Advanced Placement (AP)

Macroeconomics Syllabus

Instructor: Angus McLeod Email: [AMcleod@eanesisd.net](mailto:william.mcleod@ideapublicschools.org) Website: whasmcleod.weebly.com

Room: 268 Conference Periods: 4th & 6th M-F: 11:36-12:26 and 1:28-2:18

Tutoring Availability: Every weekday by appointment

Westlake H.S. Phone: (512) 732-9280 ext. 33223 Personal Phone: (512) 618-8178

**Online Access**

In AP Macro all materials will be posted either on my Weebly page or on Google Classroom. Look below for the codes for the different classes as well as what types of materials will be found on each platform.

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| **Weebly** | **Google Classroom** |
| * Detailed Calendar * Worksheets * In-class Assignments * Vocabulary * Readings * Class Lectures & PowerPoints * Learning Targets * Review Materials * Videos | * Assignment Calendar * Worksheets & Answer Keys * Google Classroom Assignments * Announcements |

**5th Period: datt0we 7th Period: cu0ok0 8th Period: 8i2krz**

**About AP Macroeconomics**

The Advanced Placement Program is intended for qualified students who wish to complete studies in secondary school equivalent to a one-semester college introductory course in Macroeconomics. The state of Texas has a one-semester economics course requirement for graduation, and AP Macroeconomics meets that requirement.

**Course Description**

AP Macroeconomics is an introduction course designed to assist students in developing critical-thinking skills through the understanding, application, and analysis of fundamental concepts that apply to the economic system as a whole. Students will be expected to apply quantitative and mathematical skills to economics. Primary emphasis is placed on the study of national income, price-level determination, economic performance measures, stabilization policies, and international economics. Graphical analysis is a vital part of this course. At the end of this semester, the student will be prepared to take the AP Macroeconomics Exam.

The course will be conducted in a lecture/seminar manner. All students will be expected to keep up with their reading and to demonstrate their preparedness by active participation in class discussions. The course will emphasize problem solving, writing skills—roughly every two to three weeks students will answer a free-response question (FRQ) in class.

**About the Exam**

The AP Macroeconomics Exam is 2 hours and 10 minutes in length. The exam is divided between a 70-minute multiple-choice section consisting of 60 questions and a 60-minute free-response (essay) section consisting of three mandatory questions. The multiple-choice section of the exam counts as 2/3 and the free-response section of the exam counts as 1/3 of the total score. The AP Exam in Macroeconomics is scheduled for Wednesday, May 11 at 12:00 p.m.

**Textbooks**

McConnell, Campbell R., Stanley L. Brue. *Economics: Principles, Problems, and Policies, 15th Edition*. New York: McGraw-Hill Higher Education, 2002.[[1]](#footnote-1)

McConnell, Campbell R., Stanley L. Brue, Sean M. Flynn. *Economics: Principles, Problems, and Policies, 20th Edition*. New York: McGraw-Hill Education, 2015.

Ray, Margaret, David Anderson. *Krugman’s Economics for AP*. New York: Worth Publishers, 2011.

**Required Materials**

Bring these to class every day: AP Macroeconomics binder or journal, paper, blue or black pen, pencil, and your fully charged iPad with clamcase. I also recommend a **stylus** with which to write on the iPad.

**Current Events & Policy Paper**

Throughout the semester we will have assignments centered on current events related to subjects we cover in macroeconomics. These assignments will vary in form, duration, and difficulty, but all will count towards the major grade category. During the second half of the semester we will be researching and writing a policy paper advocating for a specific policy chosen by the student.

**Cheating and Plagiarism**

At the University level, students are permanently expelled for this offense, and other colleges and universities will refuse your entry. I take this subject **very** seriously. For further information on cheating, see the Student Handbook, as I will be adhering to Westlake H.S. school policies. DO NOT CHEAT.

**Basic Course Outline**

* Unit I—Basic Economic Concepts
  + Scarcity, choice, opportunity costs, production possibilities
  + Comparative advantage, absolute advantage, and trade
  + Supply and demand
* Unit II—Measuring Economic Performance
  + GDP, unemployment, inflation
* Unit III—National Income and Price Determination
  + Aggregate demand and aggregate supply
  + Short and long-run equilibrium
  + Fiscal policy and the multiplier
  + Stabilization policy and the Phillips Curve
* Unit IV—The Financial Sector
  + Money and banking
  + The Federal Reserve and monetary policy
  + The Money market and loanable funds
* Unit V—Economic Growth & Macroeconomic Theories
  + Long-run economic growth
  + Productivity and growth
  + Macroeconomic theories
* Unit VI—International Trade and Finance
  + Capital flows and balance of payments
  + Foreign exchange market
  + Exchange rate policy

**Homework as Extra Credit**

If you complete worksheet/homework assignments during a specific unit, turning them in on the day of that unit’s test will make you eligible for extra credit on the test up to a 90.

Directions for Completing:

Answer keys are posted on Google Classroom for all worksheets. To avoid the perception of cheating, if you like to verify/correct your work, make corrections in a different color pen. This will help me see that you are using the key as it is meant to be used.

Directions for Turning in:

Paper copies are always accepted, as are a combination of paper and online submissions. Taking a series of screenshots from Notability and emailing them to me is perfectly fine too.

**Class Rules & Procedures**

All information not explicitly outlined here falls under general Westlake H.S. policy as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Tardies: Please be in the class and in your seat so that you are not counted tardy.

Substitutes: In the event of a substitute, it will be your responsibility to behave in line with all class expectations.

Reading: Most of the textual reading will be accomplished outside of the classroom. Class time will be devoted to lectures and discussion of various topics. Students may also be assigned various outside readings. It is imperative that students read all assignments before coming to class to get the most out of class time.

Assignments: Assignments are due during class on the date assigned. Failure to turn in a major assignment can seriously affect your grade. All honest attempts are rewarded. Always try. It is better to turn in something that shows you tried than to turn in nothing at all.

Incomplete/Late Work: In general will not be accepted. Unless otherwise specified.

Absences: If a student is absent the day an assignment is due, it will be due when the student returns. Absent students are responsible for missed work or information covered in class. Help out your fellow classmates to keep them up to date. If gone for an unexpected, prolonged period, you have the amount of time you were absent plus one day to turn in any missed work. If you have any planned or school-related absences, it is your responsibility to check with me beforehand to get any work and stay up to date. All work due during a planned absence will be due upon your return.

Grades: Will be posted as promptly as possible. Stay on top of your grades so that you are not surprised by the end of a grading period. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to Mr. McLeod.

**Grading Policy**

* Major Grades: **70%**
  + Unit Exams, Current Events Assignments, Policy Paper, Projects
* Daily Grades: **30%**
  + Quizzes, Group FRQs, Daily/Weekly Writing, Vocabulary Quizzes, Daily Work, Homework

**Final Exam & Overall Grade**

* There will be a final exam at the end of the semester that will count as 20% of the overall semester grade.
* The two previous quarters will each count as 40% of the overall semester grade.

Remember: This class is geared to prepare all students for the AP Exam in May. It requires a lot of work and focus. It is impossible to address every subject in AP Macroeconomics in a semester-long course. It is up to you (the student) to do extra work, above and beyond class time, to prepare yourself for success on the AP Exam. In the short-run, this will require an enormous amount of work, but in the long run—when you’re studying for the AP Exam, the payoff will be excellent. I am always here to help and support you and if you ever have questions or worries, do not hesitate to come to me. Always remember that you are capable of great things.

**Mr. Angus McLeod**

**B.A. Plan II Honors | History | International Relations The University of Texas at Austin**

1. Only the 2002 edition of the McConnell & Brue textbook will be provided. Additional readings will be provided in class or through my website. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)