

## ECON 3900 SPRING 2018 – INTERMEDIATE MACROECONOMICS

### SYLLABUS

Instructor: Dr. Celine Boulenger

Email: cboulenger@gsu.edu

Office: AYSPS 519

Office phone number: 404-413-0151

Office hours: Wednesdays 2 PM to 4 PM or by appointment

Class times: Mondays/Wednesdays from 5.30 PM to 6.45 PM

Class location: ADHOLD 12

**Prerequisites:** ECON 2105

**Textbook (required):** *Macroeconomics*, N. Gregory Mankiw, 9<sup>th</sup> edition.

**Course objective:** The goal of ECON 3900 is to apply the tools of aggregate economic analysis to the problems of the performance of the economy. The course links the theories with real world situations so that the students can learn the causes of macroeconomic fluctuations in production, employment, inflation, and international economic relations, with particular emphasis on macroeconomic policy issues.

**Method of Instruction:** ECON 3900 is taught through a combination of lecture, group discussions, homework, and examinations.

#### **Other required materials:**

##### **1. iCollege**

**Access to GSU's learning management system, iCollege is required.** It is recommended that students check the iCollege course website at least once between class meetings. Students may set up notifications in iCollege so that they are automatically alerted to new iCollege emails and announcements. iCollege can send such notifications to an email account of their choice or via text messaging. Student help for iCollege can be found here: <http://technology.gsu.edu/technology-services/it-services/training-and-learning-resources/desire2learn/taking-courses-in-desire2learn-for-students/>

- 2. Notes:** Student notes will be posted on iCollege before each class. However, these notes will have **blanks** and the student will be responsible for filling them in during class. Full notes will **not** be posted on iCollege. If a student misses class, he/she should reach out to his/her peers to copy their notes.

3. A **scientific calculator** (for homework and exams) is recommended.

**Course learning outcomes:**

1. The student should know how key macroeconomic variables such as GDP, CPI and the unemployment rate are measured. The student should know the factors of production and understand how changes in those factors affect output
2. The student should understand the role of banks in determining the money supply and should recognize the roles the Federal Reserve Bank plays in determining the money supply
3. The student should understand why inflation arises, how it is measured, and its costs to society
4. The student should know how an open economy differs from a closed economy and understand the concepts of net exports and exchange rates
5. The student should be able to describe the determinants of the natural rate of unemployment
6. The student should understand the Solow model of Economic growth and its implications
7. The student should be able to distinguish between long-run and short-run fluctuations
8. The student should know the IS/LM model and how it determines income and the interest rate in the short-run
9. The student should be able to understand and describe how Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply determine equilibrium price and output in the short-run and long-run.
10. The student should be able to explain why there is a short-run tradeoff between inflation and unemployment and how it relates to aggregate supply

**Course outline** (general plan for the course, deviations may be necessary)

Chapter 1: The Science of Macroeconomics

Chapter 2: The Data of Macroeconomics

Chapter 3: National Income: Where it Comes From and Where it Goes

Chapter 4: The Monetary System: What it is and How it Works

Chapter 5: Inflation: its Causes, Effects, and Social Costs

Chapter 6: The Open Economy

Chapter 7: Unemployment and the Labor Market

Chapter 10: Introduction to Economic Fluctuations

Chapter 11 and 12: Aggregate Demand and IS-LM Model

Chapter 14: Aggregate Supply and the Short-run Tradeoff Between Inflation and Unemployment

### Attendance policy

Attendance is not required for this class. However, group discussions will take place in class and will amount to a total of 10% of the student's grade.

### Exams, homework, quizzes and extra credit

1. **Homework:** there will be homework due every week posted on iCollege to turn in at the beginning of class on Mondays (you HAVE TO come to class to submit your homework). There are no make-ups for these assignments. However, I will **drop the lowest 2** grades at the end of the semester.
2. **Exams:** there will be 3 exams during the semester worth 20% each. **I will drop the lowest score** of the 3. There will be no make-up exams unless proof of medical emergency. The exams will be a mix of multiple choice questions and open handed questions. Here is the tentative schedule for these exams:

Exam 1	February 7 <sup>th</sup>
Exam 2	March 7 <sup>th</sup>
Exam 3	April 4 <sup>th</sup>

3. **Final exam:** the final exam will be comprehensive and will last 2 hours and 30 minutes. It will be on Monday April 30<sup>th</sup> in our classroom from 4.15 PM to 6.45 PM. The final exam is **MANDATORY** and cannot be dropped.
4. There will be **in class group discussions** throughout the semester that will amount to 10% of your grade (you need to attend class to be able to participate in these activities)
5. There will be an **extra credit** opportunity near the end of the semester consisting of a writing assignment

## 6. Grading Policy

Component of Grade	Weight
Homework (2 lowest dropped)	20%
Class participation (group discussions)	10%
Exams (lowest dropped)	40%
Comprehensive Final	30%
Total	100%

**Student grades will be assigned based on the following scale:**

Course Grade	Evaluation
A+	≥97%
A	93% - 97%
A-	90% - 93%
B+	87% - 90%
B	83% - 87%
B-	80% - 83%
C+	77% - 80%
C	73% - 77%
C-	70% - 73%
D	60% - 70%
F	< 60%

### **Important information:**

1. The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.
2. All students are responsible for knowing and adhering to **GSU's Policy on Academic Honesty** as published in Student Code of Conduct Handbook.

3. Your constructive assessment of this course plays an indispensable role in shaping education at Georgia State. Upon completing the course, please take time to fill out **the online course evaluation**.
4. Students who wish to request accommodation for a disability may do so by registering with the **Office of Disability Services**. Students may only be accommodated upon issuance by the Office of Disability Services of a signed Accommodation Plan and are responsible for providing a copy of that plan to instructors of all classes in which accommodations are sought.
5. Students who **withdraw** after the midpoint of each term will not be eligible for a “W” except in cases of Emergency Withdrawal.
  - a. Withdrawal Policy: <http://advisement.gsu.edu/self-service/policies/withdrawal-policy/>
  - b. Repeat to Replace Policy: <http://advisement.gsu.edu/self-service/policies/repeat-to-replace-policy/>
  - c. Grade Appeal and Change (including Incomplete Grades) Policy: <http://registrar.gsu.edu/academic-records/grading/grade-appeals-and-changes/>
6. Important **University dates** can be found at <http://registrar.gsu.edu/registration/semester-calendars-exam-schedules/>
7. Georgia State University values diversity and is committed to fostering and maintaining an educational environment which appreciates individual differences in all areas of operation including classroom instruction, texts, and materials. To this end, any actions, practices, or processes by any faculty, staff person, or student that discriminates against or is prejudicial toward any person or group based on race, gender, age, religion, ethnicity, nationality, disability, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status will not be tolerated.