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Office Hours

by appointment

About the Course

This course covers macroeconomics and explains the operation of free markets, the role of government in the economy, measurement of the national product, inflation and unemployment, monetary and fiscal policy, and economic growth. Prerequisites: MAT 135 preferred, MAT 131, 133 or 139 accepted; ENG 131

Macroeconomics covers basic economic concepts including resource scarcity, supply and demand, and the economic roles of households and businesses. Students will investigate the role of government in providing public services, levying taxes, and fighting inflation and unemployment, the national debt, federal budget deficits, and the actions of the Federal Reserve Board. Students will learn to interpret economic data commonly reported by the news media.

ECN 231 is equivalent to first year economics courses in colleges and universities and transfers as an equivalent course. The course is intended for business or other majors who require economics as part of their program. However many students take it as an elective so they may become more knowledgeable about the US economy and the government's economic policies. The course benefits:

- ◆ business majors and others who need to understand the economy
- ◆ working people who want some understanding of economic forces affecting their jobs
- ◆ investors who need to understand the economy and economic data

The primary Associate Degree Outcome for this course is ADO 5 *Understanding human behavior and social systems*. To achieve this outcome students will:

ADO 5 Understanding human behavior and social systems Students will learn to:

Recognize factors that determine and govern human behavior. Distinguish between individual and external factors.

Understand the methods of analysis and interpretation used by economics to explain economic outcomes.

Begin to use appropriate terms and concepts.

Describe at least two economic principles that govern human behavior.

A secondary Associate Degree Outcome for this course is *ADO 7 Critical thinking*. To achieve this outcome students will learn to:

Identify impact of human emotion on economic behavior.

Describe larger consequences of choices made by individuals and groups.

Describe steps in solving an economic problem.

Apply an economic principle to a new context

Taking Economics On Line

Economics is a time consuming course for most people. Assignments are due every 5 or 6 days. Successful students say they spend four to six hours on each assignment plus time spent participating in Forums. If you have difficulty with your computer or spend a lot of time doing research or discussion you may spend more time than that. Successful on line students create a schedule for their work so they don't put it off and get behind.

Even though the course is on line you are not expected to work alone. Use email and the Forums to ask the instructor and other students for help. You can contact other students or set up study groups to work together on assignments, just remember the work you turn in must be your own.

You can reach economics tutors at the Center for Student Success in Potter Center Federer C, or by calling 796 8415. Students requiring special assistance (including those affected by the Americans with Disabilities Act) should contact the Center.

Computer Requirements

You will need access to a computer with internet capability and a printer. You must also be able to send and receive email. Free email is available from a number internet services or you may use the JCC student email system. The instructor will use the JCC system to send information to you so you will need to check this email regularly. For this course you should have Adobe Acrobat Reader 8.0 or higher loaded in your computer. Class assignments will come in this format. Acrobat Reader can be downloaded free from http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2_allversions.html

Textbook

The textbook is Macroeconomics for Today by Irvin Tucker, 8th edition, Copyright 2014. ISBN is 13: 978-1-133-43505-1 or 10: 1-133-43505-X. The book is available at the JCC bookstore. It is available for sale, rent, or as an E-book at the textbook website

<http://www.cengagebrain.com/shop/search/9781133435051> It can also be rented online at <http://www.bkstr.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/ProductDisplay?catalogId=10001&categoryId=152754&langId=-1&productId=4000000000002698722&storeId=216405&productStoreId=216405>

There is some useful free material at the text website

<http://coursemate.cengage.com/CPReader/View/9781285166063/default.aspx?anon=True>

Academic Honesty Policy

The JCC Academic Honesty Policy outlines the behavior expected from students and teachers. This policy and others are contained in the campus policy manual and can be found in the college catalog or by clicking on <http://www.jccmi.edu/policies/Academics/Policies/1004.pdf>. Click on Academic Honesty and open it. Especially read about plagiarism. Most people misunderstand this problem.

Class Requirements

Assignments

Students must complete 13 assignments during the semester. For each assignment students will answer questions and solve problems using one chapter of the text plus other readings. Assignments will be worth 35 to 45 points depending on the amount of work required. There will not be any tests or final exam.

Assignment Question Grading

Most assignment questions should be answered in one to two paragraphs. You should write a thorough answer, including all the information necessary to explain your ideas. Write your answer as if you were writing for a friend who is not taking the class. Include the information they would need to understand your answer.

Each assignment question is usually worth 5 points and will be scored as follows:

5 points

The answer is explained clearly and thoroughly in your own words, not copied from the textbook or other source. Economic terms are used correctly. When appropriate use your own examples (not ones from the textbook) to illustrate your ideas.

4 points	The answer is mostly correct but not fully explained or there are slight errors. Examples are taken from the textbook or assigned readings, not original.
3 points	The answer is accurate but not explained completely, or may be partly incorrect. Important examples or explanations are missing. Some of the writing is copied from the textbook or article, not the student's own words.
1-2 points	There is some correct information but the answer is poorly explained.
0 points	The answer is wrong, no correct information is given. All or most of the answer is copied from the textbook, another student, or other source.

Numerical problems (points will vary):

Maximum points	Correct formulas are used and the answer is correct. All signs (+, -) and labels (\$, %, etc,) are provided and are correct.
Partial credit	Signs or labels may be missing. Formula is correct but answer is miscalculated. Important information is missing or wrong.
0 points	No correct information provided.

Graphs and tables (points will vary):

Maximum points	Correct graph is provided, all axes and lines are labeled correctly. All changes are clearly indicated, important points and intersections are labeled. A title is included. Table information is complete and correct. Necessary signs, labels and a title are included.
Partial credit	Graph is mostly correct, some labels or lines are missing or incorrect. Some table information, signs or labels are missing or incorrect.
0 points	No correct information provided.

Discussion is an important part of the class. It is where students and the instructor share ideas and information about economic issues. For each Assignment there will be a new forum on an issue related to the Assignment. The Forum will be open for 6 or 7 days and you may post as many responses as you like. You are encouraged to find articles (from the internet or other sources) and share them with the class.

Forum Etiquette

Discussion should be a positive experience for everyone. Many students are anxious at first about participating. For this reason it is important that no one is discouraged from participating by someone's remarks. We want to discuss controversial ideas but we want the ideas to conflict, not the people. If you disagree with something, make it clear that you are disagreeing with the idea, not the person posting (who may not even agree with the idea themselves). In short, treat people and their postings with respect, even when disagreeing. The instructor will remove postings that in his judgment are abusive or inhibit the free discussion of all students.

Forum Grading

To earn full credit for each forum post at least two messages on different days. You should read other students' postings and add something new to the ideas being discussed.

Each posting is worth up to 5 points. You may post as many messages as you like but only one posting per day will be scored. Each day's best posting will be scored. To earn full credit for a Forum you must post on at least two different days.

You may post as many messages as you like but for each forum a maximum of 10 points can be earned.

You may post messages any time but messages posted after the closing date will not be scored.

Forum postings will be scored as follows:

5 points	A posting that brings new information or ideas to the discussion. The message may explain some relevant information from an article or the textbook. The article's correct web address is included and the link goes right to the article. If
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you state an opinion it should be supported with some information from the textbook or an article.

4 points	The posting has some new information or ideas. Opinions are weakly supported. An article is provided but there is no explanation about it. The article's address is missing, incorrect or the link doesn't work.
3 points	The posting has little new information. Opinions are not supported with any outside information.
1-2 points	Posting has very little new or relevant information. Posting gets off the subject. The posting just agrees with another message and adds very little to the discussion.
0 points	Posting bring no information to the discussion.

Often students post simple messages agreeing with another posting. Or a student may want to express a personal opinion about something off the subject. It's fine to post these messages but they won't earn any points.

Due Dates and Late Work

Late assignments will be accepted with no penalty for **one week** after the due date. After one week late assignments will not be accepted. If you need more time for some reason please let the instructor know and arrangements can be made. All assignments must be completed by the last day of the semester.

Forums close on the closing date, no exceptions. Messages can be posted after the closing date but they will not be graded. See the Forum Grading policies for complete details.

Vacations If you go on vacation and won't be able to submit assignments on time please let the instructor know in advance. Usually the one week extension on due dates is enough but if you need more time ask the instructor. **Forums cannot be made up once they are closed.**

Grading Scale

Final grades are assigned according to the percentage of total points earned out of total points possible using the following scale:

90-100%	4.0
85-89	3.5

80-84	3.0
75-79	2.5
70-74	2.0
65-69	1.5
60-64	1.0
50-59	0.5

The JetNet system shows your points when you open the “Grades” page. A grade scale will be posted several times during the semester so you can see how you are doing. Contact the instructor any time you have questions about your grade.

Schedule

This is a 12 week class so assignments will come due quickly. They will also be due on different days of the week.

Assignment 1	Due May 22	Forum closes midnight May 22
Assignment 2	Due May 27	Forum closes midnight May 28
Assignment 3	Due Jun 3	Forum closes midnight Jun 4
Assignment 4	Due Jun 9	Forum closes midnight Jun 10
Assignment 5	Due Jun 15	Forum closes midnight Jun 16
Assignment 6	Due Jun 22	Forum closes midnight Jun 23
Assignment 7	Due Jul 2	Forum closes midnight Jul 3
Assignment 8	Due Jul 9	Forum closes midnight Jul 10
Assignment 9	Due Jul 15	Forum closes midnight Jul 16
Assignment 10	Due Jul 21	Forum closes midnight Jul 22
Assignment 11	Due Jul 27	Forum closes midnight Jul 28
Assignment 12	Due Aug 3	Forum closes midnight Aug 4
Assignment 13	Due Aug 10	Forum closes midnight Aug 10