

San José State University
Department of Economics
Econ 102 - Macroeconomic Analysis Course No. 49060 Section 1, Fall 2022

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Justin Rietz
Office Location:	DMH 143
Telephone:	(408) 924-5416 (rarely used)
Email:	justin.rietz@sjsu.edu (best contact method)
Office Hours:	Monday and Wednesday, 1:30 to 2:30pm and by appointment.
Class Days/Time:	Monday and Wednesday, 3:00pm to 4:15 pm.
Classroom:	In Person: DMH 165
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](#) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](#) 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*, 10th edn. (New York: Worth, 2010); ISBN-13: 978-1319106010.

Two notes:

- You may use an older version of the textbook. You can find used copies of *Macroeconomics* 7th edition on many online bookstores, including [Amazon](https://amzn.to/3z93Bkw) (e.g. <https://amzn.to/3z93Bkw>), typically for under \$10.
- Don't confuse it with Mankiw's *Principles of Macroeconomics* which is an introductory textbook.

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

Other Readings

Articles available online and/or Canvas.

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.

The use of phones, laptops, and tablets is prohibited in class, and I reserve the right to cold call anyone who is using one. Studies have shown that students who take written lecture notes perform significantly better than those who use an electronic device. See "The Pen Is Mightier Than the Keyboard: Advantages of Longhand Over Laptop Note Taking" by Mueller and Oppenheimer (2014).

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% of your grade. points out of the total of 100 for the course. There are two midterm exams each worth 15% of your grade, and four homework assignments worth 5% each for a total of 20%. In addition, there will be twelve short, objective quizzes on Canvas based exclusively on assigned weekly readings worth another 20%. They will occur on the day the readings are due (accept where noted), and you may take it any time within 24 hours before class. The four lowest quiz scores will be dropped; however, **you must attempt at least 10 of the 12 quizzes**. There will be no make-ups for any quizzes. Cheating on homework, quizzes or exams will result in an automatic F.

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+.

NOTE: I do not provide study guides. Instead, on Canvas I will provide one page unit outlines with key concepts and terms. Your lecture notes are your study guide.

Classroom Protocol

Students are encouraged to interrupt and ask questions. Moreover, as class participation helps enliven the course, students can earn up to five extra percent points 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.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Aug 22	First Day of Class. Overview
1	Aug 24	Topic: Economics Review
2	Aug 29	Topic: Measuring the Macroeconomy <u>Readings:</u> Mankiw, chs. 1, 2.
2	Aug 31	Topic: Measuring the Macroeconomy
3	Sep 5	No Class
3	Sep 7	Topic: Measuring the Macroeconomy <u>Readings:</u> 1. Mankiw, chs. 3, 7. 2. "Economics in Action: GNP, Leisure, and Social Welfare": summary of William Nordhaus and James Tobin, "Is Growth Obsolete," in Fiftieth Anniversary Colloquium, Economic Research: Retrospect and Prospect, v. 5: Economic Growth (New York: National Bureau of Economic Research, 1972).

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
4	Sep 12	Topic: Measuring the Macroeconomy <u>Readings:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mankiw, chs. 8 (207 – 218), 9 (note: use $n = 0$ and $g = 0$) 2. Hans Rosling, “The Joy of Statistics,” five-minute BBC video (November 2010): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbkSRLYSojo 3. “Economic Freedom: Of Liberty and Prosperity,” The Economist, 338 (January 13-19, 1996), 21-23.
4	Sep 14	Topics: Economic Growth
5	Sep 19	Topics: Economic Growth <u>Readings:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ben Powell “Some implications of capital heterogeneity.” 2. “Economic Freedom: Of Liberty and Prosperity,” The Economist, 338 (January 13-19, 1996), 21-23.
5	Sep 21	Topics: Economic Growth
6	Sep 26	First Exam Review
6	Sep 28	First Exam
7	Oct 3	Topics: Monetary Theory <u>Readings:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mankiw, chs. 4, 5. 2. Roger Thurow, “In Romania, Smoking a Kent Cigarette is Like Burning Money,” Wall Street Journal, (3 January 1986).
7	Oct 5	Topics: Monetary Theory
8	Oct 10	Topics: Monetary Theory <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. David Kelley and Jeff Scott, “Gekko Echo: A Closer Look at the ‘Decade of Greed’,” Reason, 24 (February 1993), 30-37.
8	Oct 12	Topics: Monetary Theory
9	Oct 17	Topics: Public Policy (NOTE: QUIZ ON WEDNESDAY) <u>Readings:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yandell - On Bootleggers & Baptists 2. Steele - Posing the Problem The Impossibility of Economic Calculation under Socialism
9	Oct 19	Topics: General Equilibrium (NOTE: QUIZ)
10	Oct 24	Topics: Macroeconomic Modeling <u>Readings:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mankiw ch. 10, ch. 14 (skip appendix)
10	Oct 26	Macroeconomic Modeling
11	Oct 31	Review for 2nd Exam
11	Nov 2	2nd Exam

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
12	Nov 7	<p>Topics: Macroeconomic Modeling</p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cowen and Tabarrok Ch. 12, “Business Fluctuations and the Dynamic Aggregate Demand-Aggregate Supply Model, from Modern Principles: Macroeconomics, 1st edn. (New York: Worth, 2009), pp. 241-67, available as two pdf files that will posted to Canvas.
12	Nov 9	Macroeconomic Modeling
13	Nov 14	<p>Topics: The Business Cycle</p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mankiw ch. 16 2. David Wessel, “Could One Little Rule Explain All of Economics?” Wall Street Journal (7 February 2000) <p>Milton Friedman, “The Fed’s Thermostat,” Wall Street Journal, (19 August 2003): A8.</p>
13	Nov 16	Topics: The Business Cycle
14	Nov 21	Topics: The Business Cycle ONLINE ACTIVITY
14	Nov 23	No Class
15	Nov 28	<p>Topics: The Business Cycle</p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mankiw ch. 17 2. Ch. 19, “Advances in Business Cycle Theory,” from N. Gregory Mankiw, Macroeconomics, 6th edn. (New York: Worth, 2007), pp. 528-46. 3. Hummel - “Why Default on U.S. Treasuries is Likely” (August 2009), available at http://www.econlib.org/library/Columns/y2009/Hummeltbills.html.
15	Nov 30	Topics: The Business Cycle
16	Dec 5	Topics: TBD
	Dec 8	<p>Final: 12:15-2:30 PM</p> <p>https://www.sjsu.edu/classes/final-exam-schedule/fall-2022.php</p>