

**San José State University**  
**Department of Economics**  
**Econ 102 - Macroeconomic Analysis, Section 1, Spring 2024**

**Course and Contact Information**

Instructor:	Justin Rietz
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Office Hours:	Tuesday and Thursday, 1:30 to 2:30 pm and by appointment.
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday and Thursday, 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.
  - Don't confuse it with Mankiw's *Principles of Macroeconomics* which is an introductory textbook.

**The 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> editions of Mankiw are quite similar. However, if you choose to use the 9<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> edition, it is your responsibility to account for any differences in assigned readings and homework problems.**

### Required Readings

Each way there may be required articles for reading that will be available online and/or Canvas. Be sure to check the syllabus.

## Course Requirements and Assignments

Note that this is a FOUR unit course and therefore entails a significant amount of reading, more than you might encounter in non-econ classes. 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% 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 by taking the top score in the class as the total number of points. 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 or slides. 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!

The use of phones, laptops, and tablets is prohibited in class, and I reserve the right to cold call anyone who is using one and reduce your final grade by 1 percentage point for each infraction. 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).

### 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	Jan 25	First Day of Class. Overview and Review
2	Jan 30	Economics Review
2	Feb 1	Economics Review
2	Feb 6	Topic: Measuring the Macroeconomy: Price Level and Inflation <u>Readings:</u> Mankiw, chs. 1, 2 (sec 2-1 on flows vs stocks only, sec 2-2)
	Feb 8	Topic: Measuring the Macroeconomy: Price Level and Inflation

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
3	Feb 13	Topic: Measuring the Macroeconomy: Unemployment <u>Readings:</u> 1. Mankiw, ch 2 (sec 2-3), ch. 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).
4	Feb 15	Topic: Measuring the Macroeconomy: Unemployment
4	Feb 20	Topic: Measuring the Macroeconomy: National Income <u>Readings:</u> 1. Mankiw, ch 2 (sec 2-1), ch 3 2. Hans Rosling, “The Joy of Statistics,” five-minute BBC video (November 2010): <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbkSRLYSojo">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbkSRLYSojo</a>
5	Feb 22	Topic: Measuring the Macroeconomy: National Income
5	Feb 27	Topics: Economic Growth <u>Readings:</u> 1. Mankiw, chs. 8 2. “Economic Freedom: Of Liberty and Prosperity,” The Economist, 3. “The Magic Washing Machine”, Hans Rosling, <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZoKfap4g4w">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZoKfap4g4w</a> <b>HW #1 Due</b>
6	Feb 29	Topics: Economic Growth
6	Mar 5	Topics: Economic Growth <u>Readings:</u> - Mankiw Ch 9 (sec 9-2 to 9-4); Ch 10 (except for sec 10-2 ) - Ben Powell “Some implications of capital heterogeneity.”
7	Mar 7	Topics: Economic Growth
7	Mar 12	First Exam Review <b>HW #2 Due</b>
8	Mar 14	First Exam
8	Mar 19	Topics: Monetary Theory <u>Readings:</u> 1. Mankiw, chs. 4. 2. Roger Thurow, “In Romania, Smoking a Kent Cigarette is Like Burning Money,” Wall Street Journal, (3 January 1986). Angell “The Story of Money.”
9	Mar 21	Topics: Monetary Theory
9	Mar 26	Topics: Monetary Theory - Mankiw, chs. 5 (pay attention to real vs. nominal rates, Fisher equation)
10	Mar 28	Topics: Monetary Theory <b>HW #3 Due</b>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
	Apr 2	Spring break
	Apr 4	Spring break
10	Apr 9	Topics: Public Policy Readings: ( <u>NOTE: QUIZ ON THURSDAY</u> ) 1. Yandell - On Bootleggers & Baptists 2. Steele - Posing the Problem The Impossibility of Economic Calculation under Socialism
11	Apr 11	Topics: Public Policy <b>QUIZ</b>
11	Apr 16	2 <sup>nd</sup> Exam Review
12	Apr 18	2 <sup>nd</sup> Exam
12	Apr 23	Topics: Macroeconomic Modeling: Aggregate Supply – Aggregate Demand <u>Readings:</u> Mankiw ch. 11
13	Apr 25	Topics: Macroeconomic Modeling: Aggregate Supply – Aggregate Demand
13	Apr 30	Topics: Macroeconomic Modeling : AS – AD and the Phillips Curve <u>Readings:</u> 1. Mankiw ch. 15 (focus on Phillips Curve) 2. On Canvas: Mankiw Ch. 19 from 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition: “Advances in Business Cycle Theory,” pp. 528-46. 3. Cowen and Tabarrok Ch. 12, “Business Fluctuations and the Dynamic Aggregate Demand-Aggregate Supply Model” and Ch. 12 Appendix
14	May 2	Topics: Macroeconomic Modeling : AS – AD and the Phillips Curve
14	May 7	Topics: The Business Cycle: Monetary Policy <u>Readings:</u> 1. Mankiw ch. 17 (Make sure to read Appendix) 2. David Wessel, “Could One Little Rule Explain All of Economics?” Wall Street Journal (7 February 2000) 3. Milton Friedman, “The Fed’s Thermostat,” Wall Street Journal, (19 August 2003): A8. 4. MR University videos under “Business Cycle Theories” in menu on right hand side of page: <a href="https://mru.org/courses/principles-economics-macroeconomics/gross-domestic-product-definition-what-is-gdp">https://mru.org/courses/principles-economics-macroeconomics/gross-domestic-product-definition-what-is-gdp</a> 5. How the Fed Implements Monetary Policy with Its Tools: <a href="https://www.stlouisfed.org/in-plain-english/the-fed-implements-monetary-policy">https://www.stlouisfed.org/in-plain-english/the-fed-implements-monetary-policy</a>  <b><u>Homework #4 due</u></b>
15	May 9	Topics: The Business Cycle: Monetary Policy
	May 21	Final: Tuesday, May 21, 2:45-5:00 PM

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		To verify date and time, see <a href="https://www.sjsu.edu/classes/final-exam-schedule/spring-2024.php">https://www.sjsu.edu/classes/final-exam-schedule/spring-2024.php</a>