

**San José State University**  
**Department of Economics**  
**Econ 102 - Macroeconomic Analysis Course No. 47878 Section 2, Fall 2019**

**Course and Contact Information**

Instructor:	Justin Rietz
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Office Hours:	Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:00pm – 1:00pm and by appointment.
Class Days/Time:	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00pm to to 4:15 pm.
Classroom:	DMH 234
Prerequisites:	Econ 1A

**Course Format**

**Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging**

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](http://sjsu.instructure.com) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](http://my.sjsu.edu) at <http://my.sjsu.edu> and your SJSU email to learn of any updates.

**Course Description**

Theory of aggregate demand and related topics: national income accounting, employment and inflation, monetary and fiscal policies, economic stability, growth, and balance of payments equilibrium.

**Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)**

This is a course in intermediate macroeconomics. Using models of the economy overall, it emphasizes the interrelationships among economic variables and the impact of public policy on those variables. By the end of the course, the student should have a good grasp of what we know and what we do not know about economic growth, sustained inflation, and the business cycle. Although this course touches on the full range of Economics PLOs, it emphasizes PLO2.

PL0 2. *Macroeconomics*: Apply tools from Intermediate Macroeconomics to modeling the economy overall and explaining the interrelationships among economic variables and discussing the impact of public policy on the economy.

PLO 5: *Communication*: Demonstrate efficient communication skills.

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to demonstrate the following:

CLO 1. Explain the relationship between economics and public policy.

CLO 2. Identify the macroeconomic aggregates that measure the price level, employment, and output and explain both their strengths and weaknesses.

CLO 3. Discuss what we know and what we do not know about economic growth.

CLO 4. Discuss what we know and what we do not know about sustained inflation.

CLO 5. Discuss what we know and what we do not know about the business cycle

## Required Texts/Readings

### Textbook

1. N. Gregory Mankiw, *Macroeconomics*, 9th edn. (New York: Worth, 2010); ISBN-13: 978-1464182891.

Two notes:

- You may use an older version of the textbook. You can find used copies of *Macroeconomics* 7<sup>th</sup> edition on many online bookstores, including [Amazon](http://amzn.to/2blb1FV) at <http://amzn.to/2blb1FV>, typically for under \$10.
  - Don't confuse it with Mankiw's *Principles of Macroeconomics* which is an introductory textbook.
2. Todd G. Buchholz, *New Ideas from Dead Economists: An Introduction to Modern Economic Thought*, rev. edn. (New York: Plume, 2007); ISBN-13: 978-0452288447.

**If you choose to use a different version of either of the texts, it is your responsibility to account for any differences in assigned readings and homework problems.**

### Other Readings

Econ 102 Course Reader, available at Maple Press, 330 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street.

## Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

### Final Examination or Evaluation

There will be a final exam for the course.

## Grading Information

### Determination of Grades

The final examination, which will be comprehensive, is worth 30 points out of the total of 100 for the course. There are two midterm exams worth 15 points each, and four online homework assignments worth 5 point each for a total of 20 points. In addition, there will be twelve short, objective quizzes based exclusively on assigned weekly readings worth another 20 points. Each quiz individually is worth 2.5 points, allowing students to drop or miss four out of the twelve quizzes. There will be no make-ups for any quizzes. Cheating on homework, quizzes or exams will result in an automatic F for the entire course.

97-100 A+	93-96 A	90-92 A-
87-89 B+	83-86 B	80-82 B-
77-79 C+	73-76 C	70-72 C-
67-69 D+	63-66 D	60-62 D-
below 60 F		

Final grades will be curved. However, the curve will never hurt your grade. I do not round up grades, e.g. an 86.9 is a B, not a B+.

I do not provide study guides. Instead, I will hand out brief, unit outlines with key concepts and terms.

### **Classroom Protocol**

The use of laptops, tablets, or other electronic device is prohibited in class. Studies have proven that students who take notes on these devices *significantly* impair their comprehension of the material and disturb other students. Therefore, you need to come prepared to take hand-written notes. Those who violate this policy will have a half a percentage point deducted from their final grade for the course for *each infraction*.

Because class participation helps enliven the course, it is greatly appreciated and can earn students up to one extra point toward their final grade.

If you experience any difficulty in this course, please do not hesitate to come to me for help. I am available during office hours and by appointment. However, I greatly appreciate questions asked during class – I guarantee that if you have a question, many of your classmates have the same one!

### **University Policies**

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>” Make sure to review these university policies and resources.

**Econ 102 – Intermediate Macroeconomics,  
Course No. 23946, Spring 2019  
Course Schedule**

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Aug 22	First Day of Class. Overview and begin review.
2	Aug 27	Topic: Microeconomic Review
2	Aug 29	Topic: Macroeconomic Review
3	Sep 3	Topic: Public Choice <u>Readings:</u> Buchholz, preface, chs. 1-4.
3	Sep 5	Topic: Public Choice <u>Readings:</u> 1. Buchholz, chs. 5-8. 2. Leonard Read, “I, Pencil,” <i>The Freeman</i> , (December 1958); abridged version available at <a href="http://fee.org/freeman/i-pencil">http://fee.org/freeman/i-pencil</a> . 3. Ch. 17, “Market Failures,” from David D. Friedman, <i>Price Theory</i> . pp. 411-30.
4	Sep 10	Topic: Macroeconomic Data and Inflation <u>Readings:</u> 1. Mankiw, chs. 1, 2. 2. Dave Barry, “Farm Security: The Mohair of the Dog that Bites You,” <i>Miami Herald</i> , (23 June 2002). 3. Bruce Yandle, “Bootleggers and Baptists—The Education of a Regulatory Economist,” <i>Regulation</i> , 7 (May/June 1983), 12-16. 4. Buchholz, pp. 253-71 from ch. 11.
4	Sep 12	Topic: Macroeconomic Data and Inflation
5	Sep 17	Topic: National Income <u>Readings:</u> 1. Mankiw, chs. 3, 6 (except pp. 56-8 on Cobb-Douglas). 2. “Economics in Action: GNP, Leisure, and Social Welfare”: summary of William Nordhaus and James Tobin, “Is Growth Obsolete,” in Fiftieth Anniversary Colloquium, <i>Economic Research: Retrospect and Prospect</i> , v. 5: Economic Growth (New York: National Bureau of Economic Research, 1972).
5	Sep 19	Topic: Unemployment
6	Sep 24	First Exam Review
6	Sep 26	First Exam
7	Oct 1	Topics: Economic Growth <u>Readings:</u> 1. Mankiw, chs. 7, 8 (except the appendix). 2. Hans Rosling, “The Joy of Statistics,” five-minute BBC video (November 2010), <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbkSRLYSojo&amp;feature=player_embedded#!">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbkSRLYSojo&amp;feature=player_embedded#!</a>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		3. “Economic Freedom: Of Liberty and Prosperity,” <i>The Economist</i> , 338 (January 13-19, 1996), 21-23.
7	Oct 3	Topics: Economic Growth
8	Oct 8	Topics: Money and Inflation <u>Readings:</u> 1. Mankiw, chs. 4, 19. 2. Roger Thurow, “In Romania, Smoking a Kent Cigarette is Like Burning Money,” <i>Wall Street Journal</i> , (3 January 1986). 3. Pp. 88-89 from Norman Angell, <i>The Story of Money</i> (New York: Garden City, 1929).
8	Oct 10	Topics: Money and Inflation
9	Oct 15	Topics: Money and Inflation <u>Readings:</u> 1. Buchholz, chs. 9-10. 2. David Kelley and Jeff Scott, “Gekko Echo: A Closer Look at the ‘Decade of Greed’,” <i>Reason</i> , 24 (February 1993), 30-37.
9	Oct 17	Topics: Money and Inflation
10	Oct 22	Topics: Macroeconomic Modeling <u>Readings:</u> 1. Mankiw, ch. 9, 13 (except the appendix) 2. Buchholz, pp. 271-82 from ch. 11.
10	Oct 24	Topics: Macroeconomic Modeling
11	Oct 29	Topics: Macroeconomic Modeling 1. Ch. 12, “Business Fluctuations and the Dynamic Aggregate Demand-Aggregate Supply Model,” from Tyler Cowen and Alex Tabarrok, <i>Modern Principles: Macroeconomics</i> , 1st edn. (New York: Worth, 2009), pp. 241-67, available as two pdf files that will posted to Canvas.
11	Oct 31	Topics: Macroeconomic Modeling
12	Nov 5	Topics: Business Cycles <u>Readings:</u> 1. Mankiw, pp. 415-16 and ch. 15 (except the appendix); 2. Buchholz, ch. 12; 3. David Wessel, “Could One Little Rule Explain All of Economics?” <i>Wall Street Journal</i> (7 February 2000). 4. Milton Friedman, “The Fed’s Thermostat,” <i>Wall Street Journal</i> , (19 August 2003): A8.
12	Nov 7	Topic: Business Cycles
13	Nov 12	Review
13	Nov 14	Second Exam

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
14	Nov 19	<p>Topic: Government Debt</p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mankiw, ch. 16</li> <li>2. Ch. 19, “Advances in Business Cycle Theory,” from N. Gregory Mankiw, <i>Macroeconomics</i>, 6th edn. (New York: Worth, 2007), pp. 528-46, available as a pdf file that will be emailed to all students.</li> <li>3. Jeffrey Rogers Hummel, “Why Default on U.S. Treasuries is Likely,” <i>Library of Economics and Liberty</i> (August 2009), available at <a href="http://www.econlib.org/library/Columns/y2009/Hummeltbills.html">http://www.econlib.org/library/Columns/y2009/Hummeltbills.html</a>.</li> </ol>
14	Nov 21	Topics: Government Debt
15	Nov 26	Topic: The Great Depression
15	Nov 28	No Class – Thanksgiving Break
16	Dec 3	<p>Topics: International Economics</p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mankiw, ch. 5 (except the appendix), epilogue;</li> <li>2. Buchholz, ch. 13.</li> <li>3. Herbert Stein, “Leave the Trade Deficit Alone,” <i>Wall Street Journal</i>, (11 March 1987), 36.</li> <li>4. Paul Krugmen, “What Do Undergrads Need to Know about Trade?” <i>American Economic Review</i>, 83 (May 1993), 23-26, available as a pdf file that will be emailed to all students.</li> <li>5. Alex Tabarrok, “The Case for Getting Rid of Borders—Completely,” <i>The Atlantic</i> (10 October 2015): <a href="http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2015/10/get-rid-borders-completely/409501/">http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2015/10/get-rid-borders-completely/409501/</a>.</li> <li>6. Ch. 20, “International Finance,” from Tyler Cowen and Alex Tabarrok, <i>Modern Principles: Macroeconomics</i>, 3rd edn. (New York: Worth, 2014), pp. 427-52.</li> </ol>
16	Dec 5	Topics: International Economics
Final Exam	Dec 11	Wednesday, December 11 <sup>th</sup> at 2:45-5:00pm ( <a href="http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/final-exam-schedule-fall.html">http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/final-exam-schedule-fall.html</a> )

### Course Units:

- I. Fundamentals of Public Policy.
- II. Measuring the Macroeconomy.
- III. Economic Growth.
- IV. Monetary Theory.
- V. Modeling the Macroeconomy.
- VI. The Business Cycle: Causes and Cures.
- VII. The International Economy (if time).