

# ECON 1A: PRINCIPLES OF MACROECONOMICS

## Foothill College Course Outline of Record

Heading	Value
Effective Term:	Summer 2025
Units:	5
Hours:	5 lecture per week (60 total per quarter)
Prerequisite:	Elementary Algebra or equivalent.
Advisory:	Demonstrated proficiency in English by placement via multiple measures OR through an equivalent placement process OR completion of ESLL 125 & ESLL 249; Intermediate Algebra or equivalent.
Degree & Credit Status:	Degree-Applicable Credit Course
Foothill GE:	Area 4: Social & Behavioral Sciences
Transferable:	CSU/UC
Grade Type:	Letter Grade (Request for Pass/No Pass)
Repeatability:	Not Repeatable

## Student Learning Outcomes

- Analyze the impact of fiscal and monetary policies on inflation, unemployment, and the business cycle, using real-world or hypothetical scenarios.
- Demonstrate and evaluate the aggregate economy using at least one macroeconomic model (e.g., AS-AD) by engaging in written or visual analysis in assignments or exams.
- Illustrate and explain unintended consequences of government actions in efficient markets using real-world examples.
- Use the supply and demand model to predict market changes resulting from economic shocks.

## Description

Fundamental economic concepts; determination of national income and employment; income fluctuation; money and the banking system; government monetary and fiscal policies; current economic problems; economic development; international trade. ECON 1A and 1B may be taken in either order.

## Course Objectives

The student will be able to:

- Understand basic economic concepts of scarcity, opportunity cost, and self-interested behavior
- Analyze the interrelationship of economics with other social sciences
- Demonstrate understanding of the determinants of total output, employment, and economic growth
- Apply macroeconomic models to understand the economy
- Understand current economic statistics

- Demonstrate understanding of the workings and controversies surrounding monetary and fiscal policy
- Recognize and apply the importance of cultural sensitivity in economics

## Course Content

- Fundamental economic concepts
  - Definition of economics
  - Economic resources defined
  - Opportunity cost
  - Marginal analysis
  - Production possibilities curves
  - Command vs. market economies
- Supply and demand model
  - Law of demand
  - Law of supply
  - A change in supply (demand) vs. a change in quantity supplied (demanded)
  - Equilibrium
  - Price ceilings
  - Price floors
- Introduction to macroeconomics
  - Unemployment
  - Inflation
  - National income accounting
  - Economic growth
  - Business cycles
- Aggregate demand and supply
  - Long-run AS vs. short-run AS
  - Shifts in the curves
  - Short-run equilibrium vs. long-run equilibrium
  - The Great Depression and John Maynard Keynes
- Fiscal policy
  - Expansionary vs. contractionary fiscal policy
  - Strengths and weaknesses
- Monetary policy
  - The nature of money
  - The banking system and the creation of money
  - The Federal Reserve System
  - The tools of monetary policy
  - Strengths and weaknesses

## Lab Content

Not applicable.

## Special Facilities and/or Equipment

When taught as an online distance learning section, students and faculty need internet and regular email access.

## Method(s) of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation may include but are not limited to the following:

Midterm examinations  
Final examination

Written assignments  
Computer homework assignments

## **Method(s) of Instruction**

Methods of Instruction may include but are not limited to the following:

Weekly formal lectures  
Class discussions  
Electronic discussions/chat  
Computerized assignments (e.g., experiments)

## **Representative Text(s) and Other Materials**

Colander, David. [Macroeconomics](#). 2020.

## **Types and/or Examples of Required Reading, Writing, and Outside of Class Assignments**

1. College level readings from primary and secondary sources
2. College level writing assignments based on primary and secondary source reflection and/or analysis

## **Discipline(s)**

Economics