DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS
Economics 234
Summer II 2005

Professor: Donald Bumpass
Office: BA 241C
Office Hours: M-F 10:00 - 11:00 and by appointment
Phone: 936-294-1268 or 936-29-1265 E-Mail: eco_dlb@shsu.edu
Fax: 936-294-3488

REQUIRED TEXT:

SUGGESTED SUPPLEMENTS:
"Wall Street Journal"
"Economist"

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
The economic role of government, public finance and taxation, unemployment and inflation, national income theory, money and banking, economic fluctuations and growth, and international trade and finance.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
The primary objective of the course is to introduce the student to fundamental ideas of microeconomics analysis so that they are properly prepared for subsequent course work in their curriculum. Each student should expect to:

1. To convey the nature of the economic problem.
2. To equip students to better appreciate the methodology of economics together with its strengths and weaknesses.
3. To provide a detailed understanding of how market systems function at the aggregate level.
4. To develop an understanding of the economic aspects of problems such as the business cycle, cyclical unemployment and inflation, productivity and economic growth, and international balance of payments disequilibrium.
5. To enhance students' abilities to actively and independently utilize the analytical framework of economics in decision making and the exercise of citizen responsibility.

6. In addition to the above general objectives, students—for examination purposes—will be required to:
   a. know the basic terms of economics, particularly macroeconomics. This includes knowing the definitions and when to use them correctly in dealing with particular macroeconomic problems;
   b. understand economic concepts and principles, particularly as they relate to one another and to changing macro-economic conditions;
   c. apply economic principles to new situations. This requires that students be able to identify the appropriate principle(s) relevant to a specific problem and to analyze the problem or circumstance in terms of appropriate principle or principles.
   d. interpret economic data in evaluating the condition of the macroeconomy. This implies the ability to differentiate between relevant and irrelevant data, to identify the trends in data and to make appropriate inferences from data as well as identify unwarranted conclusions.
COURSE EVALUATION PROCESS:

**Tests:**
There will be four (4) tests, which includes the final, during the semester. Each exam will be weighted equally with a maximum point value of 100 points for each exam. Exams will ordinarily be some combination of multiple choice, problems, essay, and/or problem oriented essay questions. The final test (test 4) is comprehensive. All exams will consist of material covered in class as well as material contained in the assigned text and not specifically covered in class.

**Quizzes:**
During the term, in class and take home quizzes will be assigned. Three (3) quizzes (called puzzles) will be worth 25 points each. Quizzes will be useful in preparation for the tests.

**Attendance Policy**
Regular and punctual class attendance is expected; tests and quizzes are based on class presentations and text materials. A student can earn a maximum of 25 points based on class attendance. **Classes Missed** | **Points**
--- | ---
0-2 | 25
3 | 15
4 | 5
5 or more | 0

**Course Grade**
Final grades will be based on the percentage of total points obtained during the term. Averages will be determined as follows:

- 60% - three (3) tests
- 20% - comprehensive test four
- 15% three quizzes
- 5% - attendance

Letter grades will be assigned in the following manner:

- 90% and above A
- 80% to 89% B
- 70% to 79% C
- 60% to 69% D
- Below 60% F
STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS:
The student must notify the instructor of each scheduled class that he/she would be absent from for a religious holy day by July 14, 2005. Request forms are available in the Department of Economics office in BA 231. The form must be completely filled out and personally presented to the instructor or sent certified mail, return receipt requested, within the time limits established. The student and the instructor will agree on a time that missed assignments must be completed.

DISABLED STUDENT POLICY:
It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic, Student Life program, or activity. Disabled students may request academic assistance when needed from a Committee for Continuing Academic Assistance for Disabled Students by visiting the Director of the Counseling Center in the Lee Drain Building Annex, or by calling ext. 1720.

GUIDE FOR PREPARING FOR TESTS AND PUZZLES
Before the Test:
Form a study group with other students. Keep the group small and your meetings brief. Reserve time for study on your own.
Gain access to old exams given by the same teacher—if possible. Specific questions will vary from year to year, but the test’s structure and content will likely be similar.
Take a vigorous walk or swim—to shake pre-test anxiety.

Multiple Choice Tests:
Read every answer before choosing.
If two choices are very similar, the answer is probably neither one of them.
If two choices are opposite, one is probably correct.
Follow your first impulse—unless you are SURE you are wrong.
The answer is usually wrong—if it contains ALL, ALWAYS, NEVER or NONE.
The answer is often right if it contains SOMETIMES, PROBABLY, or SOME.
Eliminate obviously wrong answers—when you don’t know the right answer.

Essay/Short Answer Tests:
Reread the question and underline the verbs. Then follow directions exactly. You’ll lose points if you "explain" when you’re asked to "argue"…or "describe" when asked to "compare and contrast."

Make an outline. It doesn’t need to be formal or elaborate. (You can skip the Roman numerals). A simple list of abbreviated words will do. Point: to make sure you include everything you need and want to say—in order.

Time Management and Your Semester
The key to managing your time and having a productive semester is planning ahead. The following are some tips that can help you manage your time better and get all your tasks completed on time:

1. Use a calendar that allows you to see a week at a time.
2. On your calendar, record all set activities for the semester: committee meetings, professional conferences, projects exams, class texts, etc.
3. As you learn of appointments, other meetings, or activities, add them to your calendar immediately.
4. Make a list of major projects you have set for yourself for the semester.
   a. Set priorities for your projects
   b. Break big projects into smaller tasks
5. Make a daily list of things you need to do (include both work and nonwork items)
   a. Try to prepare your list at the same time each day
   b. List phone calls you need to make
   c. List projects to complete or work on
   d. List appointments or meetings you need to schedule
   e. Set priorities for your daily list
   f. Move forward to the next day any items you did not complete
6. Plan time for recreational activities and use your calendar and lists to reduce stress by helping you stay organized. You do not have to worry about forgetting a project or not having enough time to finish a project by its deadline because you have planned effectively.
### PRINCIPLES OF MACROECONOMICS
#### COURSE OUTLINE

**Summer II 2005**

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### MORE INFORMATION ON ECONOMISTS -- JUST FOR FUN

- **Principles of Macroeconomics**
- **Teaching Materials**
- **Economic Education Web**