Class Hours  Monday, Wednesday
           5:30 PM – 6:50 PM, DB 121

Contact Information

Instructor:  Jim Owen, Ph.D.
Office:     Dillard 293
Office Phone:  940-397-4662
FAX:        940-397-4693
Office Hours:  Primary office hour:  M 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM;  Regular office hours -
               MW 8:30-9:30 AM; 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM; and 3:00 – 5:30 PM; or by appointment.
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Required Materials and Accessory

Required:

Recommended:
1) Lecture Notes (PowerPoint slides; available through Blackboard), and
   Publisher: McGraw-Hill/Irwin

Reference Books:
1) *Principles of Macroeconomics* (9th Edition) by Karl E. Case, Ray C. Fair and Sharon M.
   Oster, IBSN: 0136058965, Publisher: Prentice Hall
   0324236972, Publisher: South-Western Cengage Learning

Course Description

Scope and methodology of economics; Development of principles useful for understanding
aggregate economics and for choosing policy to resolve problems such as unemployment,
inflation, recession, poverty, economic stagnation, and resource waste.
Course Objective

A. General Learning Goals:

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:
1) Demonstrate problem solving and decision making abilities through the critical analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of business and economic information.
2) Demonstrate a competency in speaking and writing for common business scenarios.
3) Have an understanding of the influence of global and multicultural issues on business activities.

B. Course Specific Learning Goals:

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:
1) Have acquired factual knowledge about economic terminology, methods, and trends.
2) Understand basic economic principles necessary for thinking critically about the economizing problem, specific macroeconomic issues, and available public policy alternatives.
3) Understand how to apply economic principles in the contexts of business, government, politics, and society.
4) Recognize the importance of economics with respect to private and public decisions.
5) Have basic tools to evaluate economic options and changes from the perspective of an informed voter and member of society.

Prerequisite:

For many of you this is probably your first course in economics. Therefore, there are absolutely no prerequisites needed for taking this class. Generally, I will presume that you can handle basic graphical analysis and basic college algebra.

Calculator Requirement:

Each student should have a calculator (a regular or a scientific one will do) in class. A student is expected to be familiar with his/her calculator’s functions. Use of a cell phone calculator is not permitted.

Course Policies:

A. Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend all class meetings for this course, following the university attendance policy. (See Midwestern State University Undergraduate Catalog, Vol. LXXVII, p. 85 & p. 90). Each meeting of the class will run as scheduled. So as not to disturb the class, you are not to walk in and out of the classroom during the class hour except for an emergency.
Students are expected to attend class and participate in discussions. Students who are absent for three (3) consecutive class sessions may be dropped from the class with a “WF”. Meaningful participation in discussions will require that assigned materials and projects be completed before the class in which they are considered. Assignments are to be turned in at the beginning of class. Assignments turned in late (after the first 5 minutes of the class period in which they are due) will be accepted for grading, provided they are submitted before solutions are posted. Late submissions may be subject to a potential penalty equal to no more than 12% of the grade earned. Make-up quizzes will not be given, even if an absence is determined to be excused.

Keep all the exams, quizzes, and homework until the end of the term to verify any discrepancy in records. If you happen to be absent on the day the quizzes, exams, or homework assignments are returned in the class, you must come to my office to retrieve them.

EXPECTATIONS
Answers you provide in exams, homework assignments, and projects are expected to reflect logical reasoning, to be well articulated, including correct grammar and punctuation and to be clearly legible. Correct and understandable communication will be included in determination of the grade for each assignment, quiz, and examination

Grading and Evaluation:

Grades will be based on student performance and achievement as measured by a series of homework assignments, unannounced quizzes, and examinations. The relative value of each is:

Unannounced and scheduled quizzes: 20%
Examination grades: 50%
Homework assignments 20%
Class participation 10%

An optional comprehensive final exam will be given. This exam will be the make-up exam for those individuals who, for one reason or another, miss one of the mid-term exams. For all students who take the final exam, the achieved grade will replace the lowest mid-term exam score that is recorded.

Exams:

There will be 4 exams during this term plus the final exam. The exams will include questions on any covered material, e.g., lecture notes, textbook, classroom discussions, and reading assignments. Each of the exams will be scheduled for a full class period. The final exam is scheduled for 5:45 PM on Monday, 05 DEC 11 in DB 121. Each exam contains a varying mixture of true/false, multiple choice, short essay and calculation questions. Each student will need a calculator and scantron for the exams. Cell phones are not allowed during the exams.

There will be no make-up for missed exams. It is the student’s responsibility to know when and where exams will be held. The comprehensive final exam will serve as the make-up exam for this class.
Participation:

Student participation is very important for this course. Therefore participation credits are assigned to encourage students to attend classes and engage in class discussion. Participation grade depends on the following factors:

- Attendance
- Performance on raising and answering questions in class
- Performance on raising and answering questions on Blackboard discussion board

Students with outstandingly good participation can earn up to 10 points through participation grades, while students that seldom participate or are disruptive to class may get zero participation grade. There is no guarantee that a student attending every class will automatically receive the full credit from class participation.

For the record keeping purpose, each class period a roll sheet will be passed through the class and students need to make sure that they sign on the roll sheet. Signing any other student’s name on the roll sheet is considered as a disruptive conduct in this course. No student is allowed to enter the classroom if s/he is late for more than 15 minutes. A student who needs to leave the classroom early must ask the instructor for an approval before the class.

Other Course Policies

1) Please bring a calculator to class.
2) Please do not use your laptop or cell phone during the class.
3) It is obviously in a student’s best interests to attend class regularly. The materials are cumulative in nature, so if a student misses some lectures, she or he will not make sense out of subsequent lectures. In addition, she/he potentially loses opportunities to earn quiz credits in the event of an absence. So skip at your own risk!
4) Students are expected to read the class material before and after the scheduled classes.
5) Announcements not made in class will be posted online through WebCT. Students have the responsibility to check the postings regularly.
6) Video, audio, and image recording other than taking hand-written or typed notes in the classroom is not allowed without the prior consent of the instructor. Redistribution of course material prepared by the instructor in any form outside this class is not allowed.

Electronic Communication Devices

Use of electronic communication devices (cell phones, computers, pagers, etc.) is not permitted during class sessions. Students are encouraged to disable these instruments while attending class. Individuals holding devices that disrupt class will be asked to leave the class for the remainder of the session. Electronic communication devices are not permitted during examinations. If you plan to use a calculator during exams, you must have one that is independent of communication devices.
OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION:

**Midwestern State University Student Handbook** - See the most recent *MSU Student Handbook* for a statement of the university's policy on academic dishonesty. Any other questions not specifically addressed by this syllabus are governed by the student handbook. Make sure you have a copy and are familiar with all the procedures therein. Pay close attention to the Code of Student Conduct section.

**Medical or Other Serious Problems** - Please take time and make the effort to advise me if you have difficulties that require my attention to properly evaluate your classroom participation and activities.

**Tape Recordings and Cell Phones** - Tape recording of lectures is permitted. You may not tape record any information or class discussion when a graded test is being reviewed. Cell phones and pagers are prohibited unless the instructor has granted permission to have them in class.

**Return of Exams** - Never take an exam or graded answer sheet out of the classroom. This will result in an automatic zero (0) on the exam.

**Grade Postings** - Exam grades will be posted by using **Blackboard**.

**Plagiarism Statement**: “By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a ‘limited right’ in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The ‘limited right’ shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student’s work product in order to verify originality and authenticity, and educational purposes.”

**Lower Grades** – The instructor reserves the right to lower any student’s final grade by a letter grade (i.e., A to B, D to F) for:
(A) A negative, rude, unreasonably argumentative or inattentive attitude in class, or,
(B) Repeatedly disrupting the class for any reason (tardiness), or,
(C) NOT showing respect for fellow classmates' questions, opinions, or class presentations, or,
(D) Excessive absences – 5 or more - (see Attendance Policy above)

**Academic Integrity**

Students shall follow the “Student Honor Creed” on p. 4 of the Midwestern State University Student Handbook (2009-2010). A student who commits academic dishonesty is subject to conduct sanctions (Please see p. 71 Item 11 of the Handbook for the definition of Academic Dishonesty, p. 73 and p. 74 for Conduct Sanctions, and p. 75 Section 4 for the Academic Misconduct Procedures).
References


Blackboard

Extensive use of the MSU Blackboard program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to become familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can find access to the system through the MSU homepage. If you experience difficulties using it, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Important Dates for Fall 2011 term:

Last day for fall term schedule changes: 24 AUG 11
Deadline to apply for graduation in December 2011: 03 OCT 11
Last day to drop with grade of “W”: 17 OCT 11

Americans with Disabilities Act:

This class follows the guidelines suggested by the Center for Counseling and Disabilities Services for those students who qualify for disability services. See Midwestern State University Undergraduate Catalog, Vol. LXXVIII, No. 1, p. 21 or the Center offices at Clark Student Center, Room 168. (http://students.mwsu.edu/disability/)

Syllabus Change Policy: This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change. All changes will be announced in class and students will be responsible for incorporating the changes into the syllabus. When revisions or changes occur, a copy of the revised syllabus will be posted on Blackboard in the class folder.