

EC-303-A: Money and Banking

Course Syllabus

Spring 2023

Instructor: Dr. Umesh Ghimire
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Appointment by email

Classroom: Harbert 328
Class time: M/W 2 PM–3:20 PM
Student Hours: M/W 8:00 - 9:25 AM &
12:20 - 1:55 PM

This syllabus is subject to change. I will communicate any changes as and when they occur. The most up-to-date syllabus is located on the course website in Moodle.

Careers in Economics

“A career in Economics... it’s much more than you think”: watch [this video](#) to find out why.
To explore careers in economics, [click here](#).

Course abstract

This course will introduce the students to the basic principles of money, banking and the financial system. We will explore the basic structure of the banking system and the interrelationships that link this structure to the workings of the economy. Emphasis will be on theory and how this theory applies to business and economic conditions domestically and internationally. Although the course focuses primarily on the US economy, we might decide to cover more topics if time permits. Please see the Tentative course schedule section for the list of topics we plan to cover.

Course Objectives

- Introduce the students to the basic structure and workings of the banking and financial system in the United States.
- Develop an understanding of what the money supply is and use the learned concepts to help understand interest rates and their effect on the economy.
- Introduce the student to how monetary and fiscal policies are used.
- To articulate, at the introductory level, how the skills and knowledge acquired through our economics major will contribute to your career goals. A basic skill you are expected to learn in this course is to analyze how monetary policy decisions would affect the choices you make in life. For example, we will dive deep into the determination and importance of interest rates, which affect almost all of our decisions related to money.
- To learn how to use macroeconomic data to analyze important macroeconomic variables such as money supply, interest rates, GDP, exchange rates, and aggregate price level.

Textbook

The Economics of Money, Banking, and Financial Markets by Mishkin (13th edition) (available in the Bookstore).

MyLab Economics

We will use MyLab Economics for homework and quizzes. You will need to first create an account in the platform using an **Access Code**, which you can find in the Moodle course page. To find the Access Code, do the following:

1. On the Moodle course page, click on “Course Dashboard”
2. Scroll down until you see “External Tools” link near the bottom of the page. Click on it.
3. On the next page, click on “Course Materials” link.
4. If you scroll down the in the box, you will see a green tab with “Reveal Access Code”. Click on it to see the access code.
5. Use this one-time code to sign up in the Pearson MyLab Economics platform and create a profile. You will see homework and quizzes on this platform.

After you sign up, you will have access to an e-copy of your textbook.

Enrolling in the Course on MyLab Economics

Now that you have created your account in MyLab Economics, you can register for the course. Please [click here](#) for the instructions on how to enroll in the class in MyLab Economics.

Moodle

We will use Moodle for uploading the course materials. I will post this syllabus, lecture slides, links to articles, videos and other materials I consider to be helpful on Moodle as we go.

Attendance and Class participation

I strongly suggest that you attend lectures because there will be a lot of in-class problem-solving (including data analysis exercises), which is key to doing well in this course. I consider regular class participation a strong signal of your efforts/enthusiasm in this course. You could participate in class by asking questions, responding to questions, participating in group presentations, or simply by pointing out errors in my notes/lectures. Class participation also includes your performance on in-class problem-solving drills. While I do not expect you to get the answers correct all the time, your sincerity is highly valued. The participation grade completely depends on my evaluation of your class participation performance throughout the semester. Note that your absence will significantly reduce your participation grade.

Homeworks

After the completion of a chapter/topic, homework and/or a quiz will be available on MyLab Economics. I will inform you about the due dates when assignments are available. These assignments are a good way of reinforcing classroom learning and preparing for exams. At the end of the semester, I will drop your lowest homework grade.

Class quizzes

There will be unannounced quizzes in class. The purpose of these quizzes is to assess your grasp of concepts already taught in the course and to incentivize you to brainstorm ideas. Grading will be as follows: correct answers will get 2 points, incorrect answers will get 1, and not submitting the quiz will lead to zero points. I will keep track of these points throughout the semester and will count them for your course grade. If I find any evidence of proxy quiz submission, both you and the person you proxy for will get zero on that quiz.

Worksheet Portfolio

You will be required to build a portfolio of in-class worksheets throughout the semester. At the end of the semester, you will need to hand in the portfolio to me. This portfolio will be graded and the points you receive will count toward your class participation grade. Each portfolio will need to have your name and the date on which it was solved in class. The portfolio is due in class on Wednesday, April 26, 2023.

Finance News Essay

You will write an essay analyzing a finance news event that shows the application of the concepts you learn in class. We will talk more about this in class. This essay is due at 11:59 PM on Sunday, April 23, 2023.

Student Hours

Student hours are meant exclusively for you to discuss any questions or concerns related to the course. Of course, you can see me outside these hours with an email appointment. I encourage you to make use of student hours since these are your chances to address any doubts/confusion or talk about any topic in further depth or simply chat about a topic you are interested in.

Exams

There will be three exams. All exams will be cumulative.

1. Midterm I: on Wednesday, March 8
2. Midterm II: on Wednesday, April 12
3. Final exam: on Monday, May 8

Grading

Here is how grading works:

1. First, your total score will be calculated as follows:
Total score = class quizzes and data exercises (20%) + participation (10%) + news essay (10%) + MyLab Economics homeworks/quizzes (20%) + midterm I (12.5%) + midterm II (12.5%) + final exam (15%)
2. The above total score is converted to the scale of 1 – 100.

Using the total score from step 2, letter grades are assigned per the following table.

<i>A</i>	<i>A</i> ⁻	<i>B</i> ⁺	<i>B</i>	<i>B</i> ⁻	<i>C</i> ⁺	<i>C</i>	<i>C</i> ⁻	<i>D</i> ⁺	<i>D</i>	<i>F</i>
93 – 100	90 – 92	87 – 89	83 – 86	80 – 82	77 – 79	73 – 76	70 – 72	67 – 69	60 – 66	below 60

Late homework, absences, and make-up exams

All the times and dates mentioned in this syllabus are in Central Time (CT) unless otherwise specified. The dates may change as the semester progresses. You will be duly notified of any such changes. **In general, late homework/quiz submissions will be accepted with a 5% penalty per day of delay except in extraordinary situations such as medical/family emergencies or other genuine reasons.** Please talk to me as early as possible regarding potential absences, make-up exam requirements, and accommodations. I will try my best to accommodate genuine requests.

How to succeed in this class

A common feature of previous students who have done well in this class is that they were active participants in the class, put in honest efforts on in-class assignments, followed the lectures/notes carefully, and diligently completed all assignments. Remember at all times that I want you to do well and am here to help you. Please do not hesitate to ask questions or attend office hours. I value all questions.

Your health and well-being

Apart from being sincere, success in this course program depends heavily on your personal health and well-being. Recognize that stress is an expected part of the college experience, and it often can be compounded by unexpected setbacks or life changes outside the classroom. Please feel free to reach out to me about any difficulty you may be having that may impact your performance in your courses as soon as it occurs and before it becomes too overwhelming. Please inform me as soon as you can in case you need to miss classes due to adverse health. I will do my best to help you do well and succeed.

Tentative course schedule (subject to change)

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
Feb 1	Introduction		
Feb 6	An Overview of the Financial System	CH 2	
Feb 8	An Overview of the Financial System	CH 2	HW 1 and Quiz 1
Feb 13	What Is Money?	CH 3	HW 2 and Quiz 2
Feb 15	The Meaning of Interest Rates	CH 3	
Feb 20	The Meaning of Interest Rates	CH 4	HW 3 and Quiz 3
Feb 22	The Behavior of Interest Rates	CH 4	
Feb 27	The Behavior of Interest Rates	CH 5	
Mar 1	The Behavior of Interest Rates	CH 5	HW 4 and Quiz 4
Mar 6	Banking and the Management of Financial Institutions	CH 9	
Mar 8	Midterm I		
Mar 13	Banking and the Management of Financial Institutions	CH 9	
Mar 15	Banking and the Management of Financial Institutions	CH 9	HW 5 and Quiz 5
Mar 20	Spring Break		
Mar 22	Spring Break		
Mar 27	Banking Industry: Structure and Competition	CH 11	
Mar 29	Banking Industry: Structure and Competition	CH 11	HW 6 and Quiz 6
Apr 3	Financial Crises	CH 12	
Apr 5	Financial Crises	CH 12	HW 7 and Quiz 7
Apr 10	Central Banks and the Federal Reserve System	CH 13	
Apr 12	Midterm II		
Apr 17	Central Banks and the Federal Reserve System	CH 13	HW 8 and Quiz 8
Apr 19	The Money Supply Process	CH 14	
Apr 24	The Money Supply Process	CH 14	HW 9 and Quiz 9
Apr 26	Tools of Monetary Policy	CH 15	
May 1	Tools of Monetary Policy	CH 15	HW 10 and Quiz 10
May 3	The International Financial System	CH 18	HW 11 and Quiz 11
May 8	Final Exam		

Departmental Learning Outcomes:

The department expects students to achieve the following objectives at the completion of economics major.

- Demonstrate logical analysis using empirical economic theories
- Engage in observation and inference from data and apply statistical methods
- Formulate empirical theses and research questions
- Present economic ideas in writing and speech
- Explain the usefulness and limitations of theoretical models and quantitative methods of economics.

Academic Integrity

If you require any accommodations, please talk to me as early as possible. It is your responsibility to adhere to the honor code at all times: As a member of the student body of Birmingham-Southern College, I recognize my responsibility to the traditions of the institution, to my fellow students and to myself. I recognize the significance of the honor system. I pledge that I have read and understand the Constitution of the Honor Council, including the Honor Code, and agree to be bound by its provisions. Please refer to the Student Handbook and the BSC website for more information.

Academic Accessibility and Accommodations

Students with a disability that qualify under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and require accommodations should be registered with BSC's Accessibility Office. If you are registered for academic accommodations, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss any accommodations that may be necessary. During this discussion you are not expected to disclose any details concerning your disability though you may do so at your discretion. If you have a disability but have not yet registered, please contact Dr. Sandra Foster, Assistant Director of Accessibility Services and Resources, at 205-226-7909 or smfoster@bsc.edu, or visit Olin 210. Keep in mind that no accommodation will be made unless and until the instructor receives official notification from the College.

Title IX

Birmingham-Southern College is committed to the creation and maintenance of a safe learning environment for students and the campus community. The College forbids any type of sexual or gender-based misconduct among its students, faculty, and staff. The College encourages all members of the academic community to report suspected sexual and gender-based misconduct to the appropriate authorities so that it can be investigated, remedied, and eliminated. BSC forbids retaliation against any person who has opposed, reported, or participated in an investigation concerning sexual or gender-based misconduct. See the BSC Title IX website (<https://www.bsc.edu/titleix/>) for more information, including an online report form. If you or a peer have experienced such misconduct, there are faculty and staff members who are trained in supporting students by answering questions and helping them navigate this process. The list of advocates can be found along with other helpful resources on the Title IX website.

BSC Resources for Writers and Readers

Located in Humanities 102, the BSC Writing Center offers in-person and virtual peer-to-peer tutoring and quiet, supportive lab space to work on writing assignments. The Center's tutors are students from a wide variety of majors on campus and have the range to address student writing needs with discipline specificity. Supervised and assisted by BSC Writing Center directors, the tutors provide one-on-one consultations for any student at any point in the writing process. The BSC Writing Center is open Sunday-Thursday 4pm-8pm. To ensure a full 30-minute tutorial time slot, students are encouraged to be mindful of assignment-heavy weeks, keep track of due dates, and visit the Writing Center at their earliest availability during open hours. Please contact Dr. MK Foster or Professor Laura Tolbert (writingcenter@bsc.edu) with any questions or requests for virtual appointments.

Inclement Weather

Inclement weather or other events beyond the control of the College that might cause risk or danger to students, faculty, and staff may occasionally result in changes to normal College operations, including cancellation of classes or events; the calendar schedule may be adjusted.

Copyright

The materials used/provided within the course (except the textbook) are only for the use of students enrolled in the course and may not be retained or further disseminated.