**DePaul University**

**Kellstadt Graduate School of Business**

**ECO 502: Analysis of Business Conditions**

**Spring 2025-2**

**Instructor:** Xin Fang

**Email:** [xfang19@depaul.edu](mailto:econxfang@gmail.com) (best way to reach me, including weekends)

**Office Hours (Zoom): Saturdays** 1:00-2:30 PM (please notify me about your attendance in advance) or by appointment

# Course Description

This survey course in macroeconomics will cover the nature of macroeconomic activity including the component parts of aggregate expenditures and the nature of key indicators of the economy's performance. The roles of fiscal and monetary policy makers will be examined as well as the structure of the central bank.

# Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites.

# Course Format

We will conduct this online course in an *online asynchronous* format. This means that:

1. Lectures will be delivered asynchronously, and recorded lectures will be posted every Friday before 11:59 PM on D2L.
2. Zoom office hours will be held on Saturdays 1:00-2:30 PM (please notify me of your attendance in advance) or by appointment. Office hours are intended to solve problems you encounter in this course or communicate with me on the progress of the cases/discussions.

Please make sure to have the necessary technical resources to be able to access course materials and complete assignments. If you do not have access to the following resources, please let me know immediately so I can make accommodations for you:

-A computer that connects to the internet (web cam helpful but not required)

-A working email account that you check regularly (updated in Campusconnect). All class-related communication comes though DePaul email, so make sure to check this frequently

-Access to Microsoft Office or similar software

-Ability to playback video files and record a presentation (upload to YouTube or Google Drive and send me the link)

# Course Materials

1. Text: *Essentials of Economics*, Glenn Hubbard and Anthony Patrick O'Brien, Pearson (ISBN-13: 9780136713937 for 1 month Pearson+ subscription - eTextbook). Finding an older/used edition online would also be fine.
2. I will post lecture slides and recorded lectures on D2L. I will make the slides available to you as separate files in addition to the recorded lectures.
3. Required cases, assignments, and non-text readings -posted on D2L in advance. I may also post supplemental readings that will not be required, but that you may find interesting.

# Grading

I will determine your grade using the following components and weights:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Five Weekly Assignments (Discussions) | 50% |
| Exam (Multiple Choice) | 25% |
| Essay  The grading scale is” | 25% |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | 93% and above | C | 73-76% |
| A- | 90-92% | C- | 70-72% |
| B+ | 87-89% | D+ | 67-69% |
| B | 83-86% | D | 60-66% |
| B- | 80-82% | F | 59% and below |
| C+ | 77-79% |  |  |

Your assignments will be graded and returned within one week or less of their due dates. If you require any clarification on any of your grades, please contact me at most ten days after receiving your graded assignment.

# Weekly Assignments/ Discussions

There will be weekly online discussions in the D2L discussion boards. The purpose of the online discussion is to encourage the exchange of ideas and create synergies in students’ learning process. I will post two main types of questions for discussion each week:

(i) Reading questions or(ii) Questions based on the lectures and video content**. At a minimum, you are required to make two posts each week; one must be a thread that you start, and one must be a response to a thread someone else started**. You may exceed this minimum requirement as you wish. **Discussion boards will close on Fridays.**

Discussion Post Standards and Etiquette

1. Posts demonstrate knowledge of the class concepts and are linked to evidence and/or course material.
2. Timely -adhere to the time window set aside for each discussion, not posted at the last minute. Timely posting leads to productive discussions, in that it allows class members to respond to each other’s comments. Posts will be marked down if they are consistently entered during the last hours the board is open.
3. If your post is related to an existing thread, you must reply to the existing thread, not create a new thread.
4. Read the original questions and previous comments carefully. Respectful -even when there is strong disagreement.
5. Stimulate thinking. Do not be afraid to challenge existing comments.
6. Encourage others to provide evidence and/or refer to course concepts to support their arguments. Cite your sources.
7. Move the class understanding forward. Your comments should contribute to the class discussions.
8. Do not ramble.

Posts that simply state “I agree” or “I was going to say the same thing” or repackage what a previous classmate said are not actually discussion posts and will not be credited as such.

Please do not write in all CAPS. If you want to emphasize a word or phrase you may write it in bold, italics, underline it, or put an asterisk before and after the word or phrase.

I will actively monitor the discussion boards and participate when I see fit. I will keep track of the posting requirements and the quality of your comments.

# Exam (Multiple Choice)

This exam will be composed of 25 multiple-choice exam questions. It will be a timed exam. You will have 120 minutes to complete it.

# Essay

Essay will be due by midnight central time on the last day of class (6/13).

The essay will be based on questions I post on D2L. The essay, in PDF (preferred) or MS Word format, are due in the D2L Submissions box by 11:59 pm on the date noted in the course outline below.

You are supposed to work on the essay alone.

The essay will be graded on a 25-point scale based on content, organization, and writing:

Content

-Analysis applies concepts and frameworks from class to the case

-Addresses questions thoughtfully and analytically

-Any points that are made are backed up by solid theory or evidence

-Analysis does not rely on unsubstantiated claims

-Analysis uses positive economic analysis (not normative or emotional)

-Answers do not re-teach material from class

-Analysis uses economic concepts and terminology correctly

-The essay does not quote extensively from the article provided

Organization and Writing

- The essay is logically organized and easy to follow

- The essay uses primarily active voice

- The essay does not use flowery or convoluted language

- The essay uses accurate spelling, punctuation, and grammar

- The essay properly cites and attributes sources outside of the case itself

# Academic Integrity

All work completed for this course must adhere to the University Academic Integrity Policy which you can review at [http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu](http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/).

I may use plagiarism detection technology for all written work submitted for this class to ensure the work is the student’s own creation and is not in violation of DePaul University’s Academic Integrity Policy. Submission of work for this course constitutes (i) a pledge that the work is the student’s own original work and (ii) consent to have the work submitted to verify that fact.

You are welcome to use outside sources for exams, discussion posts, and case reports. If you use any materials beyond the text and lecture videos, you must cite them properly. Proper citation includes using quotation marks if you paraphrase.

# Outline of Topics and Due Dates

We will follow the below schedule to the extent possible. I will announce any changes via email or on the announcements page of D2L well in advance.

**Week 1 (5/3) Topics:** GDP: Measuring Total Production and Income

Hubbard and O'Brien, Ch. 12

Discussion #1 due 5/9

**Week 2 (5/10) Topics:** Unemployment and Inflation

Hubbard and O'Brien, Ch. 13

Discussion #2 due 5/16

**Week 3 (5/17) Topic:** Economic Growth, the Financial System, and Business Cycles

Hubbard and O'Brien, Ch. 14

Discussion #3 due 5/23

**Essay assigned** **(5/23)**

**Week 4 (5/24) Topic:** The Federal Reserve System and Monetary Policy

Hubbard and O'Brien, Ch. 16 & 17

Discussion #4 due 5/30

**Week 5 (5/31) Topic:** Fiscal Policy

Hubbard and O'Brien, Ch. 18

Discussion #5 due 6/6

**Exam posted (6/7) Exam & Essay due 6/13, 11:59 PM CST**