

## **BEC 151: MACROECONOMICS ONLINE SYLLABUS**

### **Instructor's Information**

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Office Room #: L304 (Reuther Liberal Arts Building)

### **Communicating with the instructor**

**The preferred method of communication is email.** I will be answering emails every day on **weekdays**. Depending on the volume of emails I'm answering I'll respond to your email within 1 -2 days. I typically check my email in the morning so if you email me at 4pm on Wednesday you'll most likely get a response on Thursday morning. However I do allow for the possibility that students may flood me with emails at the last minute and my response time may spill over to a second day. I will only be checking my email once on the weekend, usually on Sunday morning. So if you have any questions about an assignment that is due on Monday morning its best you get the questions in earlier.

In order to combat some of the problems that asynchronous communication can cause there is an alternate method of submitting questions. This is explained below.

The best place to submit your content related questions is on the **Q/A discussion board** that will be open. There you can post a question and we as a class can determine the answer. You can also check the board to see if someone already asked the question you had and even try and answer other people's questions (you can earn extra credit points by answering other student's questions – see section below on grading). I will of course also be answering the questions on the board. It should be emphasized that the board is for content related questions (like how do you calculate GDP from a table of expenditures). Personal concerns/requests should still come directly to me via email.

### **Required Materials**

**"Macroeconomics" 17th edition, McGraw-Hill Publishing, McConnell & Brue.**

To obtain the book you can visit the college bookstore at <http://collegestore.hfcc.edu> or visit any number of online book retailers. You can buy either a new or used text, no specific type is required.

## **Required Hardware/Software**

I have attempted to keep things as basic as possible when it comes to required hardware and software. The college has published a list of standard requirements at <http://www2.hfcc.edu/online/computerReq.htm>. Beyond that you will need a Microsoft Word and Powerpoint Viewer if you do not have Microsoft Office 2003. Instructions for downloading these viewers are below.

### *Instructions for downloading viewers*

- 1) go to [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com)
- 2) In the menu to the left of the screen, under Product Resources, choose "Downloads"
- 3) In the menu to the left of the screen, under Product Families, choose "Office"
- 4) Choose "PowerPoint Viewer 2003" and follow the instruction for downloading the program.
- 5) Repeat steps 1-3 and choose "Word Viewer 2003" and follow the instruction for downloading the program

## **Course Description**

Macroeconomics is a required course for Business Administration majors planning to transfer to four-year colleges or universities. The course examines the theoretical foundations of aggregate economic policies. Areas of study include the elements of a free market system, the measurement of macroeconomic performance, the creation and control of money, and alternative models of government intervention to impact business cycles and economic growth.

*Prerequisites:* None

*Co-requisites:* None

*Credit Hours:* 3

## **Course Objective**

To help you become a more informed citizen concerning economic problems. At the end of the course you should have a better understanding of the economic choices that are before us. As a result, you should be in a better position to critically analyze the economic solutions offered to us by those in power. This course will also lay the foundation for more advanced economic courses.

## Specific Core Course Objectives

The core objectives are the goals of this class, as determined by the Business and Economics Division at HFCC. We will do each of the following within the duration of the semester in one way or another.

1. Define economics, and explain the distinction between macro economics and micro economics.
2. Explain the macroeconomic goals of economic growth, full employment, and price stability.
3. Define free market capitalism, and explain its characteristics.
4. Define and explain National Income Accounting, and define and explain Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as a measure of macro economic activity.
5. Explain the phases of the business cycle
6. Define and explain unemployment and its measurement.
7. Define and explain inflation/deflation and their measurements.
8. Explain the development and role of money in an economic system.
9. Explain the role of the Federal Reserve System (FRS) and the process by which the FRS controls the money supply and interest rates.
10. Define aggregate demand and aggregate supply. Explain how aggregate demand and aggregate supply are used as a model of the macro economy. Develop and use graphs in the explanation.
11. Discuss the Classical/Laissez-faire theory of the macro economy and business cycles and its implications in macro economic policy.
12. Discuss the Keynesian criticism of Classical Theory and the Keynesian theory of the macro economy and business cycles and its implications on macro economic policy.
13. Discuss the tools of monetary policy and the impact they can have on an economic system.
14. Discuss the tools of discretionary and non-discretionary fiscal policy and the impact they can have on an economic system.
15. Discuss supply side economics.

16. Discuss the factors that determine economic growth.

17. Discuss International trade and the differences between open-market trade and protectionism.

### **Grade Composition**

Your grade will be determined by how many course points you accumulate as you work through the 19 course modules (a module basically self contained mini course on a particular topic). There are 1500 course points that can be earned ( a few more if you count the extra credit opportunities). Those 1500 points will be breakdown as follows

**150 points from Weekly Quizzes (15 quizzes worth 10 points each).** Each week we cover several modules. For each week you are required to take a quiz. The quizzes are open book and have no time limit and you can take them as many times as you want before the due date. Just note that when you retake the quiz the computer randomly selected ten more questions and only your last score goes in the grade book. **This quizzes can be found in the “examinations” section in your UCompass navigation menu** (they call them exams but they’re really quizzes)

**150 points from weekly discussion boards (15 weekly boards worth 10 points each)** Every week you will be required to participate in a discussion board (this is separate from the Q/A board which is optional). I will present the opening question each week which is relevant to the topics of the week and then let you reply. Every week you will be given points based on how well you formulated your thoughts and how active you were in the discussion. You can earn up to 6 points for your first response; another 2 is you post a provocative follow up question to someone else’s response; and another 2 if you answer someone else’s question. So if you were keeping track you need at least 3 entries to get full credit. Note that posting 3 random thoughts an hour before the board closes will not give you full credit. I will be awarding points based on how well you made your point or posed your question. Think of the boards as a debate competition. Each entry should be carefully thought out, carry some economic rational, and include some supportive details. **The discussion boards can be accessed by clicking the “discussion board” button on your UCompass navigation menu.**

**450 points from weekly Critical Thinking Essays. ( 7 essays worth 60-65 points each).** About every other week you will be assigned one critical thinking essay. You will be evaluated on whether you submit your work on time and meet the minimum requirements, and most importantly how well you apply the theories and models taught in the course. Each assignment will cover several modules and require you to draw on knowledge on a collection of topics. So it is important that you try and recognize how each module relates to one another. **The critical thinking essays will be posted in the “assignments” section in your UCompass navigation menu.** UCompass calls them worksheets

### 300 points from weekly internet activities (15 weekly activities worth 20 points each)

Each week you'll receive an assignment that requires you to utilize some economic resources on the web to answer a few questions. It will mainly involve analyzing the most up to date economic data, interpreting what it all means, and relating back the theories and models being discussed. You will be evaluate based on whether you submit your work in on time, meet the minimum requirements, and most importantly accurately relate the outside materials to our theories and models **These actives will also be posted in the "assignments" section in your UCompass navigation menu.** They too will have the UCompass title of worksheet.

### 225 points for a comprehensive essay exam (1 exam worth 225 points)

At the end of the semester you will be required to complete a comprehensive final covering all the material delivered during the semester. It will be in an essay format. You will be evaluate based on whether you submit your work on time, meet the minimum requirements , and how well you can use the theories and models from the course to explain or predict some economic behavior or event.

### 225 points from 3 timed exams. (3 exams worth 75 points each).

You will take an exam at the end of week 5, week 10, and week 15. These exams will be timed and they are the one time that you need to sign in to the course at a designated time. The exams will be multiple choice format. The exact time of these exams will be announced.

Note: All of the above requirements will be completed within our UCompass course web site.

## **Late Policy**

All assignments given in a particular week are due at the end of that week. Weekly Quizzes cannot be turned in last since the answer keys are posted after the deadline. Discussion boards also close at the end of the week and additional posted made after that time will not receive credit. Critical thinking essays and Internet Activities will be accepted late **but there is a 10% penalty for every 24 hour period it's late.**

## **General Class Policies**

### **Online Conduct Policy**

Students at HFCC are expected to show respect for order, law, the personal rights of others, and the educational mission of the College, as well as to maintain standards of personal integrity.

Students working online will be held to the same behavioral standards as students in traditional classrooms. Please be aware that I will be observing your threaded discussions with each other, and I will review those discussions, commenting where appropriate with the goal of helping you to better understand the course content.

Specifically, you should adhere to the following guidelines:

- The Board is for discussions relevant to course material. Personal messages are to be sent somewhere else.
- Show respect all discussion participants and there opinions. Offering an opposing position is fine but personal attacks are not permitted
- Any correspondents you make will be evaluated on content as will as language, word choice, spelling, and grammar so check your correspondence before you send it
- Keep a professional tone in your writing.
- You are to adhere to HFCC's computer use policy as stated at <http://www2.hfcc.edu/resources/policy.htm>.
- Students are responsible for completing their own online course work.

#### Policy on Academic Dishonesty (Cheating)

Henry Ford Community College considers academic dishonesty to be a serious offense. It is the policy of the College that determination of and appropriate action in respect to academic dishonesty by a student shall be a matter of individual judgment by the instructor. The instructor may administer a penalty up to and including failure in the particular course. It is the professional obligation of the faculty to enforce academic integrity in their courses. Academic dishonesty is any activity intended to improve a student's grade fraudulently.\* It includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Unauthorized acquisition of tests or alteration of grades (such as the stealing of tests, test keys, or grade books from faculty offices or elsewhere, or the purchasing of tests or grade books);
2. Unauthorized use of notes, books, or other prohibited materials during an examination;
3. Open cheating on an examination (such as copying from another student's paper);
4. Permitting another person to take a test in the student's place or receiving unauthorized assistance with any work for which academic credit is received;
5. Providing unauthorized assistance with any work for which academic credit is received;
6. Revision of graded work in an attempt to receive additional credit fraudulently;
7. Plagiarism (using another person's work without acknowledgment);

8. Any other conduct intended to obtain academic credit fraudulently or dishonestly. If an instructor fails a student in a course for academic dishonesty, the instructor must immediately notify in writing the student and the registrar of the infraction, retaining copies of both notifications. The registrar maintains a record of all such violations. If a student fails two classes as a result of academic dishonesty, he or she is dismissed from the College for two academic years. In addition, a notation of the reason for academic dismissal is placed on the student's transcript. The notation may be expunged at the discretion of the appropriate vice president if the student petitions for its removal after at least two years have elapsed since the disciplinary action. If a student believes that the accusation is false, he or she may appeal through the Student Complaint Procedure. If the appeal reaches the Student Complaint Board, the Board may consider only whether the charge is justified. The Board may not set aside or change the penalty given by the instructor unless the charge of academic dishonesty is set aside.

\*Any action that violates the Student Conduct Policy and Due Process Procedure is also subject to review under that policy.

### **Student Support Services**

#### **Instructional Technology & Tech Buddies**

If you require assistance accessing UCompass Educator courses, please contact Instructional Technology at 313.845.9663, ext. 3, 4, or 5 or via e-mail at [signorelli@hfcc.edu](mailto:signorelli@hfcc.edu), [kolin@hfcc.edu](mailto:kolin@hfcc.edu), or [vbeaty@hfcc.edu](mailto:vbeaty@hfcc.edu). On-campus assistance is also available in the Student Center at the Tech Buddy Desk or within Instructional Technology, Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Instructional Technology is located on the lower level of the Learning Technology Center (same building as Campus Safety), room A-004.

#### **Media Center**

Located on the second floor of the Library, the Media Center is an open access computer lab where students can go to work on computer assignments, access the internet, and/or check their e-mail. For more information, you may contact the Media Center at 313.845.6386. For more information regarding Library Services, you may phone 313.845.9606.

#### **Assisted Learning Services**

The Assisted Learning Services Program is designed to assist physically challenged, learning disabled, or academically disadvantaged students at Henry Ford Community College to overcome barriers to education through supportive services. In addition, the Assisted Learning Services Department also provides tutoring services to the general student population. Assisted Learning Services is located in the LRC (Learning Resources Center), north side (parking lot side) main level. For more information, you may contact the office at 313.845.9617 or for the hearing impaired 313.845.9804.

## Learning Lab

Located on the second floor of the Learning Resource Center, the Learning Lab assist HFCC students with identifying and improving the skills needed for success in the areas of Reading, Writing, and Math. Although operation hours may slightly vary each semester, generally, the Learning Lab is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, from 7:30 a.m. – 8:40 p.m., on Friday from 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., and Saturday from 9:40 a.m. – 1:40 p.m. For more information, contact the Learning Lab at 313.845.9643.

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