

HOW THIS COURSE WORKS

This introduction is for students enrolled in Professor Alan Gummerson's ECO 2013: Principles of Macroeconomics for Spring, 2017. As you may be aware, this course is different than most, since you may participate by attending the class in person, and/or by watching the video replay of the lectures on your computer. The videos for the whole semester will be archived on BlackBoard, so you may go back to any part of the course at any time.

Lectures will be given three times a week from 11 – 11:50 am, MWF, in room 155 of Parking Garage 5 (Market Station) just off Eighth Street at S.W. 109th Ave. Although we expect more than 600 students to enroll in the course, seating in the classroom is limited to 144. Therefore attendance in the live class will be optional. Our expectation is that a large number of you will prefer the convenience of watching the lectures at a time and place that suits you, or to take advantage of the freedom to enroll in another course at the same time the live lecture is offered. On the other hand, those who want the ability to attend the class, ask questions during the class, and participate in class discussion, should be able to do so. There is clear evidence from previous semesters that those who regularly attend class do better in the course than those who do not attend.

Tutoring Center and Office Hours. A key part of this course is the Economics Tutoring Center in VH-136. VH is the building just northwest of the library on the MM campus. The Tutoring Center will be open from 9am to 5pm, MTWRF, and will be available for you on a walk-in basis to get personalized help with your economics questions. It is equipped with a number of computers that can access LaunchPad and the etext. The Tutoring Center will be operated by Ph.D. students in economics, all of whom know a thing or two about economics. Prof. Gummerson will hold his office hours in the Tutoring Center every Thursday from 1:00 to 3:30pm. The Tutoring Center will be open beginning the 2nd week of classes.

Exams. When you registered for the course, you chose one of three sections for the purpose of taking exams. The exams will be given three times in the semester on Friday afternoons or evenings: February 10, March 24, and April 28, all in SIPA-125. The timing of the exams has been chosen to avoid conflicts with other courses you may wish to take. Please make a note of your section number, and the dates, time, and place for your exams. Your section will determine the time you must take each exam:

ECO-2013.U02	2 – 4pm
ECO-2013.U03	5 – 7pm
ECO-2013.U04	7:15 – 9:15pm

Textbook and Homework. The required text for this course is Krugman and Wells, Macroeconomics, 4th Edition, Worth Publishers, 2015, ISBN: 978-1-319-04559-3. We have instructed the FIU bookstore to order the loose-leaf version of

the text, which will cost you less and may also be more convenient. Enclosed with the text at the bookstore will be a card with a code number which will be your entry key to the online website called LaunchPad that the publisher of the text has created, and where you will do the required homework in the course. The text and code card together sell in the bookstore for about \$130. Or, you could go to the Worth Publishers website and purchase with a credit card for \$90 access to an electronic version of the text along with access to LaunchPad. Or you may buy at the bookstore just the access code to LaunchPad, which includes the etext, for \$107.

You may register for three-week temporary access to LaunchPad, even if you don't have the funds to pay immediately. Take advantage of this if you need to.

Whatever method you choose to acquire the text, make sure you do so, since it will be impossible to pass this course without studying the textbook. (Studies show that students learn more from hard copies of the text than from e-texts, so getting a hard copy of the loose-leaf text for \$40 or less is a best buy.)

Each of the three exams is worth 30% of your course grade, and the exams are designed to determine if you understand the material in the text; the other 10% of your course grade will be determined by how well you do on the homework on LaunchPad, which is directly keyed to the text, and which is designed to help you do better on the exams.

Blackboard. When the semester starts, the university will grant access to those who are registered for the course to the Blackboard site for the course. There you will find the syllabus, schedule, Tutoring Center and Office Hours information, and instructions for gaining access to LaunchPad where you will do homework assignments and where you will have access to the e-text, etc. The video lectures will also be archived on Blackboard (on the left, under Class Recordings), and should be available shortly after the class ends (except for the first lecture, which usually takes about 24 hours to arrive).