

## SYLLABUS

### PRINCIPLES OF MACROECONOMICS – Econ 2301 PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS – Econ 2302

FALL 2014

Houston Community College System - Northwest: Katy Campus

Instructor: **Sophie Haci**  
Contact: Sophie.haci@hccs.edu

Dept of Government & Economics website: <http://northwest.hccs.edu/programs/economics/>

#### COMMUNICATION:

Your involvement and interest in the class is very important, so feel free to ask questions, verbally or via-e-mail, about the material covered in class or the homework etc.

My office hours are as follows: Tuesday and Wednesday– 12:30 to 1:30 -Suite 112. Appointments can also be made in advance.

Here are the websites that will be used for various purposes for this class:

<b>Eagle Online 2.0</b> <a href="https://eo2.hccs.edu/login/index.php">https://eo2.hccs.edu/login/index.php</a>	<b>Must check on regular basis</b>	Schedule, syllabus, assignments, written part of tests, announcements etc.
<b>McGrawHill Connect</b> <b>Access code info on Eagle Online</b>	Check often	<u>Homework</u> assignments, MCQ part of tests
<b>The Learning Web</b> <a href="http://learning.hccs.edu">http://learning.hccs.edu</a> and enter my name in Find a faculty member	Optional	Syllabus and Curriculum Vitae

If you experience difficulties with any of the websites, please let me know so attempts can be made to fix the problems. If you do not have a personal computer, you can use the computers in the library.

#### E-MAIL AND E-MAIL ETIQUETTE

E-mail is the best way to communicate with your instructor and please use the following address:

**sophie.haci@hccs.edu.** Do not use the J-mail from Eagle Online.

**Always include your Name (I may not guess who 'Saturn&Jupiter' is) and your class: Econ 2301 – MW – 9:30.**

Ms Haci or Professor Haci is the proper way to address your instructor and refrain from using ???!!!! or CAPITAL LETTERS!!!.

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

**ECON 2301** is designed to provide students with a framework for the analysis and evaluation of macroeconomic issues, and prepare the students for advanced macroeconomic studies. Topics like unemployment, inflation, taxes, trade and gross national product will be covered. As much as possible, the concepts taught in class will be tied to current

**ECON 2302** is designed to provide students with a framework for the analysis and evaluation of microeconomic issues, and prepare the students for advanced microeconomic studies. Microeconomics studies the behavior and decision-making process of firms and individuals in a market economy. ECON 2302 is fully transferable to other colleges and

economic news.  
ECON 2301 is fully transferable to other colleges and universities.

universities.

#### TEXTBOOK:

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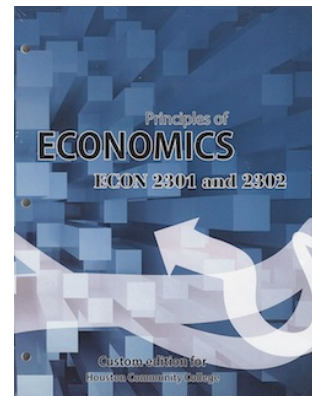
***The Economy Today***, Bradley R. Schiller, 13<sup>th</sup> ed., McGraw-Hill Publishing, 2013

You are required to buy the textbook along with McGrawHill Connect for homework purposes.

The book package including "Connect" is available at your college bookstore for \$171.45 new or \$128.60 used (Spring 2014 prices).

You can purchase the subscription to McGrawHill Connect separately from the book at for about \$60 valid for 2 semesters within an 18 months period directly from the website at <http://connect.mheducation.com/connect/login/index.htm>

You can purchase an E-book along with the subscription to 'Connect' website along with your subscription to "Connect" for a combined cost of about \$120.



To register to 'Connect', follow instructions on Eagle Online

#### ACADEMIC HONESTY, PLAGIARISM, COLLUSION:

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*HCC policy:* "Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating on a test includes copying from another student's test paper; using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test; collaborating with another student during a test without authority; knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test; or bribing another person to obtain a test that is to be administered. 'Plagiarism' means the appropriation of another's work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own written work for credit. 'Collusion' means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit."

In simplified terms, cheating is: (1) taking unchanged passages (or slightly edited) from another person's writing and portraying them as one's own; (2) submitting a paper that includes paraphrases of another person's writing without giving credit; (3) having someone else write your paper for you; (4) copying or using another person's work during in-class writing or testing; (5) the unauthorized use of electronic devices during in-class writing or testing; and (6) violating testing rules. Keep in mind also that whether you are cheating or not, not following testing or writing rules properly, such as communicating with your neighbor or using a cell phone during a test will be construed as cheating. This is not an exhaustive list of the forms of cheating on written work. If you are in doubt, consult your instructor.

System students are responsible for conducting themselves with honor and integrity in fulfilling course requirements. System officials may assess penalties and/or initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of scholastic dishonesty. Consequences for academic dishonesty may include a grade of "0" or "F" on the particular assignment, failure in the course, recommendation for probation or dismissal from the System, and other consequences deemed appropriate by the administration. Students who wish to appeal a final course grade may do so in accordance with procedures set forth in the Student Handbook.

#### STUDENT DISCIPLINE:

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Adult behavior is expected. Disruptive behavior/activities which interfere with teaching and/or learning will not be tolerated, and may result in an administrative withdrawal without refund.

Students arriving late and leaving early disrupt the class, therefore if students arrive more than 10 minutes late or leave the class early without informing me at the beginning of class, they will be counted absent when it comes to earning attendance points.

You are expected to respect your professor and fellow students and behave appropriately.

#### TEACHER EVALUATION:

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EGLS<sub>3</sub> (Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System)

At Houston Community College, professors believe that thoughtful student feedback is necessary to improve teaching and learning. During a designated time near the end of the term, you will be asked to answer a short online survey of research-based questions related to instruction. The anonymous results of the survey will be made available to your professors and department chairs for continual improvement of instruction. Go to [www.hccs.edu/egls3](http://www.hccs.edu/egls3) for more information.

#### DISABILITIES:

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Any student with a documented disability (e.g., physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the Disability Service Office ([Click here for the link](#)) at their respective college at the beginning of each semester. **Spring Branch Campus, RC 14** - Lisa Parkinson M.Ed. - Phone: (713) 718-5422 Fax: (713) 718-5430 TTY: (713) 718-5697  
**Katy Campus, 150** - Dr. LaRonda Ashford - Phone: (713) 718-5408 Fax: (713) 718-5222

#### ATTENDANCE:

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**Attendance is crucial;** if you don't attend class, your chances of passing the class are close to zero; therefore good attendance will be rewarded as follows:

0-4 absences:	50 points	attendance of 87% and more
5-7 absences:	35 points	attendance of 80% to 70%
7 or more absences:	0 points	attendance of less than 70%

Note: If students arrive more than 10 minutes late or leave the class early without informing me at the beginning of class, they will be counted absent when it comes to earning attendance points.

#### WITHDRAWAL:

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##### Drop Policy:

- It is your responsibility to withdraw in the proper time and fashion. Failure to do so will result in a F. If a student is repeatedly absent, he/she **may be dropped** as a result.
- Students are now able to withdraw one or more of their classes **online** and are no longer required to talk to an advisor to withdraw – it is still advisable you do so. To withdraw online, students have to do the following:
  - Provide a reason for dropping the class
  - Learn about the consequences for dropping a class
  - Acknowledge the implications of withdrawing from a class
- Students who take a course for the third time or more must now pay significant tuition/fee increases at HCC and other Texas public colleges and universities. At HCC it is an additional \$50 per credit hour. If you are considering course withdrawal because you are not earning passing grades, confer with your instructor/counselor as early as possible about your study habits, reading and writing homework, test-taking skills, attendance, course participation, and opportunities for tutoring or other assistance that might be available.
- The state of Texas has passed a new law limiting new students (as of Fall 2007) to no more than six withdrawals throughout their academic career in obtaining a baccalaureate degree."
- If students fail as a result of excessive absences and lack of meaningful participation in the class, they may earn an **Fx** for the class. An Fx may negatively affect students' financial aid status.

In the event that you find yourself struggling during the course of the semester, I will do my best to work with you and help you.

## CORE OBJECTIVES

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The Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) mandates that the core curriculum must ensure that students will develop the essential knowledge and skills they need to be successful in college, in a career, in their communities, and in life. Through the Texas Core Curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world, develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world, and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning.

Students will complete assessments designed to measure the following core objectives:

- **Critical Thinking Skills**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- **Communication Skills**—to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
- **Empirical and Quantitative Skills**—
- **Social Responsibility Skills**—to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making

Student assessment of proficiencies mandated by THECB may include testing, projects, or assignments.

## GRADING:

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Scale:	90 - 100 = A	80 - 89.9 = B
	70 - 79.9 = C	60 - 69.9 = D
	0 - 59.9 = F	

**Grades:** Do not rely on the grade book feature from Eagle Online to assess your overall grade. The Eagle Online grade book only shows the assignments that were graded from Eagle Online and omit the Connect Homework and MCQ part of the tests and some other assignments. A link will be available from Eagle online to see the other grades.

How your grade is calculated:

		Points	Weight
- 2 Tests	150 pts * 2 =	300	35%
- Final Exam		150	18%
- Homework-"Connect"		125	15%
- Assignments - "Eagle Online"		100	12%
- Quizzes		50	6%
- Attendance		50	6%
- In Class Assignments		50	6%
- Orientation		25	3%
Total		850	100%

### Tests:

- Each test will have 2 parts:
  - A multiple choice part that will be timed on McGraw Hill-Connect – 75 pts
  - A written part, on Eagle Online – 75 pts.
- Each test will be available for a limited number of days (see schedule).
- You will have the opportunities but not the obligation to make a second attempt for the multiple choice part of the test within the allowed time period but the second attempts will contain different questions. The best of the 2 attempts will be used.
- Cheating issues: You are still expected to do your own work. If one of your written answers is strikingly similar to another student's, then I will assume that either you worked together or one of you copied and both students will get no points for that question and the entire test.
- Use of outside or web resources: Unless specified, you are **not** required to use outside or web sources or research topics for the written part of the tests, all the answers come from the book, lectures and your notes. If you do wish to use outside sources, the rules concerning plagiarism will apply, always cite your sources, use quotations when needed, and make sure that the material you use is appropriate for the test questions.
- The written part of the test is to be turned in on Eagle Online, but if technical difficulties arise, you can hand in your test answers **on the due date in class**.
- You may take the test in class on the day of the test provided you let your instructor know in advance.
- **Make-ups** are discouraged but allowed since unexpected events do occur. However given the fact that students have 5 days to complete each test, a 10 point penalty will apply for each make up and if a student requires more than one make up during the semester a 15 point penalty will be imposed. If you miss a test, contact me immediately so that a make-up test can be arranged. Avoid missing a test if at all possible.

### Final Exam: 150 points

The final exam will include material covered after the 3<sup>rd</sup> test and also material from previous chapters. A detailed list of the concepts to know for the final will be available. The final exam will be in class.

### Homework "Connect": 125 points

"Connect" homework is available on the *McGrawHill Connect* website for most chapters. The homework is due the day of the test that covers that specific chapter, those due dates are on the schedule and on the "Connect" website. Homework can be turned in after the due date but for each late day there is a 10% penalty and a lower score is given even if you get all the questions right. Several attempts are allowed for each homework.

### Assignments – Eagle Online: 100 points

The number of points available is greater than the required 100 points so you do not have to complete all the assignments, only up to 100 points. In the example below, you would have earned 75 points by completing 4 assignments that were out of a total possible 100 points:

	Assignment #1	#2	#3	#4	Total
Grade earned	19	20	15	21	Total: 75
Max points	20	25	25	30	100

Extra credit points can be earned by completing additional assignments of a maximum value of 25 points.

	Assignment#1	#2	#3	#4	Extra credit	Total
Grade earned	19	20	15	21	Extra credit:18	Total: 93
Max points	20	25	25	30	20	100

Assignments vary in style so you have some flexibility and can chose assignments that interest you more.

Assignments are turned through Eagle Online; however you can choose to turn in your homework on paper, in class, typed on clean, loose leaf of paper, no pages ripped out of notebooks, on the due date or the lecture

immediately following the due date, so please keep track of the due dates. I reserve the right not to grade or to deduct points if the work is really sloppy or unreadable.

**In Class Assignments: 50 points** - 'In Class Assignments' are short problems that students work on during class. They are designed to apply the material taught that day and familiarize the students with the concepts. Make sure that you attend class so you don't miss those assignments; you are allowed to make up only 2 per semester. To make up an 'in class assignment' complete an extra assignment from list on Eagle Online of a maximum value of 15 points.

**Quizzes: 50 points** – Most week, on the second class, at the beginning of class, a short quiz (usually 4 questions) will take place. You will be able to use your smart phone, tablet or laptop to take the quiz. Quizzes will be based on the material covered during the previous lecture and sometimes on the material to be covered that day. For more information on when each quiz is scheduled and the material it covers refer to the class schedule (available on Eagle Online). Quizzes will start on the second week of school. The questions will mostly test your knowledge of *basic economic terms and concepts*. There will be a total of 8 or 9 quizzes worth 10 points each; the best 5 grades will be selected. Quizzes cannot be made up which is why you can drop a few of them.

**Attendance:** A maximum of 50 points is awarded.

**Orientation: 25 points** - The following tasks are to be completed by the end of the second week of school on Eagle Online to earn points:

1. Read the syllabus and take the syllabus quiz – 10 points
2. Sign up for 'remind 101' to receive reminders and other announcements – 5 points
3. Provide a working email that you do check on a regular basis – 5 points
4. Sign up for McGraw Hill connect – 5 points

Go to Eagle Online for more information on orientation

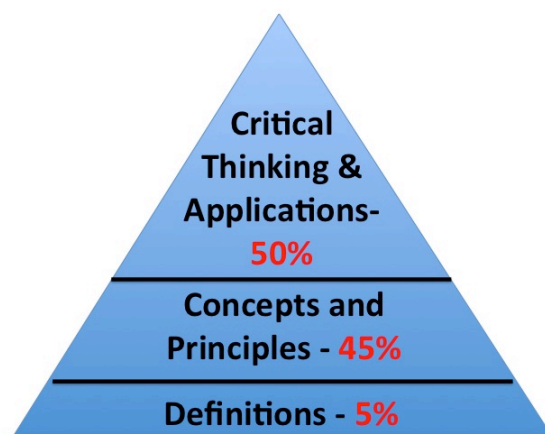
#### TEST STRUCTURE:

You will be tested on 3 levels:

1. Definitions
2. Concepts and Principles
3. Applications and Critical Thinking

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A <b>definition</b> is a statement expressing the essential nature of something, or the meaning of a word or word group.</li></ul>	Example of a definition question: "What is inflation?"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A <b>concept</b> is a general idea derived or inferred from specific instances or occurrences, or something formed in the mind, a thought or notion.</li><li>• A <b>principle</b> is a basic truth, law, or assumption.</li></ul>	Example of a concept/principle question: "What are the causes of inflation?"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Applications</b> refer to the use of studied concepts and principles in hypothetical or real life situations.</li><li>• <b>Critical thinking</b> is the intentional application of rational, higher order thinking skills, such as <u>analysis, synthesis, problem recognition and problem solving, inference, and evaluation</u>" (Angelo, 1995), or "Critical thinking... means making <u>reasoned judgments... using criteria</u> to judge the quality of something." <a href="#">Beyer (1995)</a></li></ul>	Example of a critical thinking question: "If the government aims to reduce inflation, what strategies do you recommend?"

Definition questions will account for **approximately** 5% of the test grade, concepts questions for 45% and application and critical thinking about 50%.



The shape of a **pyramid** is used to demonstrate that **in order to successfully answer critical thinking questions, you must know, first the meaning of economic terms and second how principles of economics work.**

Critical thinking skills will help you be successful in college, but also in your personal and professional life.

#### CELL PHONES AND LAPTOPS IN THE CLASSROOM

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You will be able to use your smart phone, tablet or laptop to take quizzes; but please put them away when done to avoid further distractions. Laptops can be wonderful learning tools, but provide many tempting screens, most of them unrelated to what goes on in the class.

*According to MARTIN LINDSTROM, we love our iphones (and other smart phones)!*

“Earlier this year, I carried out an fMRI experiment to find out whether iPhones were really, truly addictive, no less so than alcohol, cocaine, shopping or video games. .../... The subjects’ brains responded to the sound of their phones as they would respond to the presence or proximity of a girlfriend, boyfriend or family member. In short, the subjects didn’t demonstrate the classic brain-based signs of addiction. Instead, they *loved* their iPhones. “

**‘You Love Your iPhone. Literally.’, By MARTIN LINDSTROM, New York Times, September 30, 2011**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/01/opinion/you-love-your-iphone-literally.html>

**Despite the hardship involved, you will have to put away the phones during class; no texting, no browsing.**

#### STUDY TOOLS

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Class Presentations: The PowerPoint presentations used in class will be available on Eagle Online to help you review. The class presentations on the web are not designed to replace lectures and do not exempt you from attending classes, they are simply an additional study tool.

McGrawHill Connect: This publisher’s website provides very valuable study tools such as the ‘LearnSmart’ which allows you to test your knowledge and understanding of concepts, identify the areas where you need to improve and further practice; acting like a virtual tutor. Take advantages of this, it will pay off. Completing each “LearnSmart” chapter will allow you to earn a maximum of 15 extra credit points.

#### EXTRA CREDIT

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Completing (more than 50% completion) each “LearnSmart” chapter on McGrawHill Connect will allow you to earn a maximum of 15 extra credit points. If you do only some of the chapters, a prorated number of points will be awarded.

For more extra credit, complete extra assignments from the Eagle Online list up to 25 points.

Economics is a fascinating subject and I hope you enjoy it this semester. Good luck.

HCCS goals and objectives and a class schedule follow.

### **CORE CURRICULUM:**

Social Sciences comprise at least 15 semester hours of each student's core curriculum. Essential to the learning process in the social sciences disciplines are at least six basic intellectual competencies. These include:

- READING at the college level, meaning having the ability to analyze and interpret a variety of printed materials-books, articles, and documents.
- WRITING at the college level, meaning having the ability to produce clear, correct, and coherent prose, adapted to purpose, occasion, and audience. This includes, not only grammar, spelling, and punctuation, but the writing process itself.
- SPEAKING effectively, meaning oral communication in clear, coherent, and persuasive language appropriate to purpose, occasion, and audience.
- LISTENING at the college level, meaning the ability to analyze and interpret various forms of spoken communication.
- CRITICAL THINKING, embracing methods for applying both qualitative and quantitative skills analytically and creatively to the subject matter in order to evaluate arguments, solve problems, and construct alternative strategies.
- COMPUTER LITERACY, meaning having the ability to use computer-based technology in communicating, solving problems and acquiring information. Students should also be able to evaluate the limits, problems, and possibilities associated with the use of present and future technologies.

The following are HCCS's stated **exemplary educational objectives** for its social sciences core.

- To employ the appropriate methods, technologies, and data that social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
- To examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods, social structures, and cultures.
- To use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
- To develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.
- To analyze the effects of historical, social, political, economic, cultural, and global forces on the subject of study.
- To comprehend the origins and evolution of the U.S. and Texas political systems, with a focus on the growth of political institutions, the constitutions of the U.S. and Texas, federalism, civil liberties, and human rights.
- To understand the evolution and current role of the U.S. in the world.
- To differentiate and analyze historical evidence (documentary and statistical) and differing points of view.
- To recognize and apply reasonable criteria for the acceptability of historical evidence and social research.
- To analyze, critically assess, and develop creative solutions to public policy problems.
- To recognize and assume one's responsibility as a citizen in a democratic society by learning to think for oneself, by engaging in public discourse, and by obtaining information through the news media and other appropriate information sources about politics and public policy.
- To identify and understand differences and commonalities with diverse cultures.