

Department of Economics

Syllabus -- Spring 2021

Distance Learning (DL)

Course and Instructor Information

Course Title: Principles of Macroeconomics

Credits: 3

Format: Distance Learning – synchronous virtual lectures at assigned times
Tuesdays and Thursdays @ 11 a.m. -- 12:15 p.m. via Collaborate on HuskyCT

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

Virtual Office: Natalia Smirnova's Personal Room
<https://uconn-cmr.webex.com/meet/nvs95001> | 643596241

Office Hours/Availability: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1 – 2 p.m. by appointment made on [Nexus](#).
You can e-mail me to request another time to meet (virtually).

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: 2019, McGraw-Hill.

ISBN: Connect Master: Economics 1-semester Access Card ISBN: 9781259935497 (\$75)

The product can be purchased at the [UConn Bookstore](#) or directly from McGraw-Hill through the HuskyCT site for this class.

I recommend purchasing the product though the HuskyCT site:

1. Navigate to the HuskyCT class site.
2. On the left-hand-side locate "Connect" and follow the steps.
 - o An additional document "How to Register for Connect" is available within the "Course Content" tab on the left-hand-side.

Once you purchase the product, please review [this video](#).

If you have already purchased the product 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.

Additional course readings and media will be available within HuskyCT.

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

Weeks	Topic	Assignment
1. Tuesday, January 19 Thursday, January 21	Course overview, requirements, registration, logistics, etc.	Introductory videos on <i>Connect</i> Video: What Economists Really Do
2. Tuesday, January 26 Thursday, January 28	Money	Module 1 – Money (videos and problems)
3. Tuesday, February 2 Thursday, February 4	Monetary Policy	Module 2 – Monetary Policy
4. Tuesday, February 9 Thursday, February 11	Measuring Output and Income	Module 2 – Monetary Policy homework due 2/11 @ 11:59 p.m. <u>Assignment</u> : New Monetary Policy Tools due on Sat 2/13 @ 11:59 p.m.
5. Tuesday, February 16 Thursday, February 18	<u>Tuesday</u> : Measuring Output and Income <u>Thursday</u> : Exam # 1 – take home -- online Opens: Friday, 02/19 @ 8 a.m. Due: Tuesday, 2/23 @ 12:30 p.m.	Module 3 – Measuring Output and Income homework due 02/18 Exam # 1 coverage: Modules 1, 2, 3
6. Tuesday, February 23 Thursday, February 25	<u>Tuesday</u> – no class meeting -- finishing Exam #1. <u>Thursday</u> – Career Panel – Diverse Journeys: Social Sciences Alumni Career Panel. Attendance required and will be recorded towards “participation”.	Exam # 1 due Tuesday 12:30 p.m. Thursday, February 25th, 11am-12pm Diverse Journeys: Social Sciences Alumni Career Panel Attendance at this event is mandatory and will be recorded. Webex Link: https://uconn-cmr.webex.com/uconn-cmr/onstage/g.php?MTID=e32eb4bdc7ac1bbd63f0ac42d33b58f8e .

7. Tuesday, March 2 Thursday, March 4	Economic Growth	Module 4 – Economic Growth
8. Tuesday, March 9 Thursday, March 11	Business Cycles, Unemployment, and Inflation	Module 5 – Business Cycles, Unemployment and Inflation
9. Tuesday, March 16 Thursday, March 18	Business Cycles, Unemployment, and Inflation	Module 5 – Business Cycles, Unemployment and Inflation
10. Tuesday, March 23 Thursday, March 25	Aggregate Expenditure Model Exam #2 –take home – online Opens: Friday 03/26 @ 8:30 a.m. Due: Tuesday 03/30 @ 11:59 p.m.	Module 6 – Aggregate Expenditure Model -- homework due Thursday 03/25@11:59 p.m. Exam # 2 coverage: Modules 4, 5
11. Tuesday, March 30 Thursday, April 1	<u>Tuesday</u> -- no class meeting Exam # 2 is due 03/30 @11:59 p.m. <u>Thursday</u> : Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply	Exam # 2 is due on Tuesday 03/30@11:59 p.m. Module 7 – Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply
12. Tuesday, April 6 Thursday, April 8	Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply	Module 7 – Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply
Tuesday, April 13 Thursday, April 15	Spring break	
13. Tuesday, April 20 Thursday, April 22	Fiscal Policy	Module 8 – Fiscal Policy
14. Tuesday, April 27 Last day of class	Fiscal Policy Participation scores revealed	Module 8 – Fiscal Policy
15. Monday, May 3 Thursday, May 6	Final Exam – take home – online Opens: Monday @ 8 a.m. Due: Thursday@ 12 noon	Final Exam Coverage: Modules 6, 7, 8

Course Requirements and Grading

Summary of Course Grading:

Course Components	Percent	
Participation	20%	Participation is consistent attendance, preparedness, engagement, and punctuality, including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FREDCast – 3 months * 10 points = 30 points ▪ FRED graphs – occasional assignments – 10 pts each ▪ Other occasional assignments - various points for each
Connect Master	20%	Online homework assignments: 10 points for each.
Exam # 1	20%	Take home, online Maximum points = 100

Exam # 2	20%	Take home, online Maximum points = 100
Final Exam	20%	Take home Maximum points = 100
Total	100%	

Participation

Students are expected to join the class via Collaborate regularly, to participate in class discussions, and to take part in activities that are conducted during a 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. There will be other exercises in class such as the construction of FRED graphs, in-class activities, and out-of-class assignments. You must be present in class to learn what was done. If your internet connection is unstable during any class, you can watch the recording of the class and fulfil any participation activities that were conducted. Participation assignments will be accepted up through the next class meeting. It is a student's responsibility to find out what was taught and what participation activities were conducted.

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 at 11:59 p.m.** (see up-to-date details on *ConnectMaster*).

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.

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.

Late assignments are not accepted.
There are no extra credit opportunities.
There are no make-up exams and/or assignments.

Feedback and Grades

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

Grading Scale

Grade	Letter Grade	GPA
93-100	A	4.0
90-92.99999	A-	3.7
87-89.99999	B+	3.3
83-86.99999	B	3.0
80-82.99999	B-	2.7
77-79.99999	C+	2.3
73-76.99999	C	2.0
70-72.99999	C-	1.7
67-69.99999	D+	1.3
63-66.99999	D	1.0
60-62.99999	D-	0.7
<60	F	0.0

Course Etiquette

Please be considerate of classmates: arrive to the virtual class meeting on time and be respectful during class discussions.

Cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices must be off (or in silent mode) before the class begins.

Computer use is required for this class. In addition to viewing a class meeting on Collaborate, occasionally, we will be doing research work online. Be prepared to follow along with the instructor.

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.