



Summer 2016, May 31 – August 5

ECON2410; Principles of Economics, Macroeconomics

3 CREDIT HOURS

### **Instructor Information**

**Instructors:** Jason DeBacker and Bichaka Fayissa

**Office Location:** BAS N306 (DeBacker) and BAS N322 (Fayissa)

**Office Phone:** 615-898-2528 (DeBacker) and 615-898-2385 (Fayissa)

**Office FAX:** 615-898-5596

**Email Address:** [jason.debacker@mtsu.edu](mailto:jason.debacker@mtsu.edu) and [bichaka.fayissa@mtsu.edu](mailto:bichaka.fayissa@mtsu.edu) (use D2L email for course correspondence)

**Office Hours:** Office hours will be held asynchronously through the D2L message forum. Please use the D2L forum for all questions related to the course content. This way, questions and answers will be viewable by (and for the benefit of) all those enrolled in the course. We will check these forums daily to answer any outstanding questions.

### **Course Information**

*Course Description:* This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamental tools of macroeconomic theory and important topics of macroeconomic study. We will study the economic concepts of national income and its fluctuations, inflation, unemployment, role of the banking system, monetary and fiscal policies, and international topics. We will use analytical models, numerical examples, and current events to apply and better understand these concepts.

*Course Objectives:* At the completion of the course, students should:

1. Understand opportunity cost, comparative advantage, and their relationship.
2. Be able to calculate variables of macroeconomic measurement including GDP, unemployment, and inflation.

3. Describe how institutions and factors of production influence economic performance and growth.
4. Understand and interpret economic fluctuations through business cycle theory.
5. Explain the channels, effects, and limitations of monetary policy.
6. Explain the effects and limitations of fiscal policy.
7. Know what affects asset prices, including bonds, stocks, and currency.
8. Understand how political institutions shape economic policy.

*Prerequisites:* There are no prerequisites for this course.

*Course Topics:* The course will begin with a review of basic microeconomic theory that will form the basis of our models of the macroeconomy. We will then move on to the measurement of economic progress and look at theories of economic progress. Next, we study economic fluctuations and monetary and fiscal policy responses to these fluctuations. Finally, we end the course with a study of financial economics and the role of the political system in determining economic outcomes.

*Specific Course Requirements:* This course requires knowledge of basic algebra and an ability to interpret graphs.

## **Textbooks and Supplementary Materials**

*Required Textbooks:* *Modern Principles: Macroeconomics*, by Cowen and Tabarrok. A hard copy of the book may be ordered online at [Phillips Bookstore](#), [Amazon.com](#), or [Chegg.com](#) (Chegg.com often has the best deals on used texts). An e-book is available through Worth Publishers or may be purchased through Sapling Learning (see the detail in the Supplementary Material section below).

*Supplemental Websites:*

- We will use Sapling Learning for weekly problem sets and exams.
- You can sign up for Sapling by going here to <http://www2.saplinglearning.com/>, clicking on “US Higher Ed”, creating an account, and then browsing to this course (**Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) - ECON 2410 - Macroeconomics - Summer16 - FAYISSA**). The cost is \$40 for the semester.
- Note that you can integrate the e-book into Sapling and the total cost for the e-book and use of Sapling is \$90.
- Direct links to the problem sets and exams done in Sapling will be provided in D2L

## **Assessment and Grading**

*Testing Procedures:*

- When taking online exams:
  - Students should access D2L through <http://elearn.mtsu.edu> instead of through PipelineMT. Pipeline eventually times out causing students to lose valuable time while dealing with a popup window. If PipelineMT is used to access an exam, the

Pipeline window may be closed (not the D2L window) preventing the timeout situation.

- Be sure to set up your Internet connection for no interruptions during the exam. E.g., if you have a dial-up connection that will be interrupted with call waiting, please turn off call waiting.
- Tests will be taken through Sapling Learning (as described above), which you can access through a direct link on the D2L course page.
- Please save each answer to online test questions as they answer each question in case a computer crashes or loses Internet connectivity. Students may reboot their computers or wait for internet connectivity to access the test again, and D2L will allow students to continue taking the test using the time left and the question answers they have saved.
- Exams are timed and are two hours in duration. After that time, answered and saved questions are graded and not further progress is allowed.
- Exams are closed note and closed book.
- Exams are to be completed individually and without the assistance of others.
- If technical issues interfere with your exam completion, you are allowed **one** restart of an exam for the entire semester. Only one restart will be given regardless of the reason you need to restart the exam(s).

*Grading Procedure:* Your grade will be based on the following components: two midterm exams (20% each), final exam (20%), weekly problem sets (20%), weekly Planet Money quizzes (10%), and participation in discussion forums (10%). Full credit in for participation in the discussion forums requires that the student post one question and one reply each week of class.

*Grading Scale:*

- A = 93.0 and up
- A- = 90.0-92.9
- B+ = 87.0-89.9
- B = 83.0-86.9
- B- = 80.0-82.9
- C+ = 77.0-79.9
- C = 73.0-76.9
- C- = 70.0-72.9
- D = 60.0-69.9
- F = 59.9 and below

Grades will be calculated exactly as above. Note that there are no opportunities for “extra credit.” Please do not ask for special favors or consideration of individual circumstances in the determination of your grade.

## Assignments and Participation

*Assignments:* There will be one problem set each week. These problem sets are to be completed in Sapling, with direct links to the problem sets provided in the course D2L page. The due dates for these are in the attached course schedule. Problem sets are open book and open note.

*Planet Money Quizzes:* Students will be assigned to listen to a *Planet Money* podcast (<http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/>) each week. These podcasts will relate to the course material from the week. Links to the episodes are provided through the course D2L page. Following the podcast, students must complete a short quiz covering issues discussed in the relevant episode. The quizzes will be administered through D2L. Quizzes are open book and open note.

*Class Participation:* Students must participate in the course message forums. In particular, 10% of the student's grade reflects his/her posting one question and one reply in the message forum, each week.

*Punctuality:* Problem sets are due by 11:55pm on Tuesdays. Quizzes on *Planet Money* episodes must be completed by 11:55pm on Wednesdays. Weekly participation in discussion forums must be done by 11:55pm on Wednesdays. Exam dates are noted on the course schedule and must be completed by 11:55pm on the listed date. Exams will be available to students one week prior to their due date.

*Course Ground Rules:* Students are expected to:

- Participate in discussion forums;
- Learn how to navigate in the learning environment system;
- Keep abreast of course announcements;
- Use their MTSU student email address as opposed to a personal email address;
- Resolve or bring technical problems to the instructors attention immediately; and
- Observe course etiquette at all times.

## Attendance

MTSU Administration requires that instructors complete an attendance report for each course each semester. Regular class attendance is required and will be monitored by: the D2L system report; participation in the discussion board; and timely submission of course assignments. If several class assignment submissions are missing, your attendance will be reported as "no longer attending."

## Communication Guidelines

*Email:*

- Per the [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#), **all course communication will be conducted using D2L email.** Faculty will not respond to student emails via a non-institutional assigned email account. After the term, please communicate via your MTSU assigned MTMAIL account.
- Always include a subject line.

- Remember that without facial expressions some comments may be misinterpreted. Choose your words carefully when writing your emails. Use of emoticons might be helpful in some cases.
- Use standard fonts.
- Do not send large attachments without permission.
- Special formatting such as centering, audio messages, tables, html, etc. should be avoided unless necessary to complete an assignment or other communication.
- Respect the privacy of other class members

#### *Discussion Groups:*

- Review the discussion threads thoroughly before entering the discussion. Be a lurker then a discussant.
- Try to maintain threads by using the "Reply" button rather starting a new topic.
- Do not make insulting or inflammatory statements to other members of the discussion group. Be respectful of other's ideas.
- Be patient and read the comments of other group members thoroughly before entering your remarks.
- Be cooperative with group leaders in completing assigned tasks.
- Be positive and constructive in group discussions.
- Respond in a thoughtful and timely manner.

#### *Chat:*

- Introduce yourself to the other learners in the chat session.
- Be polite. Choose your words carefully. Do not use derogatory statements.
- Be concise in responding to others in the chat session.
- Be prepared to open the chat session at the scheduled time.
- Be constructive in your comments and suggestions

## **Student Resources**

- [Frequently Used Student Resources](#)
- **Technical Support**

Students who experience problems logging into their course, timing out of their course, using the course web site tools or experience other technical problems, should be encouraged to contact the [MTSU Help Desk](#) online (24/7) or at 1-615/898-5345.

- **Students With Disabilities**

*Reasonable Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:* Middle Tennessee State University is committed to campus access in accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Any student interested in reasonable accommodations can consult the Disability & Access Center (DAC) website <http://www.mtsu.edu/dac> and/or contact the DAC for assistance at 615-898-2783 or [dacemail@mtsu.edu](mailto:dacemail@mtsu.edu).

- **Academic Misconduct**

The use of a third party to submit a student's work is only allowed when accommodations are approved by the Disabled Student Services Office. Students found to be in violation of this policy will be reported to the faculty member and Dean of Student Affairs.

Students should be familiar with the "[MTSU Students Rights and Responsibilities](#)" handbook which **outlines academic misconduct including plagiarism, cheating, fabricating or facilitating any such act.** The Handbook also **provides a statement of community standards of civil behavior and code of computer use.**

- **Hope (Lottery) Scholarship Information**

- Do you have a lottery scholarship? **A grade of C, D, F, W, or I in this class may negatively impact TELS eligibility.** Please refer to your Lottery Statement of Understanding form via RaiderNet, review lottery requirements on the web at [www.mtsu.edu/scholarships/telsconteligibility\\_scholarships.php](http://www.mtsu.edu/scholarships/telsconteligibility_scholarships.php), or contact Lisa Throneberry at [lisa.throneberry@mtsu.edu](mailto:lisa.throneberry@mtsu.edu).

- **The True Blue Pledge**

I am True Blue.

As a member of this diverse community, I am a valuable contributor to its progress and success. I am engaged in the life of this community. I am a recipient and a giver. I am a listener and a speaker. I am honest in word and deed. I am committed to reason, not violence. I am a learner now and forever. I am a BLUE RAIDER. **True Blue!**