



AGEC 2103

Fall Semester 2017

Meets: M-W-F 8:35-9:25

Room: PTSC 009

Instructor Information:

Prof. Bruce L. Dixon, Agriculture Building, Room 215. 479-575-4408, bdixon@uark.edu

Teaching Assistant: Lee Fox, tlf002@email.uark.edu

Description in Course Catalog:

Applications of economic principles to problems of agricultural production, distribution, and income; including a study of the interrelationship between agriculture and other segments of the economy; and the dynamic forces in the economy which affect agriculture. Credit will be allowed for only one of AGECE 2103 or ECON 2013 or ECON 2013H. *Course Prerequisite: You must have taken (or be taking this semester) Math 1203 (College Algebra) or tested out of the requirement.*

Course Objectives:

Each student who successfully completes this course will understand key concepts in macroeconomics and have the ability to:

- understand how millions of people pursuing their self-interest coordinate to provide and consume the goods and services in a national economy
- describe the impact of technology on specialization in production and how technological advances change production and consumption and thereby affect individuals, firms, labor unions, financial institutions
- explain the causes of inflation and recession
- describe the factors that are important in a nation's long-term economic growth
- explain the importance of productivity growth
- describe the expected effects of changes in tax rates on the economy
- explain the expected effects of changes in interest rates on the economy
- explain the effects of the federal government's spending policies on the economy and explain the influence of the Federal Reserve System on the economy
- describe the structure of the banking system
- show that the effectiveness of stabilization policy depends on the state of employment in the economy
- illustrate the effects of foreign demand for American products on U.S. inflation and employment
- relate the above concepts to the modern agricultural sector, locally, nationally and internationally

Office Hours:

Regular office hours for Prof. Dixon are scheduled for Tuesdays from: 1:30-2:30 pm and Wednesdays from 10:00-11:00am, or you can email to schedule an appointment. Please contact Prof. Dixon if you make an appointment and then are no longer able to make it to his office at the scheduled time.

Course Home Page on Blackboard Learn

Materials for this course, including syllabus, problem sets and old exams are on Blackboard Learn. You can reach Blackboard Learn at <http://learn.uark.edu>. Login with your UARK email username (do not use the "@uark.edu") and password. Once enrolled in AGECE 2103, the course will appear in your "My Courses" listing. Once in the course, click on "Information", the item of interest like "Problem Sets" and then the menu under that item will come up and you click on the item of interest.

Grading:

Homework	10%	Second highest hourly	20%
Final Exam	40%	Quiz	10%
Highest hourly	20%		
		Total	100%

No hats may be worn during an exam nor can students use any electronic equipment during the exam other than a calculator provided by the instructor. Please bring a ruler to all hourly exams. There will be *three* (3) hourly (50-minute) exams and *one* (1) 100-minute final exam. Students will drop *one* (1) of the three hourly exam scores. Make up exams *may* be permitted and *must* be arranged prior to the exam unless it is a medical emergency (personal or close family). The quiz, homework and final exam grades are scaled to have a maximum of 100. For example, each homework has a possible 100 points. So a perfect homework score would be 700. The raw total is divided by 7 and then weighted by 0.1 as in the SCA formula below. The final exam has a raw 240 points but the score is scaled by dividing by 2.4. **The final exam is mandatory. Also, once the final exam is completed, all work for the course has been completed. There is no option to do “additional work” or “something extra” to raise a grade to the next higher level after (or before) the final exam has been completed.**

The course is graded based on the student’s class average (SCA) computed as:

$$\text{SCA} = 0.1 * \text{Scaled Quiz Grade} + 0.1 * \text{Scaled Homework Grade} + 0.2 * (\text{Highest Hourly} + \text{Second Highest Hourly}) + 0.4 * \text{Scaled Final Exam Score}$$

The letter grade is assigned as a function of a student’s SCA according to:

A	SCA \geq 90
B	80 \leq SCA < 90
C	70 \leq SCA < 80
D	60 \leq SCA < 70
F	SCA < 60

Note, the scores on the quizzes, exams and homework will be accessible on Blackboard but the cumulative grade reported on Blackboard is not accurate so ignore that. The instructor reserves the right—but not the obligation—to round up on borderline cases as a function of quiz scores which are a proxy for attendance.

Quizzes: Students earn points on unannounced (“pop”) quizzes. At the end of the semester, the quiz grade will be scaled to range from 0 to 100 points. Quiz questions will be based on text and class material or may be simply an “attendance” quiz. Students will drop their three lowest quiz grades. Quiz papers are not returned to students. The scores on the quizzes are recorded on Blackboard. The student has the right to challenge any score but any challenges must be made before December 12, 2017. As of February 1, 2018, the marked quizzes will be recycled. Quizzes are typically given at the end of a class period. However, if students start to arrive for the last ten or five minutes of class just to take the quiz, quizzes will be administered earlier in the class period. If a student takes the quiz and then leaves immediately, the quiz will not count for that student. *Nota bene*—the Global Campus offers ECON 2013, Principles of Macroeconomics. If you do not like to attend classes, or feel AGEC 2103 is too early in the day for your personal, biological clock, take the online course and not be bothered with attendance incentive schemes.

Homework: All homework assignments (Problem Sets) must be downloaded from Blackboard. (Information/Problem Sets). Students may work in groups, but each student must turn in his/her own copy written in his/her own words. Blatant copying from one student’s homework to another student’s homework will result in zeros on all involved papers. Students are encouraged to type all homework although graphs may be hand-drawn. Hard copy must be turned in; electronic submission is not acceptable except in extenuating circumstances. All homework must be handed in at the end of class (by 9:25a.m.) on the date due. Late homework can be handed in the day it is due with penalty. Late homework must be turned into a department secretary in Agri 217. Late homework will be penalized as follows: Date due: 20 points after 9:25 a.m. No homework will be accepted after 4:30 p.m. on the due date for any reason other than severe illness or family emergency. Homework may be submitted early. Students drop one (1) homework grade in computing their homework grade component. If a student has a University Approved Excused Absence, they are expected to hand their homework in prior to the missed class(es).

Textbooks and Other Required Materials:

The textbook for this course is: William J. Baumol and Alan S. Blinder. *Macroeconomics Principles and Policy*. Cengage Learning. Thirteenth edition, 2016. Students who want to save money can rent a hard copy of the textbook from Cengagebrain.com for approximately \$43.49 + shipping or an e-book for \$38.49. Go to:

<http://www.cengagebrain.com/shop/isbn/9781305280601>

to get further details. There might be other ways to get the textbook more cheaply. Note, this book has a 2016 copyright date so it *might* have some buyback value. However, this is the second year out for the book and a new edition will likely come out in another year or two.

Class Attendance:

As an economist, you must learn to manage your scarce resources, time being one of them. Lecture attendance is expected. It is important to arrive to class on time. Additionally, you are strongly encouraged to weigh the opportunity costs of missing class since lectures aid in understanding course material. Some test and quiz questions may come directly from material presented only in class (not in your textbook).

Class Notes:

An effort will be made by the instructor to provide students with the slides presented in class on Blackboard by 4:30 p.m. the Friday before the start of the new lecture week. However, there is no guarantee. Even when available, these slides list topics and do not give full detail and thus do not replace note taking in class. The slide presentation will be posted on Blackboard under Information/Lecture Notes.

Use of Computers and Cell Phones During Class

In general, computers may not be used during class. If you have special circumstances that require you to use a computer, you must have it approved by Prof Dixon at least one class period in advance of using the computer. Prof. Dixon reserves the right to choose the seats of anyone needing computer usage (most likely front row).

Cell phones are not allowed to be used in class. Students using a cell phone for ANY purpose in class (other than a designated emergency as described below or another use pre-approved by Prof. Dixon) will be penalized ten (10) of the scalable 100 Quiz grade points. Note, this could end up with a negative score for a perpetual violator! These computer and cell phone policies have been developed on the recommendations of previous students who found the inappropriate behavior distracting. We want to minimize distractions so everyone can learn!

Emergency Procedures

Many types of emergencies can occur on campus; instructions for specific emergencies such as severe weather, active shooter, or fire can be found at emergency.uark.edu.

Severe Weather (Tornado Warning):

- Seek shelter in an interior hallway or a lower floor.
- Get under sturdy furniture if available.
- Listen for the campus emergency siren and its messages and instructions.

Violence / Active Shooter (CADD):

If you hear shots or see weapons:

1. If you are outside and hear gunshots immediately seek shelter in another building or escape to a safe area away from the sounds of the gunshots. Call 911 immediately.
2. Trust your instincts! Lock the doors; cover door windows if possible. Set your cell phone on vibrate or silent.
3. If you are present where a shooter is active:

- Avoid: Leave the area immediately. If necessary, break windows or glass to get out of the area. Run in the opposite direction of the disturbance or shots, cover your head with books or other items for protection. DO NOT stop running until you are in a safe area. If police officers are in the area, listen and comply with all of their commands. Raise your hands or keep them in plain sight so you are not perceived as a threat to the police.
 - Deny: If you choose to stay in your room. Do not leave until instructed to do so by a police officer. LOCK YOUR DOOR! Stay away from and below any window. Position furniture or other items in front of the door. Turn off the lights and call 911.
 - Defend: If the first two options do not work, defend yourself and those around you. Utilize any objects available to you to distract or interrupt the actions of the shooter.
4. Stay low to the ground and away from windows and doors.
 5. Remain in a safe location until you receive instructions from police.
 6. As soon as possible, call University Police at 575-2222 or dial 911
 7. Give the police dispatcher as many details as possible about your location, the location of the individual with the weapon, or the location of the gunshots.
 8. Include the number of persons involved, description of armed subject(s), weapons displayed, locations of victims, direction of travel, threats made, etc.
 9. Remain calm!

Students With Disabilities:

If you wish to request reasonable accommodations for this class due to a disability, you must first register with the Center for Educational Access (CEA). The CEA will notify the instructor but the student still has the obligation to meet with the instructor to plan the procedures required for adequate accommodation.

UA Academic Dishonesty Policy:

"As a core part of its mission, the University of Arkansas provides students with the opportunity to further their educational goals through programs of study and research in an environment that promotes freedom of inquiry and academic responsibility. Accomplishing this mission is only possible when intellectual honesty and individual integrity prevail.

Each University of Arkansas student is required to be familiar with and abide by the university's 'Academic Integrity Policy' at provost.uark.edu/academic_integrity. Students with questions about how these policies apply to a particular course or assignment should immediately contact their instructor." From:

http://provost.uark.edu/academic_initiatives.php

Accessed August 18, 2016.

Inclement Weather:

If the campus is open, class will most likely be held since the instructor lives within the city limits. However, each student must assess their own personal risk of coming to campus and moving around on campus. If there is inclement weather as declared by the University and the student believes it is unsafe for them to come to campus, then he/she should not come to campus. No assignment would be graded down in such a case and an exam would be re-scheduled. No quizzes are given during days of official inclement weather.

Useful Information Available on the Web

SOURCES OF SUPPLEMENTARY CLASS MATERIAL

Economic Report of the President <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/eop/>
Citizen's guide to the federal budget <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/usbudget/>
Purpose and Function of The Federal Reserve System <http://www.federalreserve.gov>

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL NEWS AND INFORMATION

CNN Financial News Service <http://money.cnn.com>
Economics Briefing Room at the White House <http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/economy>
Federal Reserve Banks <http://www.federalreserve.gov>
Federal Reserve Board of Governors <http://www.federalreserve.gov/bios/>
The Motley Fool <http://www.fool.com>
Yahoo! Finance (Stock quotes and more) <http://finance.yahoo.com/>
Investor Words <http://www.investorwords.com>
Businessweek Magazine <http://www.businessweek.com/>
New York Times <http://www.nytimes.com/>
Wall Street Journal Interactive Edition <http://www.wsj.com/>
The Economist <http://www.economist.com/world/>

ECONOMIC DATA AND STATISTICS

2010 US Statistical Abstract <http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/>
Bureau of Economic Analysis <http://www.bea.gov/>
National Agricultural Statistic Service (NASS) <http://www.nass.usda.gov>
National Bureau of Economic Research <http://www.nber.org/>
US Census Bureau <http://www.census.gov>
US State fact sheets <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/state-fact-sheets.aspx>

OTHER

Democratic National Committee <http://www.democrats.org/index.html>
Economics Assistance Site <http://econweb.com>
Links for Ag Economists <http://www.aaea.org>
Republican National Committee <http://www.rnc.org/>
Univ of AR homepage for AEAB <http://agribus.uark.edu/>
US Senate <http://www.senate.gov/>
US House of Representatives <http://www.house.gov/>

Course Outline, Reading Assignments, Homework and Exams (*Dates/materials are subject to change*)

Week	Week of	Topic	Reading Material	H
1	Aug 21	What is Economics? The Economy	Chapter 1 pp. 3-18 Chapter 2 pp. 21-36	
2	Aug 28	The Economy (Cont.) Scarcity and Choice Supply and Demand	Chapter 3, pp. 39-52 Chapter 4, pp. 55-76	I
	Sep 1	<i>LAST DAY TO DROP THIS COURSE WITHOUT A MARK OF A W</i>		
3	Sep 4	(No Monday class.) Supply and Demand (Cont.) Introduction to Macro	Chapter 5, pp. 81-99	II
4	Sep 11	Goals of Macroeconomic Policy, Review	Chapter 6, pp. 101-125	III
	Sep 15	First Exam	Chapters 1-6 and class/homework material	
5	Sep 18	Economic Growth Aggregate Demand	Chapter 7, pp. 127-144 Chapter 8, pp. 147-167	
6	Sep 25	Demand-Side Equilibrium	Chapter 9, pp. 169-192	IV
7	Oct 2	Supply-Side Equilibrium	Chapter 10, pp. 193-211	
8	Oct 9	Supply-Side Equilibrium (Cont.), Review		V
	Oct 13	Second Exam	Chapters 7-10 and class/homework material	
9	Oct 16	Fall Break (No Monday class) Managing Aggregate Demand	Chapter 11, pp. 215-233	
10	Oct 23	Money and The Banking System Monetary Policy	Chapter 12, pp. 235-256 Chapter 13, pp. 259-277	VI
11	Oct. 30	The Financial Crisis	Chapter 14, pp. 279-293	VII
12	Nov 6	Finish The Financial Crisis Review		
	Nov 10	Third Exam	Chapters 11-14 and class/homework material	
13	Nov 13	Budget Deficits International Trade and Comparative Advantage	Chapter 16, pp. 315-334 Chapter 18, pp. 355-377	
14	Nov 20	International Monetary System	Chapter 19, pp. 379-396	
15	Nov 27	Exchange Rates	Chapter 20, pp. 399-412	VIII
16	Dec 4	Finish Exchange Rates, Catch up, Review		IX
	Dec 7	<i>LAST DAY TO OFFICIALLY WITHDRAW FROM ALL FALL COURSES</i>		
	Dec 8	Dead Day		
	Dec 13	FINAL EXAM 8a.m.-9:40 a.m.	Materials from Full Semester	