

Econ 104-A01: Principles of Macroeconomics
Summer 2021, Innovation Hall 132
Tuesday and Thursday 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Saturday 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Instructor: Zachary Kessler

Email: zkessle@gmu.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. or by Appointment on Zoom

Course Description

This course explores the major components and principles of the macroeconomy. Students will learn basic models and rules as well as a brief introduction to subfields within the broader macroeconomic subject. After completing the course, a student will possess a grasp on the fundamentals which shape the macroeconomy as well as the basic questions which direct those engaged in research.

Required Texts:

Modern Principles: Macroeconomics 5th Edition, Cowen and Tabarrok

Stubborn Attachments, Cowen

Grades:

Assignments 15%

Midterm 35%

Final Exam 35%

Participation 15%

Assignments: Following nearly every class there will be a short (one or two questions) assignment which you must complete. These are completion grades. In other words, so long as you submit the assignment, you will receive full credit. We will review the answers in the subsequent class.

Midterm and Final Exams: There will be two exams in this class. They will be take-home exams due the following class (see class schedule). There will be a short-answer and multiple-choice section. The short answer questions will ask you to draw upon the readings and lectures, recalling important points. The short-answer portion will ask you to take our economic tools and apply them in a more original manner.

Participation: Attendance in class is certainly mandatory but participating in class also augments your grade. In particular, there will be several points to discuss readings, news stories, and other items. Active participation during these times is important to your grade.

Class Schedule:

Week 1 May 17th: Thinking like an Economist

Modern Principles Chapters 1-5
Stubborn Attachments 1-2

Week 2 May 24th: Economic Development

Modern Principles Chapters 6-10
Stubborn Attachments 3-4
MIDTERM EXAM, given out the 29th, due the 1st

Week 3 May 31st: Business Cycles

Modern Principles Chapters 11-14
Stubborn Attachments 5-6

Week 4 June 7th: Monetary Economics

Modern Principles Chapters 15-19
Stubborn Attachments 7-8

Week 5 June 15th (only class): Concluding Discussions

FINAL EXAM, given out the 15th, due the 19th at 10:15 a.m.

Late Work Policy:

Due to the speed of the class, late work will only be accepted with a valid excuse. These include any type of appointments or emergencies. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, if you are unable to attend class to turn in an assignment or exam. You can scan and email it to me by the end of the day.

Absence Policy:

All students have an allowance of two absences for the semester. In other words, you are allowed to miss class two times without notifying me or providing documented justification or reasoning. Given the continued uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the goal of this policy is to ensure you have the flexibility to be safe and take care of any other priorities that may arise. I only ask you do not abuse this policy as this will harm you in the class. Because of the accelerated pace, missing a class is far more impactful than during a traditionally organized semester.

GMU Honor Code:

Students are expected to follow GMU's Honor Code in every aspect of the course. No cheating or plagiarism will be tolerated for any assignments. Any individual caught using such methods will be reported to the necessary parties and will immediately receive a zero for the assignment.

Statement on Accommodations:

Any student with a disability who desires academic accommodations, please let me know and reach out to GMU Disability services via email at ods@gmu.edu or on the phone, 703-993-2474. Any arrangements to be made will be done so through this office.

Statement on Inclusivity

This class will cultivate an inclusive environment supporting a broad variety of experiences and backgrounds. These differences are to be acknowledged, celebrated, and provide insight on any topics discussed.

Student Privacy

During the course of this class, no student's personal information will be disclosed to anyone. For more information on your rights to privacy in this class under FERPA, please visit this link: <https://registrar.gmu.edu/ferpa/>.

Other Student Resources

Keep Learning, Learning Services (learningservices.gmu.edu/keeplearning/)
University Libraries (library.gmu.edu)
Writing Center (writingcenter.gmu.edu)
Counseling and Psychological Services (caps.gmu.edu)