on Disciplinary Probation or become subject to dismissal from the University. Cheating is a dishonest action out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives and spirit of the University. Furthermore, cheating reflects negatively on one's personal integrity and is unjust to those students who have studied.

See the Academic Catalog for full statement (page 199):

https://www.fus.edu/images/pdf/FUS_ACADEMIC_CATALOG_2018_2020_web.pdf

XI. COURSE SCHEDULE

Calendar of topics with reading assignments (textbook chapters). Any other details on learning materials will be specified during classes.

27 August 2018 (Monday, 8.30-9.45)	Economics and Economic Reasoning (Chapter 1)
30 August 2018 (Thursday, 8.30-9.45)	The Production Possibility Model, Trade, and Globalization (Chapter 2)
3 September 2018 (Monday, 8.30-9.45)	Economic Institutions (Chapter 3)
6 September 2018 (Thursday, 8.30-9.45)	General recap and presentation 1 (by students)
10 September 2018 (Monday, 8.30-9.45)	Economic Growth, Business Cycles, and Structural Stagnation (Chapter 6)
13 September 2018 (Thursday, 8.30-9.45)	The Short-Run Keynesian Policy Model: Demand-Side Policies (Chapter 9)
17 September 2018 (Monday, 8.30-9.45)	The Classical Long-Run Policy Model: Growth and Supply-Side Policies (Chapter 10)
20 September 2018 (Thursday, 8.30-9.45)	General recap and presentation 2 (by students)

24 September 2018 (Monday, 8.30-9.45)	The Financial Sector and the Economy (Chapter 12)
27 September 2018 (Thursday, 8.30-9.45)	
1 October 2018 (Monday, 8.30-9.45)	Financial Crises, Panics, and Unconventional Monetary Policy (Chapter 14)
4 October 2018 (Thursday, 8.30-9.45)	
8 October 2018 (Monday, 8.30-9.45)	Monetary Policy (Chapter 13)
11 October 2018 (Thursday, 8.30-9.45)	General recap and presentation 3 (by students)
15 October 2018 (Monday, 8.30-9.45)	Midterm 1
18 October 2018 (Thursday, 8.30-9.45)	Financial Crises, Panics, and Unconventional Monetary Policy (Chapter 14)
5 November 2018 (Monday, 8.30-9.45)	Deficits and Debts (Chapter 15)
8 November 2018 (Thursday, 8.30-9.45)	
12 November 2018 (Monday, 8.30-9.45)	The Fiscal Policy Dilemma (Chapter 16)
19 November 2018 (Monday, 8.30-9.45)	General recap and presentation 4 (by students)
22 November 2018 (Thursday, 8.30-9.45)	Jobs and Unemployment (Chapter 17)
26 November 2018 (Monday, 8.30-9.45)	
29 November 2018 (Thursday, 8.30-9.45)	Inflation, Deflation, and Macro Policy (Chapter 18)
3 December 2018 (Monday, 8.30-9.45)	
6 December 2018 (Thursday, 8.30-9.45)	General recap and presentation 5 (by students)
13 December 2018 (Thursday, 8.30-10.30)	Final exam