

San José State University
Department of Economics
Econ 102—Macroeconomic Analysis
Course No. 43046, Fall 2017

Instructor:	Justin Rietz
Office Location:	DMH 143
Telephone:	(408) 924-5416
Email:	justin.rietz@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Th 12:00 - 1:30pm and by appointment.
Class Days/Time:	Monday and Wednesday, 12:00-1:15P.M.
Classroom:	DMH 166
Prerequisites:	Economics 1A

MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System](http://sjsu.instructure.com) course login website 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> 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.

Announcement

This is now a four-unit course. You are expected to complete an average of 12 hours of work per week inclusive of lectures, assignments, and activities. This syllabus contains learning objectives, class meeting times, and assignments commensurate with the expectation of 12 hours of work per week across 15 weeks in a semester. For reference, under a traditional three-unit course, you were expected to complete 9 hours of work per week inclusive.

Description of changes

The new, 4-unit Econ 102 has been modified to include more material. This extra material is incorporated into an expanded Econ 102 Course Reader (described and listed below under “Required Texts/Readings”). The reading will require an estimated 40 hours of *additional* outside activity over the entire semester. This expected time is based on

average reading and writing skills. This requirement means that the new 4-unit Econ 102 course now supports achievement of the Department's Program Learning Objective number 5: Communication.

Course Learning Outcomes and Program Learning Objectives

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

Textbooks

1. [M] N. Gregory Mankiw, *Macroeconomics*, 9th edn. (New York: Worth, 2015); **ISBN-13**: 978-1464182891.

Two notes:

- You can find used copies of older editions on many online bookstores, including [Amazon](http://amzn.to/2b1b1FV) at <http://amzn.to/2b1b1FV>. While there are a few important differences between the older version and the newest version, the majority of the material is the same. That said, anything before the 6th edition is too old.
 - Don't confuse it with Mankiw's *Principles of Macroeconomics* which is an introductory textbook.
2. [B] 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 10th Street. This is the same reader used by Professor Hummel for Section 2 of Econ 102 and will be under his name, NOT mine.

Assignments and Grading Policy

The final examination, which will be comprehensive, is worth 30 points out of the total of 100 for the course. Each of two other examinations is worth 15 points toward the total. There will be five online homework assignments worth 4 points 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.

Converting Number Grades to Letter Grades

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+.

Classroom Protocol

The use of laptops, tablets, or other electronic device for typing notes 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 question!

I do not, however, answer questions that can be quickly answered by referring to the syllabus, e.g. questions regarding the final date, office hours, etc.

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/>

Econ 102: Macroeconomic Analysis Fall 2016: Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines	Due
1	W Aug 23	Overview of Course, Macro Review Handout	
2	M Aug 28	Macroeconomic Review Readings: Macro review handout	
2	W Aug 30	A brief introduction to public choice. Readings: Buchholz, preface, chs. 1,2	
3	M Sep 04	No Class – Labor Day Holiday	
3	W Sep 06	A brief introduction to public choice. Readings: Selection from Friedman in course reader	
4	M Sep 11	Science of Macroeconomics Readings: Mankiw ch. 1, Buchholz, chs. 3-4	
4	W Sep 13	Data of Macroeconomics Readings: Mankiw, ch. 2, Buchholz, chs. 5-6,	
5	M Sep 18	National Income Readings: Mankiw, ch. 3	
5	W Sep 20	National Income	
6	M Sep 26	Unemployment Readings: Mankiw, ch. 7, Buchholz, chs. 7-8	
6	W Sep 27	Unemployment	
7	M Oct 02	First Exam	
7	W Oct 04	Economic Growth Reading: Mankiw, ch, 8	
8	M Oct 09	Economic Growth	
8	W Oct 11	Economic Growth Readings: Mankiw, ch, 9	
9	M Oct 16	Money and Inflation Reading: Mankiw ch. 4	
9	W Oct 18	Money and Inflation	

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines	Due
		Reading: Mankiw ch. 19, 7ed.	
10	M Oct 23	Money and Inflation	
10	W Oct 25	Macroeconomic Modeling Readings: Mankiw, ch. 10;	
11	M Oct 30	Macroeconomic Modeling	
11	W Nov 01	Macroeconomic Modeling Readings: Mankiw, ch. 14; Buchholz, ch. 9.	
12	M Nov 06	Second exam	
12	W Nov 08	Macroeconomic Modeling Readings: Selection in the Course Reader from Tyler Cowen & Alex Tabarrok, Modern Principles; Buchholz, ch. 10.	
13	M Nov 13	Business Cycle Theory Readings: Selection in the Course Reader from Mankiw, 6th ed., ch. 19; Buchholz 271-282 from ch. 11.	
13	W Nov 15	Business Cycle Theory: Government Debt Readings: Mankiw, ch. 19.	
14	M Nov 20	Business Cycle Theory: Schools of Thought Readings: Buchholz ch 12.	
14	W Nov 22	No Class – Thanksgiving Break	
15	M Nov 27	Business Cycle Theory	
15	W Nov 29	Special Macroeconomic Topics Readings: Mankiw ch 20; Buchholz, ch. 13.	
16	M Dec 04	Special Macroeconomic Topics Readings	
16	W Dec 06	The Open Economy Mankiw, ch 6.	
17	M Dec 11	Review	
Final Exam	Dec 19	9:45am-12:00pm	

NOTE: In addition to the above, the Reader contains copies of or links to supplementary readings assigned for various weeks.

Course Units:

- I. Background on Macroeconomics & Public Policy.
- II. Measuring the Macroeconomy.
- III. Economic Growth.
- IV. Monetary Theory: Money and Inflation.
- V. Modeling the Macroeconomy.
- VI. Business Cycles.
- VII. The International Economy.