

Economics 104-001
Macroeconomic Principles
Fall 2009
Instructor: Garrett Jones

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Office Hours: Wednesday, 1:30-3:30 pm, Carow Hall 8A.

Welcome to the course! This semester we'll use the economic way of thinking to understand why some countries are richer than others, why we are so much richer than our ancestors, and why market economies have boom-bust cycles. Throughout the course, we'll use historical facts to see how chalkboard theories help to explain the world around us.

Required Textbooks, available in the University Bookstore:

Alex Tabarrok and Tyler Cowen, *Modern Principles: Macroeconomics*, Worth Publishers, 2009.

Russell Roberts, *The Price of Everything: A Parable of Possibility and Prosperity*, Princeton University Press, 2008.

Tabarrok and Cowen will be the main textbook for the course, and we'll largely work through the ideas in their book chapter by chapter. We'll read Roberts's book in the first half of the semester, while we study economic growth, productivity, and international trade.

Course Outline

Chapters 1-4: Overview, Supply and Demand.

Exam 1

Chapters 5-7: Economic Growth.

Begin Roberts, *The Price of Everything*.

Exam 2

Chapters 8, 9, 10: Trade, Savings, the Stock Market, and Job Search.

Finish Roberts, *The Price of Everything*.

Exam 3

Chapters 11-13: Business Fluctuations.

Exam 4

Chapters 14-16: The Federal Reserve, the Financial Crisis, and your Fiscal Future.

Final Exam: Monday, December 14, 7:30 a.m. Please plan accordingly.

I reserve the right to slightly alter the syllabus (deleting or shifting a chapter, for instance), as well as to require a few short (<5 pages) additional readings over the course of the semester.

Honor Code

Please keep in mind that George Mason is an Honor Code University. All forms of academic dishonesty are forbidden in this course. I encourage you to work in groups and to study together, but all exams and all homework assignments must be your own work, unless I specifically state otherwise.

Grading

As the outline indicates, you will have four exams and a final exam. I will drop the score on the lowest exam. I will always announce exam dates at least one week in advance, and I will also provide sample questions at least one week in advance. The final will be largely but not fully comprehensive: I will list the omitted chapters and readings well before the final exam. No extra credit will be offered aside from the occasional extra credit question on an examination.

Exams:	20% each (lowest score dropped)
Final:	40%

As a rule, makeup examinations will not be given.

Communication

I encourage you to come to my office hours and to contact me via e-mail.

Students with Disabilities

I am happy to make all necessary accommodations for students with disabilities. University policy states that students who would like to request such accommodations should first contact the Office of Disability Services (993-2474, Sub I Room 222).

Once again:

Final Exam: Monday, December 14, 7:30 a.m. Please plan accordingly.