

ECON 2301–HN1: Principles of Macroeconomics
FALL 2025, TR 2:30–3:45 p.m., ECSW 4.325

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Office Hours: Monday: 11:00am – 11:50 am, Wednesday 5:30-6:45 pm & by appointment.

Course Description (Honors Twist)

This course introduces the principles of macroeconomics with a focus on national income, unemployment, inflation, fiscal and monetary policy, and international economics. As an honors section, the course integrates deeper analytical questions, debates, and data explorations designed to challenge critical thinking and connect theory to current events. Topics will include current policy debates such as tariffs, unemployment among new graduates, housing affordability, and the impact of artificial intelligence on labor markets.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

The main focus of this course is to understand how entire economies behave, as reflected in macroeconomic variables such as interest rates, GDP, unemployment, and aggregate consumption. By engaging with macroeconomic models and applying them to real-world issues, students will:

- **Analyze** core macroeconomic concepts such as economic growth, inflation, and unemployment, and evaluate how government policy shapes economic outcomes.
- **Apply** theoretical models to contemporary policy questions (e.g., *What are the trade-offs of raising interest rates to fight inflation?*).
- **Critically assess** how domestic and international events influence aggregate economic performance.
- **Interpret and communicate** economic news, data, and policy debates using clear, evidence-based arguments.
- **Conduct weekly investigations** that integrate textbook theory with independent research, building skills in critical inquiry, synthesis of sources, and presentation.
- **Collaborate** with peers in discussion, debate, and simulation activities that mirror real-world economic decision-making.

This honors section emphasizes critical thinking, research, and communication. Students will be expected to go beyond textbook knowledge to connect macroeconomic theory to real-world issues, evaluate competing perspectives, and defend their analysis in both written and oral formats.

Required Textbooks and Materials

I provide you with a FREE pdf version of the textbook – 10th edition.

The most recent edition is:

Principles of Macroeconomics by Karl E. Case and Ray C. Fair. 12th Edition, Prentice Hall

****Please Note:** If you can find an earlier edition (as early as 8th edition is fine), and it is more affordable, please feel free to purchase instead of the 12th edition.

****Please Note:** After every section you will have a take-home quiz, which will be due back when noted. Late quizzes will NOT be accepted ******

Take-Home Quizzes/Homework Policy: Take-home quizzes are assigned to help you practice the material and prepare for exams. They are graded for completion, but the work you submit must be **your own original effort**. Using answer keys, solutions, or completed quizzes from previous semesters or from online sources (including AI tools) is not permitted. If your submission shows evidence of being copied or reproduced from such sources, you will receive a **ZERO** for that quiz and may be reported for academic dishonesty.

Tentative Course Outline (Subject to change)

Section I – Introduction to Supply, Demand, and Market Equilibrium (2 ½ weeks)

Read: Chapter 1, Chapters 2, 3, and 4.

Quiz 1 (Ch.1-4): Posted 9/9, due 9/16 (PDF upload to eLearning).

Section II – GDP, Inflation, Unemployment, and the Business Cycle (2 ½ weeks)

Read: Chapters 5, 6, and 7.

Quiz 2 (Ch.5-7): Posted 9/25, due 9/30. (PDF upload to eLearning).

Test #1 (Midterm): October 7 – Covers Chapters 1-7.

Section III – The Simple Keynesian Theory of Consumption, Output, and Fiscal Policy (2 ½ weeks)

Read: Chapters 8 and 9.

Quiz 3 (Ch.8-9): Posted 10/16, due 10/23. (PDF upload to eLearning).

Section IV – Money, Banking, The Federal Reserve, and Monetary Policy (2 ½ weeks)

Read: Chapters 10 and 11.

Quiz 4 (Ch.10–11): Posted 10/28, due 11/4. (PDF upload to eLearning).

Test #2: November 6 – Covers Chapters 8–11.

Section V – Aggregate Supply, Aggregate Demand, and Equilibrium GDP (2 weeks)

Read: Chapters 12, 13, and 14.

Quiz 5 (Ch.12–14): Posted 11/20, due 12/2. (PDF upload to eLearning).

Test #3: December 9 (Last Day of Class) – Covers Chapters 12–14.

****All exams are in-person, in the classroom. You will need a scantron and calculator. Scantron 882-E for the exam and a number 2 pencil. ****

Grading Policy: Grading Breakdown

- Exams (3 exams @ 25% each) – 75%. The Exams are NOT cumulative.
- Honors Activities (debates, reflections, simulations, data briefs) – 15%
- Quizzes (5 quizzes at 2% each) – 10%

The grades will be assigned as follows:

98-100% A+	88-89 B+	78-79 C+	68-69 D+	
92-97 A	82-87 B	72-77 C	62-67 D	
90-91 A-	80-81 B-	70-71 C-	60-61 D-	0-59 F

Honors Activities Grading Policy:

Honors activities (reflections, debates, simulations, and data briefs) are worth 15% of your final grade. They are designed to encourage engagement with real-world economic issues, not to test for right answers.

Each Thursday, we will explore a current economic issue together through reflections, debates, simulations, or data briefs. These activities are not about having the “right” answer, but about preparing thoughtfully, showing up, and engaging with your classmates.

To receive full credit, you should:

- **Prepare** a short, written response (about 1 page) or notes before class.
- **Attend class regularly** — attendance is essential, since much of the learning happens in our discussions.
- **Participate actively** — ask questions, share your perspective, and listen to others.

Grading will be based on **effort and consistency**, not perfection. Missing a week or two will not hurt you, but repeated absences or lack of preparation will lower your grade. Think of this as an opportunity to practice thinking like an economist in real-world situations, in a low-stress, collaborative way.

Attendance & Participation

Because this is an honors course, attendance and active participation are expected. Students who regularly attend class and contribute to discussions will find the activities both more meaningful and easier to complete. While occasional absences may happen, missing more than three class meetings without documentation will lower your activities grade.

Quizzes:

There will be one quiz after every section that we cover. There are 5 sections, so there is a total of 5 quizzes (worth 2% each). Quizzes are essentially homework, and are “open book”, so you can refer to the textbook and/or your notes. The quizzes will be a good way to study for the exams. Quizzes are turned in via eLearning. **Please make sure to PDF the file** and drop it into the assignment. **Grading of the quizzes:** The TA’s will be grading your quizzes. **To receive full credit:** the work must be on time (will NOT accept late work), entirely completed, show all work, and have reasonable responses. **QUIZZES ARE DUE BY MIDNIGHT ON DUE DATE**

***This course utilizes **eLearning** to provide easy access to important course information. You must be registered for this class to log on to the site. You will use to obtain powerpoints, class information, check announcements, and receive your assignments. You can also obtain grades and replace a lost syllabus, among other things. This site address for the course is: **elearning.utdallas.edu** ***

Course & Instructor Policies

Make-up Exams: No make-up exams will be allowed except in the case of a medical condition or family emergency. In the case of a medical condition, a doctor’s note is necessary.

Extra Credit: There will be no extra credit work assigned for this course.

Late Work: None

Class Attendance: Highly Recommended.

Classroom Citizenship: I expect students to be attentive during class and to actively participate in class discussions. You are expected to listen respectfully to me and to other students when they are speaking.

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.