

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY (SPP)**

**INVESTMENT AND THE MACROECONOMY
ITRN 503-001, Fall 2008
Syllabus
(August 27, 2008)**

Professor: Prakash Loungani

Class meetings: Thursdays 7.20 pm, Arlington Original Building, Room 338

Required Textbook: Macroeconomics, by N. Gregory Mankiw (Sixth edition)
(<http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/mankiw6/>). Some additional readings are given below and a few more will be assigned over the course of the semester.

Course Outline

Aug. 28 & Sep. 5	Introduction to the Course (Chapters 1-4) Monetary and Fiscal Policies (Chapters 14-15, 18)
<i>Sep. 12</i>	<i>Figuring out the Fed: Presentations of Project 1</i>
Sep. 19 & 26	Incomes, Jobs and Business Cycles (Chapters 6, 9-11, 13, 16, 19)
<i>Oct. 2</i>	<i>Is the U.S. Economy in a Recession?: Presentations of Project 2</i>
Oct. 9	Nonresidential Investment (Chapter 17)
Oct. 16	Residential Investment and House Prices
<i>Oct. 23 & 30</i>	<i>Linkages between Politics and Economics: Presentations of Project 3</i> Plus: The Political Business Cycle
Nov. 6 & 13	International Trade and Finance (Chapters 5, 12)
Nov. 20	Economic Growth (Chapters 7, 8)
Nov. 27	THANKSGIVING
<i>Dec. 4</i>	<i>Figuring out the ECB: Presentations of Project 4</i> Plus: Review Session

Assignments and Exams: Your grades will be based on four projects, which are due on the dates shown above, and a final exam. Information on the projects, and on the final, is contained in a separate document that will be given to you on the first day of class.

A Word on Grading: I expect to adhere to the standards set by other professors who have taught this course recently. My understanding is that in the past the median grade in the course has been “B” or “B+” and about 30% of the class gets “A” or “A- ” grades.

Contact information

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STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

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.

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 (e.g. 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.