

ECONOMICS 313

Intermediate Macroeconomics

Winter 2015 – DISTANCE EDUCATION

INSTRUCTOR: Mark Thoma

E-mail: mthoma@uoregon.edu , Phone: 541-346-4673

Office: 473 PLC, Office Hours by appointment

SOCIAL SCIENCE INSTRUCTION LAB, BLACKBOARD, AND MYECONLAB INFO

SSIL E-mail: de@ssil.uoregon.edu; Phone: 541-346-4642

Blackboard: <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu>, and courseinfo@blackboard.uoregon.edu

MyEconLab: <http://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com/northamerica/myeconlab/>

ON-LINE CLASSES

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

Online classes are offered for students who are unable to attend regular classes (because of job or other commitments, distance from Eugene, etc.). Also, some students take online classes because they prefer the flexibility that an online class adds to their schedule. The material in online economics classes is the same as that in lecture economics classes, and the exams, all multiple choice, are extremely similar in format and difficulty. However, online classes require more discipline by students than regular classes given the necessity of mastering the material primarily from the textbook and related sources (both offline and online).

Thus, contrary to what many anticipate, online classes are harder, not easier, than lecture classes. To succeed in an online class, you must be extremely motivated and well organized.

Unlike with regular classes, exams for online classes are taken at a day and time chosen by the student, but must be taken by the exam deadline. In addition, a reservation is required to take the exam. It is encouraged that students coordinate their online exams with exams for other classes in order to minimize conflicts and create "space" for exam preparation for each course. Because the exam dates are flexible (subject to the requirement that they meet the deadline), it is not possible for students to obtain a copy of an exam after completing it.

B. EXAMS FOR STUDENTS LIVING IN AND NEAR EUGENE

You will take all your tests at the Social Science Instructional Lab (SSIL) located in McKenzie Hall 445. All tests are given and scheduled *by appointment only!*

Before you can schedule an exam, you must complete the SSIL on-line introduction by going to: <http://distanceeducation.uoregon.edu/> and clicking on the link under “First time here”, entitled “**Click this link** to activate your account.” After you complete the introduction, you will activate your account and log in using your DuckID and corresponding password.

From the SSIL Test Taker Home Page you can make appointments to take tests, cancel appointments, see your test scores, e-mail your professor, and more. *You must go through the On-Line introduction the first week of class.* Take the time to read the information under the link, **On Campus**. If you have further questions about testing, contact: de@ssil.uoregon.edu.

Important: you must complete the SSIL On-Line Introduction by the end of the first week of class.

C. EXAMS FOR STUDENTS WHO DO NOT LIVE NEAR EUGENE

Go to the web site: <http://distanceeducation.uoregon.edu/> and click on the **Off Campus** link at the bottom of the page. Read all the information on the page. Before you can take a test, you must obtain a proctor and have the proctor approved by SSIL. ***You must do this before the end of the first week of classes.*** The web page describes how to do this. There is a link to proctors used by students in the past under the Remote Proctor sites. These are only locations used in the past. They may no longer be active sites. It is the student’s responsibility to locate a proctor. Once you have found a proctor, fill out the remote site request form on the web page. SSIL will notify you if the proctor you have chosen is approved. If you have further questions, contact: de@ssil.uoregon.edu .

Important: you must obtain approval of the proctor by the end of the first week of class.

D. BLACKBOARD

Blackboard will be used for communication and to notify you of grades on homework and exams. Thus, you need to make sure that you can log on to Blackboard at <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu>, following the instructions on the homepage of Blackboard. Your username will be your "official" UO computing center email account address, but without the “uoregon.edu” at the end, and the corresponding password for that account. If you have problems logging on, make sure you can log on to your official UO email account, since you might have an old password. You can also check your official UO account on Duck Web. If you still have problems, contact the computing center for assistance in 151 McKenzie.

Once you log on to Blackboard, click on this course and then click on Course Documents. Course Documents contains the course syllabus and class emails notifying you of assignment and exam deadlines, and other information about the course. The Blackboard addresses are <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu> and courseinfo@blackboard.uoregon.edu. You can also find the syllabus at the bottom of this page <http://economistsview.typepad.com/economics313/>.

E. MYECONLAB

The weekly quizzes will be taken in MyEconLab (which should be bundled with your textbook – if not, access can be purchased at the web address given below). You must register for MyEconLab and enroll with MyEconLab in this course. To do this you will need to have the access code, which will be contained with the textbook (or purchased). Go to the Pearson website, enter the course ID (given below), sign in or create an account, and use the access code that came with the textbook.

The instructor course ID for MyEconLab is thoma39667

The sign up page, further instructions, frequently asked questions, etc. can be found at <http://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com/northamerica/myeconlab/students/get-registered/index.html>.

F. Video Lectures

Video lectures are available at <http://economistsview.typepad.com/economics313/> or at https://www.youtube.com/my_videos?o=U9 (The YouTube site is harder to navigate. More information below.)

G. WEEKLY EMAILS

Emails will be sent weekly to students to provide information on scheduling of exams and the course assignments. It is essential that you receive and read the class emails carefully.

Important: if you do not receive the emails, contact the instructor ASAP, as you are probably not using your computing center email account address!

H. EMAIL ETIQUETTE. When emailing me or the GTF for the course, please include “EC 313” in the subject line. This helps ensure that we will not overlook your email by accident, and also lets us know what class you are taking.

ECONOMICS 313

A. COURSE OVERVIEW

This class is designed to provide the foundations needed to understand how the macroeconomy operates, the problems commonly confronted by developed market economies, and to analyze and understand various solutions to these problems. We will construct models illustrating the theory of the determination of aggregate output, unemployment, prices, interest rates, inflation, and growth, in the short-run, the medium-run, and long-run, with applications to the U.S. economy and discussions of monetary and fiscal policy issues.

B. GRADING: EXAM AND ASSIGNMENT DEADLINES

There are two types of evaluations for determining grades in the class. First, there are two exams, a midterm and a final, with 35 multiple choice questions on the midterm, and 50 on the final. The midterm is worth 35% of your grade, and the final is worth 50%. The exams will be taken at the Social Science Instructional Lab (unless you do not live near Eugene – see above).

Second, there are also nine quizzes which consists of ten multiple-choice questions typical of the type you will see on exams. You will complete these assignments in MyEconLab. The lowest score will be dropped (if you miss an assignment and receive a zero, this score will be the one dropped), and you will be allowed to take each quiz twice (and retain the highest score of the two). The quizzes will be 15% of your grade. Grades in the course will be curved.

The deadlines and grading weights for the exams and assignments and the deadline for completing the "On-Line Test Taker Introduction," are listed below.

SSIL On-Line Introduction

Deadline is Saturday, Jan 11

Get Started Quiz	Deadline is Sunday, Jan 11	Does Not Count
Quiz 1: 10 Questions Quiz 1 covers chapters 1, 2, and 3	Deadline is Sunday, Jan 11	Weight is 1.875%*
Quiz 2: 10 Questions Quiz 2 covers chapter 4	Deadline is Sunday, Jan 18	Weight is 1.875%
Quiz 3: 10 Questions Quiz 3 covers chapter 5	Deadline is Sunday, Jan 25	Weight is 1.875%
Quiz 4: 10 Questions Quiz 4 covers chapter 6	Deadline is Sunday, Feb 1	Weight is 1.875%
Quiz 5: 10 Questions Quiz 5 covers chapter 7	Deadline is Sunday, Feb 8	Weight is 1.875%
Midterm: 35 Questions The midterm covers chapters 1-7	Deadline is Saturday, Feb 14	Weight is 35%
Quiz 6: 10 Questions Quiz 6 covers chapter 8	Deadline is Sunday, Feb 22	Weight is 1.875%
Quiz 7: 10 Questions Quiz 7 covers chapter 10	Deadline is Sunday, Mar 1	Weight is 1.875%
Quiz 8: 10 Questions Quiz 8 covers chapter 11	Deadline is Sunday, Mar 8	Weight is 1.875%
Quiz 9: 10 Questions Quiz 9 covers chapter 12	Deadline is Sunday, Mar 15	Weight is 1.875%
Final: 50 Questions The final is comprehensive	Deadline is Friday, Mar 20	Weight is 50%

NOTE: There are no extra credit points in this course.

*Since the lowest of the 9 quiz scores is dropped, the weights sum to over 100%.

C. FOUR IMPORTANT NOTES ON EXAMS, WHICH ARE TAKEN AT SSIL.

First, there will be no exceptions to the exam deadlines, and there are no makeup exams. You must take an exam by the day of the deadline to receive credit for the exam. If a substantial emergency arises, you must contact the instructor well in advance of the deadline, and submit formal documentation with phone numbers. Second, exams may be taken before the exam deadline, and a reservation is required to take an exam. But do not wait until the last minute to schedule your exams, as testing slots will fill up fast. Third, SSIL's webpage allows you to make appointments for exams two weeks in advance regardless of the deadlines given above. For example, if you log on Apr 19 to make an appointment for exam 1, SSIL will permit you to schedule the exam on, say, Apr 27 But note that Apr 27 is beyond the deadline for exam 1 (by 1 day), and that exam will not count! Do not interpret the dates given by the SSIL webpage as extensions of the exam deadlines -- they are not! Fourth, the exams are closed book and closed notes.

D. THREE IMPORTANT NOTES ON THE ASSIGNMENTS, WHICH ARE COMPLETED IN MYECONLAB.

First, analogous to the exams, there will be no exceptions to the assignment deadlines. You must complete each assignment by the day of the deadline to receive credit, but of course you can complete it sooner if you wish. Second, these assignments will be completed in MyEconLab, and the lowest score of the nine will be dropped. Third, since the purpose of the assignments is to assist in mastering the course material, the assignments are open book and open notes, and you will have two chances on each assignment.

E. TEXT AND OTHER LEARNING SOURCES. In addition to the text, there are also video lectures for each chapter to make it as close as possible to a traditional course.

1. Text: Olivier Blanchard and David Johnson, Macroeconomics, 6th edition, Pearson. The text should be bundled with MyEconLab. It should be available at the Bookstore, and it can also be obtained here:

<http://www.pearsonhighered.com/educator/product/Macroeconomics-Plus-NEW-MyEconLab-with-Pearson-eText-Access-Card-Package/9780133103069.page> (note that the digital version is much cheaper).

2. Video Lectures Video lectures are available at <http://economistsview.typepad.com/economics313/>. If your connection is fast enough, it works best if you play the video full screen (writing on the whiteboard will be much easier to read). Lectures from a previous traditional course are also available (click on Fall 2013 in the sidebar).

3. Weekly Emails (contact me if you do not receive emails). Emails will both be sent to students and posted on Blackboard. They will include essential information about scheduling exams, exam deadlines, quizzes, etc.

F. WEEKLY READING LIST FOR TEXT, AND CHAPTER COVERAGES BY ASSIGNMENT AND EXAM. For each chapter, all regular pages are assigned except

the appendices. If you schedule an exam prior to the deadline date, you will have to accelerate your study of the material relative to the pace outlined below.

Note: Deadline for “Getting Started” Quiz 1 is Sunday, Jan 11

Week 1 (1/5-1/9):	Introduction	Ch. 1
	The Short-Run	Ch. 2
	The Goods Market: IS Curve	Ch. 3
	Deadline for Quiz 1 is Sunday, Jan 11	
Week 2 (1/12-1/16):	Financial Markets: The LM Curve	Ch. 4
	Deadline for Quiz 2 is Sunday, Jan 18	
Week 3 (1/19-1/23):	The IS-LM Model	Ch. 5
	Deadline for Quiz 3 is Sunday, Jan 25	
Week 4 (1/26-1/30):	The Labor Market	Ch. 6
	Deadline for Quiz 4 is Sunday, Feb 1	
Week 5 (2/2-2/6):	The AS-AD Model	Ch. 7
	Deadline for Quiz 5 is Sunday, Feb 8	
Week 6 (2/9-2/13):	MIDTERM (Chapters 1-7)	
	Deadline the Midterm is Saturday, Feb 14	
Week 7 (2/16-2/20):	The Phillips Curve	Ch. 8
	Deadline for Quiz 6 is Sunday, Feb 22	
Week 8 (2/23-2/27):	The Facts of Growth	Ch. 10
	Deadline for Quiz 7 is Sunday, Mar 1	
Week 9 (3/2-3/6):	Saving, Capital Accumulation, and Output	Ch. 11
	Deadline for Quiz 8 is Sunday, Mar 8	
Week 10 (3/9-3/13):	Technological Progress and Growth	Ch. 12
	Deadline for Quiz 9 is Sunday, Mar 15	
Finals (3/16-3/20):	FINAL (Comprehensive)	
	Deadline for the Final is Friday, Mar 20	