

Department of Economics

Syllabus – Spring 2019

Course and Instructor Information

Course Title: Principles of Macroeconomics

Credits: 3

Format: Blended

Prerequisites: None. Not open for credit to students who have passed ECON 1200, 2198, 2327 or 2202.
May not be taken concurrently with ECON 1200. May be taken before or after ECON 1201.

Professor: Dr. Natalia V. Smirnova

Email: Natalia.Smirnova@uconn.edu

Office: Room 3.65, Stamford campus

Office Hours/Availability: Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. and by appointment

Course HuskyCT Web Page: <https://lms.uconn.edu>

Course Materials

Required Materials:

Asarta/Butters “Principles of Economics” Online Textbook.

Official Title:

Connect Master 1-Semester Online Access for Principles of Economics, 2nd Edition

By Carlos Asarta and Roger Butters

Copyright: 2018

McGraw-Hill

ISBN: *Connect Master: Economics 1-semester Access Card ISBN: 9781259935503 (\$75)*

The access code to this electronic product can be purchased:

- at the [UConn Bookstore](#) (ask for Asarta/Butters “Principles of Economics”)
- directly from McGraw-Hill through [HuskyCT](#) site for this class. When you are in HuskyCT for this class, click “Connect” tab on the left-hand side and then “Go to My Connect Section”. This will bring you to the McGraw-Hill site where you can either purchase the access code or input the access code purchased at the UConn Bookstore.

For immediate access, I recommend purchasing the product through HuskyCT directly from McGraw-Hill (direction in the second bullet above).

If you have already purchased the access code at the bookstore, but you are still waiting for it to arrive, you will be able to have complimentary access to the course for 14 days. Follow the process described above but choose the complimentary access option at registration.

You can watch [this video](#) to help you access this product.

Course Description

This is a one-semester course in *macroeconomics*. It provides a basic introduction to the organization and function of the economic system as a total unit. Economic decisions, institutions, and policies that determine levels and rates of growth of production, employment, and prices will be examined. (This is as opposed to *microeconomics* – ECON 1201 – which studies how the invisible hand of the market functions through the economic decisions of firms and individuals.)

Course Objectives

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

- Explain such economic concepts as GDP, business cycles, inflation, unemployment, and economic growth.
- Distinguish between fiscal and monetary policies.
- Identify the tools of fiscal and monetary policies.
- Analyze the effects of fiscal and monetary policies on economic growth.
- Analyze current economic conditions in the US in the light of macroeconomic policies in effect.

Course Outline and Calendar

Week	Topic	Assignment
1. Tuesday, January 22	Course overview, requirements, registration, logistics, etc.	Introductory videos
2. Tuesday, January 29	Money	Module 1 – Money (videos and problems)
3. Tuesday, February 5	Monetary Policy	Module 2 – Monetary Policy
4. Tuesday, February 12	Measuring Output and Income	Module 3 – Measuring Output and Income
5. Tuesday, February 19 Thursday, February 21	Exam # 1 – take home -- online Economic Growth	Coverage: Modules 1, 2, 3
6. Tuesday, February 26	Economic Growth	Module 4 – Economic Growth
7. Tuesday, March 5	Business Cycles, Unemployment, and Inflation	Module 5 – Business Cycles, Unemployment and Inflation
8. Tuesday, March 12	Aggregate Expenditure Model	Module 6 – Aggregate Expenditure Model
Tuesday, March 19	Spring break	
9. Tuesday, March 26 Thursday, March 28	Exam #2 – take home – online Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply	Coverage: Modules 4, 5, 6
10. Tuesday, April 2	Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply	Module 7 – Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply
11. Tuesday, April 9	Fiscal Policy	
12. Tuesday, April 16	Fiscal Policy	Module 8 – Fiscal Policy
13. Tuesday, April 23	Competing Views in Macroeconomic Theory	Module 9 – Competing Views in Macroeconomic Theory
14. Tuesday, April 30	Preparation for the Final Exam	Preparation for the Final Exam
15. May 6 -- 11	Final Exam week	Coverage: Modules 6, 7, 8, 9

Course Requirements and Grading

Summary of Course Grading:

Course Components	Points	
Participation	40	Participation is consistent attendance, preparedness, engagement, and punctuality. Includes forecasting activity through FREDCast .
Connect Master	90	Online assignments: 10 points for each of 9 assignments

Course Components	Points	
Exam # 1	100	Take home -- online
Exam # 2	100	Take home
Final Exam	100	Take home -- online
Total	430	100%

Participation

Students are expected to come to class regularly, to participate in class discussions, and to take part in small-group problem-solving activities that will involve reporting out to the larger class. We will be also competing in the forecasting economic indicators game through the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis [FREDCast](#). Students are expected to participate fully in this exercise.

Connect Master

ConnectMaster modules will be available online on Tuesdays. ConnectMaster is a product that is interactive, adaptive, and in alignment with how today's students seek and learn new information. These modules replace the traditional textbook experience. Each module needs to be completed by Thursday of the following week.

Each module is worth 10 points. Students will be graded based on the percent of the module completed by the deadline. For example, a student who completes 80 percent of the module by 11:59pm on Thursday night will receive 80 percent of 10 points for that specific module, or 8 points ($10 \times 0.8 = 8$).

Midterm Exams

There will be 2 midterm exams, which will be given as take-home online assignments. The details will be provided in class closer to the date.

Final Exam

Final exam will be non-cumulative. It will be given as a take-home online exam.

Grading Scale:

Total points for the class are 430, which constitute 100%. The points you have accumulated during the semester will be then converted to percentage to be used for the letter grade assignment.

Example:

My total points in ECON 1202 class = 370

My percentage grade calculation = $(370/430) \times 100\% = 86\%$

My letter grade = 86% = B (see table below).

Grade	Letter Grade	GPA
93-100	A	4.0
90-92	A-	3.7
87-89	B+	3.3
83-86	B	3.0
80-82	B-	2.7
77-79	C+	2.3
73-76	C	2.0
70-72	C-	1.7
67-69	D+	1.3

Grade	Letter Grade	GPA
63-66	D	1.0
60-62	D-	0.7
<60	F	0.0

Due Dates and Late Policy

All course due dates are identified in the *Connect Master*. Deadlines are based on Eastern Standard Time.

Connect Master will not accept late assignments. Due time is 11:59 p.m. EST.

Since each assessment is available in a window of several days with clearly stated due dates, there will be no make-ups of missed assessments except under very *unusual* circumstances. Being away and having no Internet access is **not** a valid reason.

The instructor reserves the right to change dates accordingly as the semester progresses. All changes will be communicated in an appropriate manner.

Feedback and Grades

Connect Master will have your scores displayed immediately after completion of the module.

Email

I will communicate with you via your UConn email address (usually firstname.lastname@uconn.edu). It is your responsibility to check this email account for messages. If you have a personal email address that you prefer to use, forward your UConn email to that address.

Student Responsibilities and Resources

As a member of the University of Connecticut student community, you are held to certain standards and academic policies. In addition, there are numerous resources available to help you succeed in your academic work. Review these important [standards, policies and resources](#), which include:

- The Student Code
 - Academic Integrity
 - Resources on Avoiding Cheating and Plagiarism
- Copyrighted Materials
- Netiquette and Communication
- Adding or Dropping a Course
- Academic Calendar
- Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment and Inappropriate Romantic Relationships
- Sexual Assault Reporting Policy

Students with Disabilities

Students needing special accommodations should work with the University's [Center for Students with Disabilities \(CSD\)](#). You may contact CSD by calling (860) 486-2020 or by emailing csd@uconn.edu. If your request for accommodation is approved, CSD will send an accommodation letter directly to your instructor(s) so that special arrangements can be made. (Note: Student requests for accommodation must be filed each semester.)

Blackboard measures and evaluates accessibility using two sets of standards: the WCAG 2.0 standards issued by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act issued in the United States federal government." (Retrieved March 24, 2013 from [Blackboard's website](#))

Software Requirements

The technical requirements for this course include:

- Word processing software
- [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#)
- Reliable internet access

Help

[Technical and Academic Help](#) provides a guide to technical and academic assistance.

This course's online portion is facilitated using the learning management platform, [HuskyCT](#). If you have difficulty accessing HuskyCT, you have access to the in person/live person support options available during regular business hours through the [Help Center](#). You also have [24x7 Course Support](#) including access to live chat, phone, and support documents.

Minimum Technical Skills

To be successful in this course, you will need the following technical skills:

- Use electronic mail with attachments.
- Save files in commonly used word processing program formats.
- Copy and paste text, graphics or hyperlinks.
- Work within two or more browser windows simultaneously.
- Open and access PDF files.

University students are expected to demonstrate competency in Computer Technology. Explore the [Computer Technology Competencies](#) page for more information.

Evaluation of the Course

Students will be provided an opportunity to evaluate instruction in this course using the University's standard procedures, which are administered by the [Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness](#) (OIRE).

Additional informal formative surveys may also be administered within the course as an optional evaluation tool.