Introduction to Macroeconomics
Course Outline and Reading Assignments

("CF" on the assignment list)

Course Goals: This course has four goals:

1) To serve students who are taking economics as part of the process of becoming  
   liberally educated by providing for them an introduction to macroeconomic theory as a  
   framework for social analysis.
2) To provide an introduction to economic concepts useful in analyzing whatever public  
   policy issues students will be faced with as citizens and policy-makers during their  
   lifetimes.
3) To provide a "sampler" for prospective economics majors.
4) To prepare students for advanced-level courses in economics.

These are ambitious goals to set for a ten-week course, but we hope to strike a good  
balance.

Class Format: The class will be organized in an "interrupted lecture" format. Students  
are encouraged to ask questions during the class period.

Problem Sets and Examinations: Students may wish to work through the problems  
given by the text to help clarify the readings. The prefect can go over these problems in  
prefect sessions. A problem set will be distributed in the class period before a scheduled  
problem session. Problem sets are not graded, but will be collected at the tests and are a  
required assignment. There will be two quizzes and two exams. The percentage of the  
course grade for each is indicated on the syllabus. There will be one 2-page paper on a  
topic assigned to you. Details about other reading and writing assignments will be given  
in class. While class participation is not graded, consistently high performance in class  
will help your grade in borderline cases. There will be no final examination in this  
course.

Prefect: Caitlin Throne
**Topics and Assignments:**

Students will be expected to have read the assignment before class listed for each class day. I will assume a general understanding of that material and will answer questions and move on to enhance the material. I will usually not explain the text but will make a parallel presentation which will include material not in the book. If you miss class, it is important for you to get the notes from a classmate. It will be very useful to reread the assignment after class to reinforce the material and to see how the text fits with the class presentation. Also highly recommended is to form a study group with two or three other students to go over the material regularly and to explain it to each other. In this way, you can recognize where you need more study.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon., March 31</td>
<td>Introduction to the course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed., April 2</td>
<td>Basic Premises in Economics</td>
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<td>CF, Chs. 1,2</td>
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<td>Fri., Apr. 4</td>
<td>Supply and Demand</td>
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<td>CF, Chs. 3,4</td>
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<td>Problem set distributed</td>
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<td>Mon., Apr. 7</td>
<td>Supply and Demand continued</td>
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<td>Problem Session</td>
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<td>Wed., Apr. 9</td>
<td><strong>Quiz on Supply and Demand (10%)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Problem Set Due</strong></td>
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<td>Discussion of the Price System</td>
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<td>Paper Assignment Distributed</td>
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<td>Fri., Apr. 11</td>
<td>The Keynesian Revolution</td>
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<td>Film: John Maynard Keynes: Life, Ideas and Legacy</td>
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<td>Skidelsky, R. Keynes: The Return of the Master, Chs. 3, 4</td>
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<td>Mon., Apr. 14</td>
<td>Introduction to Macroeconomics</td>
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<td>CF, Ch. 5</td>
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<td>Wed., Apr. 16</td>
<td>Macroeconomic Goals and Measures</td>
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<td>CF, Chs 6,7</td>
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<td>Fri., Apr. 18</td>
<td>Aggregate Expenditure and Equilibrium</td>
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<td>CF, Ch. 8</td>
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Mon., Apr. 21       Government and Fiscal Policy  
                  CF, Ch. 9  
                  Problem set distributed  
                  **First Paper Due (15%)**

Wed., Apr. 23      Review

Fri., Apr.25       Problem Session

Mon., Apr. 28      **Mid-Term Examination (25%)**  
                  Problem Set Due

                  CF, Ch. 10 Monetary Policy

Fri., May 2        The Money Supply continued.  
                  Review Ch. 10

Mon., May  5       Mid-Term Break

Wed., May 7        Money Demand and the Equilibrium Interest Rate  
                  CF, Ch 11

Fri., May 9        Monetary Policy continued  
                  Review Ch. 11  
                  Handouts distributed

Mon., May12        The Determination of Aggregate Output,  
                  The Price Level and the Interest Rate  
                  CF, Ch. 12

Wed., May 14       Policy Effects and Cost Shocks in the AS/AD Model  
                  Inflation: A historical look  
                  CF, Ch. 13

Fri., May 16       Labor Markets and the Phillips Curve  
                  CF, Ch. 14
Mon., May 19  Financial Crises, Stabilization and Deficits
      The Great Depression: An Historical Look
      CF , Ch. 15,
      Problem Set Distributed

Wed., May 21  Problem Session

Fri., May 23  **Second Quiz (20%)**
      **Problem Set Due**

Mon., May 26  Poverty and Income Inequality
      Readings provided

Wed., May 28  International Trade
      CF., Ch 19

Fri., May 30  The Health Care Dilemma
      “Why Can’t America Deliver on Health Care Reform”, James
      Krause, M.D. and Martha Paas, “‘Medical Economics”,
      March 11, 2012

Mon., June 2   **Second Examination (30%)**

Wed., June 4  Conclusions (and scones!)