

# NYU DC

## ECI-UF 9101 DC1

### Principles of Macroeconomics

**Spring 2020**

#### **Instructor Information**

- Ross Brater
- ross.brater@nyu.edu
- Office Hours: Wednesdays 9:15-10:15pm and by appointment
- Office: I find it most helpful to use the board in a classroom to talk through topics, but let me know if you'd like to sit down in an actual office, and we will make arrangements.

#### **Course Information**

- ECI-UF 9101 DC1
- Principles of Macroeconomics
- Economics can be divided into two main branches: microeconomics and macroeconomics. Microeconomics is the study of how individual consumers and firms make individual decisions, while macroeconomics examines how the economy behaves as a whole; that is, the aggregate effects of those same individual decisions. In this course, which is an introduction to macroeconomics, we will take a broad look at many areas in this field, including unemployment, inflation, economic growth, business cycles, monetary and fiscal policy, and international trade.
- Meeting Times: Wednesdays 6:15-9:15pm
  - Location: 307

#### **Course Overview and Goals**

This course is designed to use basic economics theory to instill useful knowledge regarding how the actual economy operates. For example, students will obtain a better understanding regarding how the price of gas is determined and why it fluctuates, what influences the rate of interest on their credit card purchases or student loans, and how the proposed solutions for helping the U.S. economy recover from a recession are expected to work and where they may be inefficient.

## Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a basic understanding of issues relating to the economy as a whole. For example, students should understand the economic implications of changes in government fiscal or monetary policy, how interest rates are determined, and the role of interest rates in personal and corporate decision-making.
- Calculate and use various multipliers, convert nominal values to real values, and use a graph to explain the impact of changes in fiscal and/or monetary policy on income and price levels.
- Use simple models of international trade to study the flow of goods between countries and discuss the costs of protectionism within the context of such models.

## Course Requirements

### Grading and Assignments

Final grades will be based on a weighted average of scores on several components. The components and their respective weights are as follows:

<b>Assignments/Activities</b>	<b>% of Final Grade</b>
Attendance and Participation	10%
Midterm Exam I	30%
Midterm Exam II	30%
Final Exam	30%

### Class Participation

Practice problems will be distributed throughout the course, with some class time allocated to working through and discussing the problems and presenting solutions to the class. Part of the participation grade for the course will depend on students' actively working on these problems and discussion of their attempts to solve them by applying what we've learned in recent units.

Asking questions and participating in class discussion will ensure a high participation grade; being disruptive or distracting other students will lower your participation grade.

### Exams

Midterm Exam 1 will cover all material since the beginning of the course, and Midterm Exam 2 will cover all material since Midterm Exam 1. The Final Exam will be cumulative, but material

presented since Midterm Exam 2 will receive disproportionately more weight. Students will be given one hour and fifty minutes to complete each exam, including the final.

## Letter Grades

It is anticipated that grades will be assigned based on a "standard" scale (averages above 90% receiving an A, those between 80% and 90% receiving a B, and so forth, with + or - assigned for being within 3 percentage points of these thresholds as appropriate). Ultimately, however, letter grades will be assigned based on students' performance relative to that of their classmates. A curve may thus be applied to shift these thresholds downward to improve letter grades if scores are lower than anticipated. An approximate scale is thus given below:

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>A</b>	4.00	93-100
<b>A-</b>	3.67	90-93
<b>B+</b>	3.33	87-90
<b>B</b>	3.00	83-87
<b>B-</b>	2.67	80-83
<b>C+</b>	2.33	77-80
<b>C</b>	2.00	73-77
<b>C-</b>	1.67	70-73
<b>D+</b>	1.33	67-70
<b>D</b>	1.00	65-67
<b>F</b>	.00	Below 65

Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.

## Viewing Grades

Graded exams will be handed back during class. Midterm and final course grades will be posted on Albert.

## Course Schedule

## Tentative Topics To Be Covered

Week/Date	Topic	Reading
Session 1 5-Feb-20	Ten Principles of Economics	Ch. 1
Session 2 12-Feb-20	Interdependence and the Gains from Trade	Ch. 3
	The Market Forces of Supply and Demand	Ch. 4
Session 3 19-Feb-20	Measuring a Nation's Income	Ch. 10
	Measuring the Cost of Living	Ch. 11
Session 4 26-Feb-20	Production and Growth	Ch. 12
	Saving, Investment, and the Financial System	Ch. 13
Session 5 4-Mar-20	The Basic Tools of Finance	Ch. 14
	Midterm Review	
Session 6 11-Mar-20	<b>Midterm Exam I</b>	
18-Mar-20	Spring Break - No Class	
Session 7 25-Mar-20	Unemployment	Ch. 15
	The Monetary System	Ch. 16
Session 8 1-Apr-20	Money Growth and Inflation	Ch. 17
	Open-Economy Macroeconomics: Basic Concepts	Ch. 18
Session 9 8-Apr-20	A Macroeconomic Theory of the Open Economy	Ch. 19
	Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply	Ch. 20

<b>Week/Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Session 10 15-Apr-20	The Influence of Monetary and Fiscal Policy on Aggregate Demand  Midterm Review	Ch. 21
Session 11 22-Apr-20	<b>Midterm Exam II</b>	
Session 12 29-Apr-20	The Short-Run Trade-off between Inflation and Unemployment  Supply, Demand, and Government Policies	Ch. 22  Ch. 6
Session 13 6-May-20	Consumers, Producers, and the Efficiency of Markets  Application: International Trade	Ch. 7  Ch. 9
Session 14 13-May-20	Final Exam Review	
Session 15 20-May-20	<b>Finals Week: Final Exam</b>	

## Tests and Quizzes

- Midterm Exam I: Wednesday, March 11
- Midterm Exam II: Wednesday, April 22
- Final Exam: Wednesday, May 20

## Course Materials

### Required Textbooks & Materials

*Principles of Macroeconomics* (Seventh Edition) by N. Gregory Mankiw

- ISBN-10: 1285165918
- ISBN-13: 978-1285165912

**Note:** Do not confuse our text with Mankiw's other popular text titled simply *Macroeconomics*. That text is designed for an intermediate macroeconomics course and provides a more advanced treatment of different topics.

Older editions of the text are similar and may be used, but the material may be rearranged and/or presented in a different manner. The course will follow the discussion and numbering conventions used in the seventh edition, but I will make any required problems available to all students in case there are differences among versions.

There will be one copy of the seventh-edition text kept on reserve at the library on site.

## Optional Textbooks & Materials

There are many other principles texts that may be used as alternative resources in the event that a student is having difficulty with the language in our text. Most all of them address the same topics, but I have not used all of them. Some that I have been exposed to and found to be satisfactory are:

- *Macroeconomics: Principles, Problems, & Policies* by McConnell, Brue, and Flynn
- *Principles of Macroeconomics* by Case, Fair, and Oster

## Resources

- **Access your course materials:** [NYU Classes](http://nyu.edu/its/classes) (nyu.edu/its/classes)
- **Databases, journal articles, and more:** [Bobst Library](http://library.nyu.edu) (library.nyu.edu)
- **Assistance with strengthening your writing:** [NYU Writing Center](http://nyu.mywconline.com) (nyu.mywconline.com)
- **Obtain 24/7 technology assistance:** [IT Help Desk](http://nyu.edu/it/servicedesk) (nyu.edu/it/servicedesk)

## Course Policies

### Attendance and Tardiness

Study abroad at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience, in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. **To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers is mandatory, and unexcused absences will affect students' semester grades.** Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in failure. At all Global Academic Centers, unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student's final course grade (for courses that meet once per week; for courses that meet twice per week, it is a one percent reduction per missed class).

To seek an excused absence for medical reasons, students must use the online absence reporting form within 24 hours of their first missed class. Students may be required to produce a doctor's note with that day's date, especially if the student has missed any classes already that semester or if exams/presentations/papers occurred in the missed class.

Non-medical absences must be discussed with the Academic Staff at least 7 days before the missed date(s) in question. If faculty members do not receive notification of an excused absence, the student has not procured an excused absence.

NYU Washington, DC expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks), to be attentive, and to remain for the duration of the class. If full class attendance and participation becomes a problem, it is the prerogative of each lecturer to apply the rule for unexcused absences, which may include a two percent deduction from the student's final course grade.

Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. This means they should initiate email and/ or office hour discussions to discuss any missed lectures and assignments and arrange a timeline for submitting missed work.

Final exams must be taken at their designated times. Final exams may not be taken early, and students should not plan to leave Washington, DC before the end of the finals week.

Please note that for classes involving a field trip or other external visit, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student's responsibility to arrive at the announced meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion. Staff members may always be reached by cell phone for advice regarding public transportation.

### **Late Assignment**

- 1) Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.
- 2) Late work should be emailed to the faculty as soon as it is completed.
- 3) Late work will be reduced for a fraction of a letter grade (e.g., A to A-, A- to B+, etc.) for every day it is late, including weekends.
- 4) Written work during the semester that is submitted 5 days after the submission date (including weekends) without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.
- 5) Students who arrive to class late for an exam do not have automatic approval to take extra time to complete the exam.
- 6) Students who miss an exam (including the final) without previously arranged permission will receive a zero on that exam.
- 7) Assignments due during finals week that are submitted more than 3 days without previously arranged extensions will not be accepted and will receive a zero. Any exceptions or extensions for work during finals week must be discussed with the Site Director.

### **Incomplete Grade Policy**

An "incomplete" is a temporary grade that indicates that the student has, for good reason, not completed all of the course work. This grade is not awarded automatically nor is it guaranteed; rather, the student must ask the instructor for a grade of "incomplete," present documented evidence of illness, an emergency, or other compelling circumstances, and clarify the remaining course requirements with the instructor.

In order for a grade of "incomplete" to be registered on the transcript, the student must fill out a form, in collaboration with the course instructor and the academic administration at the site; it should then be submitted to the site's academic office. The submitted form must include a

deadline by which the missing work will be completed. This deadline may not be later than the end of the following semester.

## **Academic Honesty/Plagiarism**

As the University's policy on "[Academic Integrity for Students at NYU](#)" states: "At NYU, a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community. By accepting membership in this community, students take responsibility for demonstrating these values in their own conduct and for recognizing and supporting these values in others." **Students at Global Academic Centers must follow the University and school policies.**

The presentation of another person's words, ideas, judgment, images, or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

NYU Washington, DC takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. All your written work must be submitted as a hard copy AND in electronic form to the lecturer. Your lecturer may ask you to sign a declaration of authorship form.

It is also an offense to submit work for assignments from two different courses that is substantially the same (be it oral presentations or written work). If there is an overlap of the subject of your assignment with one that you produced for another course (either in the current or any previous semester), you **MUST** inform your professor.

For guidelines on academic honesty, clarification of the definition of plagiarism, examples of procedures and sanctions, and resources to support proper citation, please see:

[NYU Academic Integrity Policies and Guidelines](#)

[NYU Library Guides](#)

## **Disability Disclosure Statement**

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (212-998-4980 or [mosescsd@nyu.edu](mailto:mosescsd@nyu.edu)) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.

## **Religious Observances**

Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday.

Students must notify their professor and the Washington, DC Academics team in writing via email at least 7 days before being absent for this purpose.

## About Your Instructor

Ross Brater is an economist in the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. He joined the Division shortly after he earned his Ph.D. in Economics from The Ohio State University, where he specialized in industrial organization and microeconomic theory. He enjoys teaching courses on microeconomic theory, industrial organization, sports economics, and current issues. While at Ohio State, he received the Economics Department's L. Edwin Smart Graduate Associate Teaching Award and its Departmental Citation for Excellence in Teaching.

His current research interests include topics in theoretical industrial organization, with current focus on two-sided markets and consumer rewards programs. He also holds an M.A. in Economics from The Ohio State University and a B.A. in Mathematics and Economics from Ohio Wesleyan University.