

San José State University
Department of Economics
ECON 001A: Principles of Economics —Macroeconomics
Section 65—Class Number 28859
Spring 2020

Instructor: Mark Brady
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Office Hours: MW 1:20 – 2:00PM; and by appointment any day-M

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students should have an understanding of the principal ideas in macroeconomics, including

Comparative advantage (specialization and the gains from trade; globalization)

Macroeconomic measures (real versus nominal calculations; components and concept of GDP; components and concept of unemployment figures; calculation of inflation)

Macroeconomic models (circular flow; monetary and fiscal policy; the market for loanable funds & interest rate determination; the demand and supply of money & price level determination)

Required Texts/Readings

Required Text

Our textbook is Tyler Cowen and Alex Tabarrok, *Modern Principles: Macroeconomics*. The fourth edition (2018) is the most recent and costs more, but the book price is higher. If you're short of money, buy either the third edition (2015) or the second edition (2013), but avoid the first edition (2010), which is significantly different. You may choose to rent the text of the third or fourth edition. (Please note that I customarily refer to the chapter numbers, and I'll be sure to mention where they differ between editions.)

Make sure that you are buying the Macro and not the Micro text. I've had students buy the wrong book. Of course, you would never do that!

And be aware that anyone can access the authors' website Marginal Revolution University at <http://www.mru.org> and watch hundreds of short videos for free. Why not check it out this weekend?

Other Readings

I also assign study guides, supplementary readings, and (short) videos on the web.

Course Requirements and Assignments

"Success in this course is based on the expectation that students spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities." More details about student workload can be found in University Policy 9500 Course Syllabi at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/9500.pdf>.

There are four components to your grade: three exams (70%), your ten best quizzes (20%), a term paper (10%), and extra credit (one half point for attending each of three lectures)

- x All three exams consist very largely, if not entirely, of multiple choice questions created by your instructor. There are two short exams on Wednesday, February 26, and Wednesday, April 8, which emphasize what we have covered since the previous exam and are worth 15% and 25% respectively. The final exam on Monday, May 18, 7:15 – 9:30 AM is comprehensive but with a major emphasis on the most recent material and is worth 30%.

Course Requirements and Assignments (cont'd)

- x There are at least fifteen objective quizzes worth a total of twenty points. Each quiz is worth two points, allowing students to drop or miss at least five quizzes. Quiz scores are calculated pro rata so that 10/10 on a quiz is worth two points, and 5/10 is worth one point. The quizzes are based chiefly on the assigned readings and lectures. The questions emphasize key concepts in demography and development economics, their application to the real world, and important events and trends in world economic history. There are no make-ups for any quizzes.
Most quizzes are based on my lectures. Others are based on chapters from Cowen and Tabarrok, *Modern Principles: Macro*



