Intentions

In this course, I hope to introduce you to modern macroeconomic theory but from an historical perspective. The first three weeks will consist of a look at the early economists and some of their major contributions. We will then discuss, as a group, how these ideas are manifested in our own world. The remainder of the course will consist of an examination of modern economic theory and how it may be applied to today's problems. Most importantly, we will examine some of these problems from the three major ideological perspectives.

We will have periodic group discussions for which you will prepare short, written assignments ahead of time. You will have an opportunity to discuss these in your recitations for refinement if necessary or for raising alternative questions. We will then discuss these issues as a large group at least three times (possibly four). These discussions are designed to bring an active element to an otherwise sedentary situation. You should plan on participating. You will not be judged badly if you sound confused. It is my feeling that real learning starts just after there is some real confusion. If nothing else, you won't have to listen to me.

Textbooks


Grading:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm #1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm #2</td>
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<td>Recitation</td>
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<td>Final-Comprehensive</td>
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THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UPS. If you have taken all of the exams and quizzes and have done all of the assignments, then you will be given the higher of your final exam grade or your over-all average for your course grade. If you miss an assignment, see me ahead of time, and have an adequate excuse, then you will still be provided this option. However, should you fail to meet any of these requirements, then you will average a zero for the score missed and accept your over-all average for your course grade. See me if this is not clear because I will stick to it to the letter.

Schedule: This schedule will take us through the first exam. At that time I will provide you with the rest of the semester schedule.

Jan 14   Introduction: Fusfeld CH 1
Jan 16   Fusfeld CH's 2-3
Jan 19   Martin Luther King's Birthday
Jan 21 - 23 Fusfeld CH's 4-5
Jan 26 - 30 Fusfeld CH's 6-8 Essay questions for discussion will be handed out and you should read Carson's "Alternative Philosophies".
Feb 2 - 4 Fusfeld CH's 9 and 11
Feb 6   Open discussion: Carson "Alternative Economic Philosophies. You must bring your finished essays to class.
Feb 9 - 13 Schiller CH's 3-4
Feb 16 -18 Schiller CH 5 Carson Issue #1 "Business Cycles"
Feb 20 - 23 Schiller CH 6 Carson Issue # 4 "Chronic Unemployment"
Feb 25   Free day to tie up loose ends and prepare for the exam. A most important day.
Feb 27   Mid-term #1

Recitation Schedule

Week of:
Jan 19th   Schiller CH 1. Basic Math Review with assignment for the following week.
Jan 26th   Schiller CH 2. Basic Supply and Demand and Elasticity with assignment not to be handed in. The answers will be posted.
Feb 2nd   Small group discussions. You must have at least a rough draft of your essays done.
Feb 9th    Review NIA and Public Sector. Quiz #1
Feb 16th   Discuss business cycles as per Carson and Schiller.
Feb 23

Discuss Unemployment and/or review for the exam.

Personal Note: This looks like a lot, but I know, as a student, that we would all learn much more if we just read much more. While you must learn some details, I am more interested that you learn concepts and how economists view our world. I will try to stress the details to you so you may focus on reading the assignments without the ever present highlighters. If you are like me, then by the third reading you do not know what you have just underlined. In fact, it wasn't until my senior year that I realized that you can read through yellow highlighter better than black. Have fun.