



**Fin 312 01E # 80009**  
**US – Principles Macro Economics**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall, 2015**  
**August 1, 2015**

**Instructor: Stanley Holmes, Ph.D.**

**Office Location: Department of Economics**

**Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesday 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. or by  
Appointment in BA 102D**

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## **COURSE INFORMATION**

### **Materials –**

***Money, Financial Markets and Institutions* , 8<sup>th</sup> edition, by Frederic S. Mishkin and Stanley G. Eakins. Pearson Prentice Hall.**

**ISBN-13: 9780133423624**

***Study Guide for Financial Markets & Institutions* 8<sup>th</sup> edition, by William Gerken. The student Study Guide that accompanies this text is not required, but is strongly recommended.**

**ISBN-10: 0133427072**  
**ISBN-13: 9780133427073**

**Hardware –**

**Financial Calculator – Texas Instruments BA II or comparable**

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will meet every Monday and Wednesday from 12:30 to 1:45 P.M. Central Time at the TAMUC Main Campus, Room BA 245. The course is, materially, a cross between a traditional “money and banking” economics course and a standard “money and capital markets” finance course. It differs, however, in its general approach to the topics covered. The aim of the course is to provide an analytical framework that will enable one to understand, interact with, and operate in financial markets and institutions. The approach of the course is highly applications and implications oriented. The purpose of this approach is to introduce the student to real-world issues and problems that participants in financial markets regularly encounter. Additionally, in that money and capital markets are truly “globalized” markets, international perspectives are fully integrated into the material. Further, because financial markets continue to innovate and evolve, the nature of, and forces driving, such innovations are highlighted. Finally, inasmuch as the stability of financial markets impacts significantly the health and stability of the overall economy, consideration of the role of the central bank in terms of the formulation and implementation of monetary policy is a vital component of the course.

There are two factors that you should consider carefully before you start this course. First, you should keep in mind that it is critical that you read materials and do assignments when assigned. A person who hopes to do well in this class can ill afford to fall behind. Second, if you do not have sufficient time to devote to the class each week, and/or if you are not comfortable with meeting with the class at the appointed time, you probably should rethink taking this class. Keep in mind that Finance 312 is an upper-level finance course, and the performance requirements will be commensurate with same.

Chapters and other reading materials will be assigned (see below) and you are expected to read them when or before they are assigned for discussion/testing. You will have an opportunity to ask questions and

interact during the class, but this will necessitate your being current with your reading and study.

## GRADING

Grades will be based on 4 multiple choice exams worth 20 points each and 2 papers worth 10 points each. Exams will be given on line and papers must be submitted by the due date in MS Word format to the appropriate Dropbox. Do not email assignments. No late papers will be graded. Use your first initial, last name and Paper # for the paper file name. Plan well in advance for the exams: there will be no early exams and no makeup exams will be given unless student has an approved excuse. Note that computer issues are not a valid excuse.

Course grades will be assigned as:

90 – 100 A

80 – 89 B

70 – 79 C

60 – 69 D

Below 60 F

*Please also note that if this is required for your major, you will not graduate with a D -- so plan accordingly when deciding the effort to dedicate to the class.*

Note: "Need" is not a factor in determining course grades, so please do not call or e-mail me telling me how much you need to make a certain grade. Grades are to be earned, not gifted.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- To fully participate in online courses, you will need to use a current, Flash enabled browser. For PC users, the suggested browser is Internet Explorer 9.0 or 10. For Mac users, the most current update of Firefox is suggested.
- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
  - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
  - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive

- Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- You must have a:
  - sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
  - speakers or headphones.

All devices should be installed and configured before class begins.

- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. Java can be downloaded at:  
<http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp>
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.
- You will need some additional free software for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
  - Adobe Reader
  - Adobe Flash Player
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.
- For additional information about system requirements, please see:  
<https://secure.ecollege.com/tamuc/index.learn?action=technical>

## **ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**

### **eCollege Access and Log in Information**

**You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).**

It is strongly recommended that you perform a "Browser Test" prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login to Pearson LearningStudio, click on the 'myCourses' tab, and then select the "Browser Test" link under Support Services.

**Accessing Help from within Your Course:** Click on the 'Tech Support' icon on the upper left side of the screen inside the course. You will then be able to get assistance via online chat, email or by phone by calling the Help Desk number noted below.

**Note:** Personal computer problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, an Internet cafe, or a bookstore, such as Barnes & Noble, etc.

## **Policy for Reporting Problems with Pearson LearningStudio**

Should students encounter Pearson LearningStudio based problems while submitting assignments/discussions/comments/exams, the following procedure **MUST** be followed?

1. Students must report the problem to the help desk. You may reach the helpdesk at [helpdesk@online.tamuc.org](mailto:helpdesk@online.tamuc.org) or 1-866-656-5511
2. Students **MUST** file their problem with the helpdesk and obtain a helpdesk ticket number
3. Once a helpdesk ticket number is in your possession, students should email me to advise me of the problem and to provide me with the helpdesk ticket number
4. At that time, I will call the helpdesk to confirm your problem and follow up with you

**PLEASE NOTE:** Your personal computer/access problems are not a legitimate excuse for filing a ticket with the Pearson LearningStudio Help Desk. You are strongly encouraged to check for compatibility of your browser **BEFORE** the course begins and to take the Pearson LearningStudio tutorial offered for students who may require some extra assistance in navigating the Pearson LearningStudio platform. **ONLY** Pearson LearningStudio based problems are legitimate.

### **Internet Access**

An Internet connection is necessary to participate in discussions and assignments, access readings, transfer course work, and receive feedback from your professor. View the requirements as outlined in Technology Requirements above for more information.

### **myLeo Support**

Your myLeo email address is required to send and receive all student correspondence. Please email [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu) or call us at 903-468-6000 with any questions about setting up your myLeo email account. You may also access information at <https://leo.tamuc.edu>.

### **Learner Support**

Go to the following link [One Stop Shop](#)- created to serve you by attempting to provide as many resources as possible in one location.

Go to the following link [Academic Success Center](#)- focused on providing academic resources to help you achieve academic success.

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Student Considerations and Rules**

All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.

The College of Business and Technology at Texas A&M University-Commerce students will follow the highest level of ethical and professional behavior. Actionable Conduct includes illegal activity, dishonest conduct, cheating, and plagiarism. Failure to abide by the principles of ethical and professional behavior will result in sanctions up to and including dismissal from the university.

Students are required to use leo.tamuc.edu email address for email communication.

The deadline for dropping a class is listed under the academic schedule.

Refer to Student's Guide Book located at:  
[www.tamuc.edu/studentlife/guidebook.html](http://www.tamuc.edu/studentlife/guidebook.html)

**PLAGIARISM** Plagiarism represents disregard for academic standards and is strictly against University policy. Plagiarized work will result in an **"F"** for the course and further administrative sanctions permitted under University policy. Guidelines for properly quoting someone else's writings and the proper citing of sources can be found in the APA Publication Manual. If you do not understand the term "plagiarism", or if you have difficulty summarizing or documenting sources, contact your professor for assistance.

**STUDENT WORKLOAD** University students are expected to dedicate a minimum of *90 clock hours* during the term/semester for a 3SH course.

## University Specific Procedures

### ADA Statement

#### Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

#### Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

### Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*). Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

## COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Any special accommodation requests (not related to disabilities) – must be made to me in a memorandum with documentation attached. The outline below is subject to change. Make sure to attend class sessions and check email regularly to note any changes.

### **Week of**

### **Assignment**

#### **Unit I**

Aug 31 & Sep 7

Text: Chapters 1 through 3

Fedpoints

1) Understanding U.S. Government Securities Quotes

Sep 14 & Sep 21

2) Zero Coupons and STRIPS

Text: Chapters 4 through 6

Sep 28

Fed Points & Review

**Unit 1 Exam (Sep 30)**

**Unit 2**

Oct 5 & Oct 12

Text: Chapters 7 through 10

Fedpoints

1) Federal Reserve System (4 items)

2) Monetary Policy Tools (9 items)

3) Miscellaneous (2 items)

4) Functions of Money

Oct. 19

Fed Points & Review

**Unit 2 Exam (Oct 21)**

**Unit 3**

Oct. 26 & Nov 2

Text: Chapters 11 through 15 and 17

Fedpoints

1) Book-Entry Procedure

2) Treasury Auctions

3) Estimating Yields on Treasury Securities

Nov 9

Fed Points & Review

**Unit 3 Exam (Nov 11)**

**Unit 4**

Nov 16, 23, 30  
22

Text: Chapters 16 through 18 and

Dec. 7

Review

### **Unit 4 Exam (Dec 10)**

**NOTE: This outline is subject to change! Regular class attendance and email check is needed to follow up with any date or assignment changes.**

## **Hints for making a good grade in this course**

1. Attend class—come prepared, ask questions if you do not understand the material and/or assignments, stay alert and take good notes
2. Get the Study Guide, and use it
3. Read and study materials when assigned. Falling behind in class can be fatal (grade-wise, of course).
4. Turn in all assignments in on time—and in proper form (see below)
5. All assignments--tests and projects--are individual (not group) assignments.  
Make sure that the materials you submit reflect your (exclusive) work.
6. When you don't understand material, ASK QUESTIONS—either in class by email or phone. As soon as you realize that you are having problems in the course, contact me then.

## **Suggestions for submitting written assignments:**

1. Save a backup copy when you submit. It may contain something that you will wish to review for the upcoming exam.
2. Put the assignment in your own words—DO NOT SEND ME ANY COPY AND PASTE ATTACHMENTS. I do not care to read Federal Reserve generated material about the Federal Reserve (relative, for example, to an assignment regarding the Fed). Tell me what you have to offer—but stick to facts and analysis, please, not unsupported opinion—on the topic/issue under discussion. Refrain from using “I believe” or “I feel” in your responses.

3. Put the assignment in your own words—DO NOT SEND ME A PAPER THAT IT IDENTICAL TO THAT SUBMITTED BY YOUR FELLOW CLASSMATE. The assignments are not group projects. DO NOT SEND ME A PAPER THAT YOU COPIED FROM AN INTERNET SOURCE. As stated above assignments must be in your own words.

4. Treat each submission as a university level assignment—not a text message to a pal. Keep in mind that in a formal setting:

- a) grammar and spelling matter (and may be held against you) run spell check on all submitted assignments, tests and emails;
- b) 2 and 4 are Arabic numerals, not prepositions;
- c) U and R are letters of the alphabet, not pronouns and contractions;
- d) “there” and “their” are not interchangeable words;

In general, ask yourself if your submission is of a quality and maturity that you would submit to an employer—assuming that you would like to keep your job and advance with the company.