Introduction to Macroeconomics
Course Outline and Reading Assignments

Texts: Karl. E. Case and R. C. Fair, Principles of Macroeconomics, Tenth Ed. ("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 will 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: Simon Johansen
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.

Mon., Sept. 10  Introduction to the course

Wed., Sept. 12  Basic Premises in Economics
CF, Chs. 1, 2

Fri., Sept. 14  Supply and Demand
CF, Chs. 3, 4
Problem set distributed

Mon., Sept. 17  Supply and Demand continued
Problem Session

Wed., Sept. 19  Quiz on Supply and Demand (10%)
Problem Set Due
Discussion of the Price System
Paper Assignment Distributed

Fri., Sept. 21  Introduction to Macroeconomics
CF, Ch. 5

Mon., Sept. 24  The Keynesian Revolution
Film: John Maynard Keynes: Life, Ideas and Legacy
Skidelsky, R. Keynes: The Return of the Master, Chs. 3, 4

Wed., Sept. 26  Macroeconomic Goals and Measures
CF, Chs 6, 7

Fri., Sept. 28  Aggregate Expenditure and Equilibrium
CF, Ch. 8
Mon., Oct. 1  Aggregate Expenditure continued
              First Paper Due (15%)

Wed., Oct. 3  Government and Fiscal Policy
              CF, Ch. 9
              Problem set distributed

Fri., Oct. 5  Problem Session

Mon., Oct. 8  Mid-Term Examination (25%)
              Problem Set Due

               CF, Ch. 10 Monetary Policy

Fri., Oct. 12 No Class***

Mon., Oct. 15 Mid-Term Break

Wed., Oct. 17 Money Demand and the Equilibrium Interest Rate
               CF, Ch 11

Fri., Oct. 19 Monetary Policy continued
              Handouts distributed

Mon., Oct. 22 Aggregate Demand in the Goods and Money Markets
               CF, Ch. 12 (Omit Appendix)

               Inflation: A historical look
               CF, Ch. 13

Fri., Oct. 26 Labor Markets and the Phillips Curve
               CF, Ch. 14
Mon., Oct. 29  Financial Crises, Deficits and Business Cycles
    CF, Ch. 15, 16
    Skidelsky, R. Keynes: Return of the Master, Ch. 1
    Problem Set Distributed

Wed., Oct. 31  Poverty and Income Inequality
    Readings provided

Fri., Nov. 2   Problem Session

Mon., Nov. 5   Second Quiz (20%)
    Problem Set Due

Wed., Nov. 7   Long Run Growth and Developing Economies
    CF., Ch 17, 21

Fri., Nov. 9   International Trade
    CF., Ch 19

Mon., Nov. 12  Second Examination (30%)

Wed., Nov. 14  Conclusions (and scones!)