

Investment and Macroeconomics (ITRN503.007), Fall 2009
Thursdays, 7:20 – 9:50 pm, September 10 – December 17
Dr. Daniel Gaske, 571-204-0427, ggaske @ gmU.edu
Office hours before and after class, by appointment

Please note syllabus is tentative and changes may occur!!

Welcome to Investment and Macroeconomics. In this course we are to discuss some of the most prominent economic problems of today, such as recession and its causes, monetary and fiscal policy actions and their impacts, and in general how to think about the internal and external trends of country economies.

Course Materials

Two books, listed below, are to be assigned for the course, in the sense that specific chapters in them are to be assigned as course readings. However, it may be possible, desired, to substitute readings from other books. In addition, many concepts to be covered in course can be found on websites such as www.wikipedia.org and www.economist.com (A-Z Economics), and through web searches on concepts. Feel free to use whatever combination of sources that provides the most understandable and helpful explanations. Course materials are for reference only; problem sets and examinations do not directly use them.

The assigned books are to be:

- *Macroeconomics, Brief Edition*, Campbell McConnell, Stanley Brue, Sean Flynn, Brief Edition, 1st Edition (MBF on schedule)
- *International Economics*, Thomas Pugel, 14th Edition (TP)

Requirements and Grading

Course grade is to be based on performance on 2 in-class open books/notes examinations, and 2 take-home problem sets. Problem sets may be worked on in groups, but with individual turn-in of results. Examinations are of course to be completed individually.

-- Examinations, problem sets, are to require application of concepts and principles covered in course to actual and hypothetical real world questions and issues.

-- Points are to be deducted for shortfalls – inaccurate calculations, incorrect interpretations, weak presentation, etc. – and deductions subtracted from total number of points possible.

-- Points obtained, after deductions, are to be calculated as percentage of total points possible, and set against scale of 96-100=A, 92-96=A-, 88-92=B+, 84-88=B, 80-84=B-, 70-80=C, <70=F, to obtain course letter grade.

-- Problem sets must be returned in printed, not electronic form

SPP Policy on Plagiarism

The profession of scholarship and the intellectual life of a university as well as the field of public policy inquiry depend fundamentally on a foundation of trust. Thus any act of plagiarism strikes at the heart of the meaning of the university and the purpose of the School of Public Policy. It constitutes a serious breach of professional ethics and it is unacceptable.

Plagiarism is the use of another's words or ideas presented as one's own. It includes, among other things, the use of specific words, ideas, or frameworks that are the product of another's work. Honesty and thoroughness in citing sources is essential to professional accountability and personal responsibility. Appropriate citation is necessary so that arguments, evidence, and claims can be critically examined.

Plagiarism is wrong because of the injustice it does to the person whose ideas are stolen. But it is also wrong because it constitutes lying to one's professional colleagues. From a prudential perspective, it is shortsighted and self-defeating, and it can ruin a professional career.

The faculty of the School of Public Policy takes plagiarism seriously and has adopted a zero tolerance policy. Any plagiarized assignment will receive an automatic grade of "F." This may lead to failure for the course, resulting in dismissal from the University. This dismissal will be noted on the student's transcript. For foreign students who are on a university-sponsored visa (eg. F-1, J-1 or J-2), dismissal also results in the revocation of their visa.

To help enforce the SPP policy on plagiarism, all written work submitted in partial fulfillment of course or degree requirements must be available in electronic form so that it can be compared with electronic databases, as well as submitted to commercial services to which the School subscribes. Faculty may at any time submit student's work without prior permission from the student. Individual instructors may require that written work be submitted in electronic as well as printed form. The SPP policy on plagiarism is supplementary to the George Mason University Honor Code; it is not intended to replace it or substitute for it.

Disabilities and Academic Accommodations

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the DRC.

Schedule

Date	Topic	Text References
Sep 3	No Class	
	Macroeconomics	
Sep 10	Measures of Macroeconomic Trends	MBF 5,6
Sep 17	Theories of Macroeconomic Trends	MBF 7
Sep 24	Fiscal Policy Problem Set; Due Oct 1	MBF 8
Oct 1	Monetary Policy	MBF 9,10
Oct 8	Long Run Economic Growth	MBF 11
Oct 15	Macroeconomic Trends/Issues of Today	TBD
Oct 22	Examination	Materials To Date
	International Investment/Finance	
Oct 29	Measures of International Financial Trends	TP 16
Nov 5	Foreign Exchange Markets, Exchange Rates, Exchange Rate Systems	TP 17,18,20
Nov 12	Assessing International Finance / Exchange Rate Trends: Basic Concepts Problem Set; Due Nov 19	TP 19,22
Nov 19	International Financial Adjustment with Pegged Exchange Rates	TP 23
Nov 26	No Class	
Dec 3	International Financial Adjustment with Floating Exchange Rates	TP 24,25
Dec 10	International Financial Trends/Issues of Today	TBD
Dec 17	Examination	Materials Since First Examination