**Econs102: Fundamentals of Macroeconomics**

**Spring 2017, WSU Pullman, Section 2**

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|  | Office hours | Office | email |
| Matt Birch, Instructor | Mondays and Fridays: 12:30-1 and 2:00-2:30 | Hulbert 323H | matthew.birch@wsu.edu |
| Econ Help Desk | Monday: 2:45 to 6  Tuesday: 1 to 5  Wednesday: 1 to 6:30  Thursday: 1 to 5 | Sign-in in CUB 421.  Tutors in CUB 410 . |  |

**Text Book and Resources**

Textbook bundle ISBN: 9781319103491

Macroeconomics in Modules, 3e, written by Krugman and Wells; LaunchPad Access; Net Tutor Access; Mob Lab Access

**Top Hat**

You will need to purchase TopHat access at tophat.com. It is required for the class. Price is as follows: $24 for 4 months, $36 for a year, or $72 for “lifetime” access. We will use TopHat DAILY, meaning that every day you will need to have a computer, tablet, or phone IN class to participate and get the class credit. Class code is 683376.

**Class Websites**

Blackboard: [www.learn.wsu.edu](http://www.learn.wsu.edu)

LaunchPad: Assignments are accessed through LaunchPad folder in Blackboard

Net Tutor: Net Tutor is accessed in NetTutor folder in Blackboard

MobLab: [www.moblab.com](http://www.moblab.com) (probably won’t use this very much)

Top Hat: [www.tophat.com](http://www.tophat.com)

**Prerequisites:** MATH 101, 103, 105, 106, 107, 108, 171, 201, 202, STAT 205, or 212; or concurrent enrollment in Math 106, 107, 108, 171, 201, 202, or STAT 212; or ALEKS placement score of 40% or higher.

**Instructor Interaction:**

For questions on economics, your first resources are the text book and LaunchPad. The help desk is awesome and allows for a lot of one-on-one time. I am available during office hours and occasionally by appointment. However, in-class questions are usually preferred since they can help the whole class.

For questions on grades, scheduling, testing, etc., please first refer to the syllabus and course schedule, and then email me with any additional questions. We’ll schedule an in-person appointment if needed.

For questions with class software, try to sort it out on your own or with tech support. You can email me, but if anything is actually going wrong, I will just refer you to the appropriate tech support because the problem is probably way beyond me. You are expected to sort out your issues before an assignment is due. Late work policies apply even with personal technical problems. Of course if there is a class-wide problem I will adjust due dates as needed.

I do not answer my email on Saturday or Sunday.

# Course Overview

Macroeconomics is the study of the overall economic activity that takes place in a society. Unlike microeconomics, which focuses on the behavior of individual units like people, firms, and industries, macroeconomics looks at the whole economy on a state, national, and international level. Macroeconomics aggregates individual units into large groups, so we consider how all the economy might react to changes. We do this by looking at measures of the economy as a whole–Gross Domestic Product (GDP), inflation, unemployment, or trade balances. We can estimate how government policy can hurt or help the economy. What causes business cycles? Will tax cuts really make us better off if we cut government spending? Is a low interest rate policy from the Federal Reserve always in the best interest of economic growth? Do free trade acts really cost the US jobs? Macroeconomic analysis provides the tools to help answer these questions

**Course Goals**

Upon completion of this course, you should understand and be familiar with the how the economy operates in a market-oriented country like the United States, with an emphasis on government policy impacts. The learning goals for my Fundamentals of Macroeconomics course include:

* Students will learn the basic terminology of macroeconomics.
* Students will be able to apply the concepts of choice and opportunity cost to basic situations involving scarcity and clearly identify feasible choices.
* Students will understand the circular flow of the economy.
* Students will understand how the level of economic activity in an economy is determined.
* Students will understand the gains from international trade.
* Students will understand how a market based economy achieves short-run and long-run levels of output.
* Students will be able to critically appraise how government policies, monetary policies and policies on spending and taxes, in particular, affect GDP, unemployment, inflation and growth.

#### **Grading**

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| --- | --- |
| Assignment | Share of Grade |
| LaunchPad | 35% |
| Net Tutor | 10% |
| Attendance & Participation | 8% |
| Test 1 | 10% |
| Test 2 | 10% |
| Test 3 | 12% |
| Final Exam | 15% |

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| **Grade Range** | **Letter Grade** | **Grade Range** | **Letter Grade** |
| 93-100% | A | 73-76.99% | C |
| 90-92.99% | A- | 70-72.99% | C- |
| 87-89.99% | B+ | 67-69.99% | D+ |
| 83-86.99% | B | 63-66.99% | D |
| 80-82.99% | B- | <63% | F |
| 77-79.99% | C+ |  |  |

**Course Work**

**LaunchPad problem Sets (35%):**

Each week there are graded problem sets due in LaunchPad. You will have 2 attempts at each assignment. You will not see the solutions until after the due date. The average top score of the LaunchPad assignments will account for 35% of your grade. You may also complete the practice assignments for each module, but you will receive no credit for doing so. The syllabus assignment has different rules, and they are outlined in the assignment.

When you sign up for LaunchPad, **use your student email**. It will make linking LaunchPad and Blackboard significantly easier. To navigate and start using LaunchPad please consult the [Get Started guide](http://cmg.screenstepslive.com/s/MacmillanMedia_StudentHelp/m/LaunchPadSM) and/or [view this video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=znnje6RFbUc). If you have problems registering, purchasing, or logging in, please contact Customer Support. You can reach a representative 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through the [online form](http://support.bfwpub.com/supportform/form.php?View=contact), by [chat](https://macmillan.desk.com/customer/widget/chats/new), or by phone at (800) 936-6899 from 9 a.m. to 3 a.m. EST, 7 days a week:

**Top Hat: Attendance and Participation (8%):**

We use Top Hat in class. It is a call and response software that facilitates class discussion and helps me to know how the class is doing. 4 percent of your grade is given based on attendance (which is taken during the first three-ish minutes of class every day after day 1). 4 percent of your grade is based on the correctness of your responses to questions in class. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message.

If I catch any students to be cheating in Top Hat, i.e. taking attendance for a friend or answering questions for a friend who is not there, both students will receive an automatic zero grade for all Top Hat points. That is an 8% reduction in your possible grade.

For technical support, contact Top Hat by calling [(888) 663-5491](tel:%28888%29%20663-5491) or by emailing [support@tophat.com](mailto:support@tophat.com).

I allow 3 absences without questions asked. Additionally, students missing class due to school related activities can have their professors, coaches, or other university personnel email me concerning the day and cause for their absence and I will allow it. Above this, I will only grant more under extraneous circumstances. Come to class and participate, you won’t regret it!

**Tests and Final (47%):**

There are 3 midterm exams in this course and one final exam. The exam dates are in the course schedule. The exams are multiple choice and will cover whatever material has been covered up until that day. Midterm exams take place during regular class hours and in the regular classroom. The final exam date is in the course schedule and its location is yet to be determined. The score you receive on the final exam will replace the lowest non-zero score on one other exam if that is beneficial to your grade.

**You cannot postpone a test!** Requests for early dates will not be granted except under rare and unavoidable (in *my* judgment) circumstances. These requests must be made **before** the day of the test. Obviously, no phones, tablets, computers, etc., are allowed in the exams. I allow a calculator of any other kind but nothing with the ability to connect to the outside world. If I find you using a device capable of communication or internet access on your exam, I reserve the right to confiscate the exam and award you a zero. Likewise, with any other form of cheating, I reserve the right to confiscate the exam and award you a zero.

Do not miss the tests. You are in college, welcome to adulthood. If you miss an exam you will receive a zero. **Academic Rule 80**: A student will not be granted special examinations for the purpose of leaving the institution before the close of the semester. In the event of a medical excuse or other serious problems, exceptions to this no-makeup policy will be considered following University policies. See Office of the Registrar, Our Academic Regulations, #73 Absences: <http://registrar.wsu.edu/academic-regulations/> (you will need to scroll down.)

NO EARLY FINAL EXAMS. There are no exceptions to this policy. Students should determine final exam times and dates before making travel or vacation plans at the close of each semester.

**Writing (10%):**

There are 4 writing assignments. In the Net Tutor folder in Blackboard, you find the topics and rubrics for each assignment. You will access the NetTutor website via the provided link in Blackboard. When you submit your assignment, it is due at 9pm (Pacific Standard Time) on the due date. I STRONGLY recommend you do not wait until that night, because that is when problems always happen (especially with Net Tutor).

Net Tutor will respond with feedback on your writing. From that time you will have an additional 5 days to revise and resubmit your writing assignment to improve your grade. If you are satisfied with the first grade, no second submission is required.

**MobLab (participation):**

In-class economic games/experiments. I will send out an invite before we do these. We will probably do 2 or 3 of these through the course of the semester. This is included in your 4% participation grade. Do not purchase MobLab separately, it is included in your textbook bundle.

**Extra Credit:**

There will be optional practice exams available in LaunchPad. Each can add up to 1% to your grade. I will also occasionally invite volunteers to draw graphs and answer questions in front of the class for extra credit. There may or may not be other opportunities during the semester, but don’t count on it.

**Late Work Policy:**

I do not give credit for late work except under extreme (in my judgement) circumstances. You are still encouraged to complete all assignments as practice for the exams, even if they are late.

**Other policies that you may find interesting:**

* + I do not drop assignments.
  + I do not curve assignments.
  + I do not curve the class grade distribution.
  + Any changes I make to one student’s grade must be applied to every student’s grade. My spreadsheet is blind to individual student needs.
  + Students are expected to check their @wsu.edu email regularly. I will communicate with the class mid-week through this email address and will hold every student accountable for the information I send out.

**Course Schedule:**

It is difficult to know exactly how lectures will go, so the schedule only shows assignment due dates. In the beginning of the class it is likely that lectures will be completed as much as a full week before the relevant assignments are due. You have the option of turning any assignment in early if you want to complete it while it is fresh in your mind.

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| **Week** | **Ending Date** | **LaunchPad (Sunday at 11:59pm)** | **Net Tutor (Sunday at 9:00pm)** | **Exams** |
| 1 | 1/15/17 | Syllabus Assignment |  |  |
| 2 | 1/22/17 | Section 1 |  |  |
| 3 | 1/29/17 | Section 2 | Net Tutor 1: Inequality |  |
| 4 | 2/5/17 | Section 3 |  |  |
| 5 | 2/12/17 | Section 4 |  | Exam 1: 2/10/17 |
| 6 | 2/19/17 | Section 5 |  |  |
| 7 | 2/26/17 | Section 6 | Net Tutor 2: Unemployment |  |
| 8 | 3/5/17 | Section 7 |  |  |
| 9 | 3/12/17 | Section 8 |  | Exam 2: 3/10/17 |
| 10 | 3/19/17 | SPRING BREAK!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! | !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! | !!!!!!!! |
| 11 | 3/26/17 | Section 9 | Net Tutor 3: Entitlements |  |
| 12 | 4/2/17 | Section 10 |  |  |
| 13 | 4/9/17 | Section 11 |  |  |
| 14 | 4/16/17 | Section 12 | Net Tutor 4: Austerity |  |
| 15 | 4/23/17 | Section 13 |  | Exam 3: 4/21/17 |
| 16 | 4/30/17 | Section 14 |  |  |
| Final Exam | Friday, May 5th, 7-9pm  :’( | Location: CUE 203 | Seriously though, it is Friday night and that is lame but I do not have the authority to change it. | Better not plan anything fun until Saturday. |

**Incomplete Grade Policy**

Incompletes are granted only with permission of the instructor and are subject to the following guidelines:

1. Students must request an incomplete in writing or by e-mail from the instructor before the end of the semester.
2. The request must be signed and dated by the student (or identified by student's e-mail address), and must explain the reasons behind the request for the incomplete.
3. In order to be considered for an incomplete, a student must have a passing grade on the completed assignments. (NOTE: A passing grade is 60 percent or above for the entire course.)
4. If extraordinary circumstances (e.g., family emergency, serious illness) are involved and are documented to the instructor’s satisfaction, the professor/ instructor retains the discretion to grant an incomplete even if the minimum conditions outlined above are not met.

If an incomplete is granted, then the standard WSU policy applies (i.e., all work must be completed within one full year from the end of the enrollment semester at issue. Otherwise, an automatic grade of F, or failing, will be entered on the student’s transcript).

**Academic Regulations**

For the most accurate and up to date information start with your home campus Web site. For information specific to Academic Regulations please use the Website search function.

* WSU Online & Pullman Campus: <http://wsu.edu/>

**MIDTERM GRADE POLICY**

Midterm grades are advisory and do not appear on the student’s permanent record, the WSU transcript. They will not reflect any extra credit.

**Student Privacy**

As a University student, you have legal rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) for protection of your academic records. For a complete explanation of these rights, visit the URL associated with your home campus in the Academic Regulations section or <http://www.registrar.wsu.edu/Registrar/Apps/FERPA.ASPX>.

**Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is the cornerstone of the university. You assume full responsibility for the content and integrity of the academic work you submit. You may collaborate with classmates on assignments, with the instructor's permission. However the guiding principle of academic integrity shall be that your submitted work, examinations, reports, and projects must be your own work. Any student who violates the University's standard of conduct relating to academic integrity will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and may fail the assignment or the course. You can learn more about Academic Integrity on your campus using the URL listed in the Academic Regulations section or to <http://academicintegrity.wsu.edu/>. Please use these resources to ensure that you don’t inadvertently violate WSU's standard of conduct.

Any course-related materials, presentations, lectures, etc. are the instructor's intellectual property and may be protected by copyright. The use of University electronic resources (e.g., Blackboard) for commercial purposes, including advertising to other students to buy notes, is a violation of WSU's computer abuses and theft policy (WAC 504-26-218).

**Reasonable Accommodations**

Reasonable accommodations are available in online classes for students with a documented disability. All accommodations must be approved through your WSU Disability Services office. If you have a disability and need accommodations, we recommend you begin the process as soon as possible.

For more information contact a Disability Specialist on your home campus:

* WSU Online & Pullman: 509-335-3417 [http://www.accesscenter.wsu.edu,](http://www.accesscenter.wsu.edu/) [Access.Center@wsu.edu](mailto:Access.Center@wsu.edu)
* Spokane: [http://spokane.wsu.edu.html](http://spokane.wsu.edu/)
* Tri-Cities: <http://www.tricity.wsu.edu/disability/>
* Vancouver: 360-546-9138 <http://studentaffairs.vancouver.wsu.edu/student-resource-center/disability-services>

**On Campus Safety**

Classroom and campus safety are of paramount importance at Washington State University, and are the shared responsibility of the entire campus population.  WSU urges students to follow the “***Alert, Assess, Act***” protocol for all types of emergencies and the [*“Run, Hide, Fight”*](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.fbi.gov_about-2Dus_cirg_active-2Dshooter-2Dand-2Dmass-2Dcasualty-2Dincidents_run-2Dhide-2Dfight-2Dvideo&d=CwMFAg&c=C3yme8gMkxg_ihJNXS06ZyWk4EJm8LdrrvxQb-Je7sw&r=BpiL5UPBWUo8DGMvP6Gm0r-CLSlEvj33mUwOkOQMeWSwbCg4t4z7mmYg5iPEM3li&m=qJS-kJU_r4Bwkm_zYB2NeBm_0SBwya9P-EuME3OVKHw&s=9TslIDaOy3f-dT4Sy49VRgz4TZClQPLRbpmXTApRZB4&e=) response for an active shooter incident. Remain ***ALERT*** (through direct observation or emergency notification), ***ASSESS*** your specific situation, and ***ACT***in the most appropriate way to assure your own safety (and the safety of others if you are able).

Bottom of Form