

Contact Info: mwitte@northwestern.edu, Office: Kellogg Global Hub 3393
 Class meets: Ryan Family Auditorium in Tech, Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:30-4:50
 TA sections Wednesdays 9:00, 10:00, 5:00, 6:00
 Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays after lecture in Tech M120, Wednesdays 1:00-3:00 in Kellogg Global Hub 3393, and also at other times by appointment.

Texts: **(KW)** [*Macroeconomics, 5th edition*](#), by Paul Krugman & Robin Wells, 2017
 • Loose Leaf: ISBN 9781319198169 (Fairly cheap on Amazon)

Books available online:

(GT) [*Principles of Microeconomics*](#), Greenlaw/Taylor, OpenStax (2016)
(B) [*New Ideas from Dead Economists*](#), (any edition), by Todd Buchholz. Plume Press.
(D) [*Economics: A Very Short Introduction*](#), Partha Dasgupta, Oxford Press, 2007

Web notes and slides on the courses page for this class:

<https://sites.google.com/site/markwitteeconomics/home/economics-201-introduction-to-macroeconomics>

Class Date	Lecture Content	Read before <i>this</i> Lecture
Tues Sept 24	Economic thinking: Adam Smith	KW 1, B I, II (Intro, Adam Smith)
TA Wed Sept 25	No TA Section this week	
Thurs Sept. 26	Choices and Opportunity Costs	KW 2 & appendix, D Prologue (pp. 1-13)
Tues Oct 1	Micro: Supply & Demand, Messing with Markets, Consumer & Producer Surplus	KW 3, 4, D 4 (pp. 72-89)
TA Wed Oct 2	Elasticity of Demand & Monopoly	Goolsbee on Uber
Thurs Oct 3	More Micro: Market Structure Classical Market Failure	B VII (Marshall), VIII (Institutional) GT 12 & 13 on externalities
Tues Oct 8	Advanced Market Failure, Health Insurance. Government Failure, Taxes	GT 16 on risk & insurance B IV (Ricardo pp. 62-63, 69-73) B XI (Public Choice pp. 185-197) Rent Seeking Video
TA Wed Oct 9	Taxes and Markets	Vox on Marginal Tax Rates
Thurs Oct 10	Macro: Long Run Growth versus Short Run Fluctuations Circle flow of Income, Malthus versus Ricardo	P/N Deadline Friday KW 6, 8. D 1 (pp. 14-29), B III (Malthus), B IV (Ricardo pp. 74-76)
Tues Oct 15	Midterm I - Material from Sept. 24-Oct. 10	(15% of class grade)
TA Wed Oct 16	Using a Price Index, The Fisher Equation	
Thurs Oct 17 4:30 PM	One Book One Northwestern : Margot Lee Shetterly will discuss her book, <i>Hidden Figures</i>	In Tech Auditorium!
Tues Oct 20	Computing & Using Price Indexes Long Run Economic Growth	KW 7, 9, Gordon , Gordon , Klenow , Rosling
TA Wed Oct 21	Consumption	KW 11 pp. 317-323
Thurs Oct 22	Savings & Investment & Finance, Income & Expenditure	KW 10, 11, Yield Curve

Tues Oct 29	Macro Demand-Side Equilibrium, Fiscal Policy Aggregate Supply, Aggregate Demand	KW 12, B VI (Marx),
TA Wed Oct 30	GDP Equilibrium Tables	
Thursday Oct 31	Government Debt & Deficits	KW 13, B IX (Keynes)
Tues Nov 5	Catch up before the midterm	
TA Wed Nov 6	Midterm review (NO QUIZ)	
Thurs Nov 7	Midterm II - Material from Oct. 10-Nov. 5	(25% of class grade) <u>Drop Deadline Friday</u>
Tues Nov 12	Money & Banking, The Federal Reserve Monetary Base, Money Supply	KW 14, 15, <u>Baby Sitting Co-op</u> , <u>Radford, NY Fed History</u>
TA Wed Nov 13	Money Multiplier	<u>Dime</u> , <u>Surowieki</u> ,
Thurs Nov 14	Monetary Policy, Financial Crises	KW 17, B X (Friedman), <u>Fed Video 1</u> , <u>Fed Video 2</u>
Tues Nov 19	Phillips Curve: Unemployment v. Inflation	KW 16
TA Wed Nov 20	Gains from International Trade	KW 5, B IV (Ricardo pp. 64-68)
Thurs Nov 21	International Economics, Exchange Rates	KW 18, <u>Desjardens</u>
Tues Nov 26	Conclusion: Income distribution vs. efficiency	D Epilogue (pp. 158-160)
<u>Monday, Dec 9</u>	<u>Cumulative Final Exam</u> - Noon-2:00	(40% of class grade)

<u>Grading</u>	<u>Share of Class Grade</u>
First Midterm	15%
Second Midterm	25%
Final exam	40%
TA Section Quizzes	10%
<u>Canvas Homework</u>	10%

TA Sections are on WEDNESDAYS

- **9:AM-9:50** in Tech M164 with Yong Cai (section 21)
- **9:AM-9:50** in Locy 214 with Francesca Truffa (section 25)
- **10:AM-10:50** in Tech L160 with Yong Cai (section 26)
- **10:AM-10:50** in Locy 318 with Francesca Truffa (section 22)
- **10:AM-10:50** in University 102 with Cassiano Alves (section 29)
- **5:PM-5:50** in Annenberg G21 with Federico Puglisi (section 23)
- **5:PM-5:50** in Annenberg G15 with Ashley Wong (section 27)
- **5:PM-5:50** in Tech L150 with Cassiano Alves (section 30)
- **6:PM-6:50** in Annenberg G21 with Federico Puglisi (section 24)
- **6:PM-6:50** in Annenberg G15 with Ashley Wong (section 28)

Office Hours

Tuesdays	Mark	5:00-6:00	Tech M120
Wednesdays	Mark	1:00-3:00	Kellogg Global Hub 3393
Thursdays	Mark	5:00-6:00	Tech M120

TA Office Hours TBA

The following are frequently asked questions that many of you will have about the class.

Q1: What should I read for each day?

A1: For each listed lecture, read the listed chapters in the right column for that day.

- Paul **Krugman** won the Nobel Prize in economics, is a professor at the City University of New York, and [writes a lot for the *New York Times*](#). He wrote the book with his economist wife, Robin Wells. You can get the book pretty reasonably on [Amazon](#). We will be using the new 5th edition of their *Macroeconomics*. (Be careful not to buy the similar looking *Microeconomics* or *Economics*.) The text will also be on reserve in the library.
- DON'T BUY: Todd **Buchholz** wrote a fun book, *New Ideas from Dead Economist*, and does an outstanding job of making it clear that economics is an evolving discipline (as are all subjects) and one where our understanding will be even better in the future. It will also be on library reserve.
- DON'T BUY: Partha **Dasgupta** presents a more philosophical and international perspective on what we hope to learn by studying economics. The library has a e-version available through course reserves. This book is fairly high level and a challenging intellectual read, but hey, you chose to come to Northwestern.
- I will post [notes, lecture slides, readings](#), and a bunch of [old exams](#) on the class webpage. People who study these old exams will probably do very well on the exams I give, and people who don't study them will likely do very poorly. Got it?

Q2: What's the deal with the TA sections?

A2: The sections will run for 50 minutes, and will include a quiz plus the TAs will explain some class material and work out some problems that will appear on the exams.

Q3: What are the learning objectives for this class?

A3: This course should give you frameworks and develop economic reasoning for you to understand what markets do well and poorly, and understand short and long run macroeconomic phenomena.

Q4: What are the basic work expectations for the class?

A4: I hope that you will do about two hours of study for every hour of lecture, and that you will read the material assigned for the lecture **before** class (and yes, you'll have to catch up on the first lecture assigned reading too). You may collaborate with your classmates on the homework.

Q5: What is your electronic communication policy?

A5: **(1)** I expect you to have your preferred e-mail address entered into Canvas so that I can send messages to the class, and I expect you to check that e-mail on a daily basis. **(2)** Use the Canvas module **Piazza** discussion forum to post questions that would be of general use to your classmates. (Yes: "What does GDP stand for?" No: "I got 11 points on the midterm; does that mean I'm going to flunk the class?") Piazza is a nice discussion forum where you can post anonymously if you prefer. The story of [its creation](#) is cool. When you post on Piazza about specific homework on exam questions, it's very helpful if you cut-and-paste the actual question into what you write in Piazza. **(3)** Silence your cell phone for the duration of the class and put it away where you won't be tempted to look at it. However, if you're feeling really on top of the material, you can signal me that you want me to ask you a question by messing with your phone during lecture.

- Q6: Is it OK if I surf the web and [watch crazy videos](#) or play with my phone whenever your lectures get too boring?
- A6: Sorry, no. [No computers in class](#); take notes on paper, it's a [better](#) way to [learn](#)! And, again, put your phones away where you won't be tempted to look at them during lecture. (I understand that some of you like to take notes on your computer. However, I take a pretty decent salary with the expectation that in return I am to teach you economics. So, the temptation to look at distractions online during class is likely to diminish your learning in lecture, and worse still, people who are web surfing distract the people around them, creating a negative externality.) If this creates a great hardship for you, please come talk to me about it, and we can find you a place in the front row on the side.
- Q7: During exams, can I use my cell phone with messaging and camera as a calculator? Also, I have to get up to go to the bathroom every 20 minutes; is that OK?
- A7: Hell^{No}. Get a regular calculator; a really cheap one will suffice (but any kind is fine). Also, no smartwatches allowed during exams. And get your bathroom needs done before exams, then hold it until you're done.
- Q8: What happens if I fall suddenly ill and am unable to make it to a test?
- A8: For quizzes and midterms, you are out of luck; no make-ups. However, we will drop your lowest two quizzes (or more precisely, the maximum total score on the quizzes will be the sum of points for a perfect score on each quiz, minus 40 points). If you must miss a midterm, be sure to e-mail me in advance or your misfortune will be doubled, otherwise you will get a zero on the test for a grade of F, which cannot be made up. Don't make this mistake. If you do come down with mono or something *and do reach me* (and can document your reason), you won't get a zero on the test. However, there will be no make-up exams; instead the weight of the final exam score will be increased to make up for the missed test.
- Q9: What is the deal with these TA Section quizzes?
- A9: The quizzes aren't meant to torture you – rather, they are intended to encourage you to stay caught up in the reading so that you better understand the material when we talk about it in class. The quizzes will be in the TA sections (but not the first week!) and generally have two questions, one out of the reading for **the coming week** and one about what we covered in the previous week. The aim is for these quizzes to be pretty low stress and easy, with the hope that they will make sure you stay up in the reading and study your notes. As such, the quizzes are not intended to be a significant test of your understanding (that is what the exams are supposed to do) but are just an attempt to give you credit and encouragement for getting the reading done in a timely way. With luck, this will allow me to do a better job of covering the material. The grading will be on a 0, 5, 10 basis for each question (for a total of 20 per quiz), and we will drop your lowest two quizzes (or more precisely, the maximum total score on the quizzes will be the sum of points for a perfect score on each of the quizzes, minus 40 points).
- Q10: What is the deal with these “Canvas homeworks?”
- A10: There will be a bunch of these over the course of the quarter and they will usually follow what we did in lecture, and have some predictive value for what will be on the exams. Sometimes they will be computational, and sometimes they will be something that you write up, scan, and upload. Your first Canvas Homework is to post an interesting article relating to economics in Piazza (in Canvas). When you post your article, don't send it to the whole class but rather only to me, and be sure to put your name in the header so I know it's from you.

- Q11: Can you give us a hint about what will be on the first TA Section quiz?
- A11: Ha, sure! (1) What is one factor that will cause the demand curve to shift? (2) What subject was Adam Smith's main field of study before he got into economics? Further, there will be a bonus question about information on this syllabus. The first quiz will be on Wednesday, Oct. 2.
- Q12: In addition to the assigned readings, is it a good idea to read the newspaper?
- A12: Absolutely. To understand economics, it is important to keep track of the world around us. I read a bunch of news sources and these are the source for many of my exam questions, with the [New York Times](#), [Wall Street Journal](#), and [Economist](#) magazine being the best sources. I regularly read [Conversational Economist](#), [Marginal Revolution](#), [Economist's View](#). [Matt Levine](#) is crazy great if you're interested in finance.
- Q13: I've done the reading and thought about the material but I am still so confused that I don't even know what to ask. Should I feel embarrassed about coming to office hours for help?
- A13: Not at all. If you have done the reading, office hours are an excellent time to clear up big or small uncertainties and to search for new ones before the next test finds them for you. We hold office hours for precisely this purpose. The TAs are particularly good with computational type problems and Mark is better with questions about the readings.
- Q14: The lecture is running a few minutes over, what should I do?
- A14: Please quietly stay put and observe a rare occurrence.
- Q15: Can I expect any leniency if I'm caught cheating or engaging in any unethical behavior?
- A15: No. **Academic Integrity is taken very seriously at Northwestern.** Students are responsible for reading and understanding Northwestern's Academic Integrity policies. **All suspected violations of academic integrity will be reported to the Weinberg College Dean's Office.** These include: cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, unfair advantage, unauthorized collaboration, and aiding and abetting of academic dishonesty. Students found in violation of academic integrity may receive a zero on the assignment or a failing grade for the course, **and** may be suspended or permanently expelled from the University. See the [WCAS website](#) on academic integrity and [Academic Integrity: A Basic Guide](#) for more information.
- Q16: In studying for the tests, should I stress studying the notes, the books, or the readings?
- A16: All of the above.
- Q17: Will there be a lot of math in this class?
- A17: Yes, if you hate math. If you like math, there will seem to be almost none. It's mostly algebra and graph drawing. However, if you go on in economics, you will find that some of the high-level economics classes have a lot of math in them, and almost all Ph.D. economists also majored in math.
- Q18: I can see that half of the people in this class are smarter and harder working than I am and the other half of the students are dumber and lazier than I am. What grade will I get?
- A18: B-. You are the median or middle student. Half the class will get grades of B- or better and the other half will get grades of B- or worse. More specifically, every point you earned in here is combined into a weighted total, where regardless of how you did on any particular part of the class, if you end up with the same number of points (for example) as someone who performed at a

B level throughout the class, then you'll end up with a B.

Q19: I come out very close to a higher grade. How about if you give it to me?

A19: No...unless you are deserving of special consideration.

Q20: Am I deserving of special consideration?

A20: That depends. I may give you a higher grade than you earn on the tests if I feel that your comments in class, section, and office hours improve the education of your fellow students and show you are able to and have been thinking intelligently about the material.

Q21: Is there some sort of academic mentoring program associated with this class?

A21: Why, yes, and here's info on it:

Quarter-Long Study Group Opportunity – Registration Required:

If you would like to study with other students in this class, consider joining a [Peer-Guided Study Group](#). Participants will meet weekly with about 5 to 8 other students and a peer facilitator – a student who has already taken and done well in the course. During sessions, students review concepts, work through practice problems, bring their questions, and work together to develop answers. Students register for the full quarter on CAESAR and attendance is expected weekly. Study Groups sessions are listed on CAESAR below course lecture and discussion sections (ex. CHEM 131-SG – CHEM 131-SG Peer-Guided Study Group: Quantitative Problem Solving in Chemistry). Feel free to contact Borislava at borislava.miltcheva@northwestern.edu with any questions. Provided through [Academic Support & Learning Advancement](#).

Drop-In Peer Tutoring – No Appointment Needed:

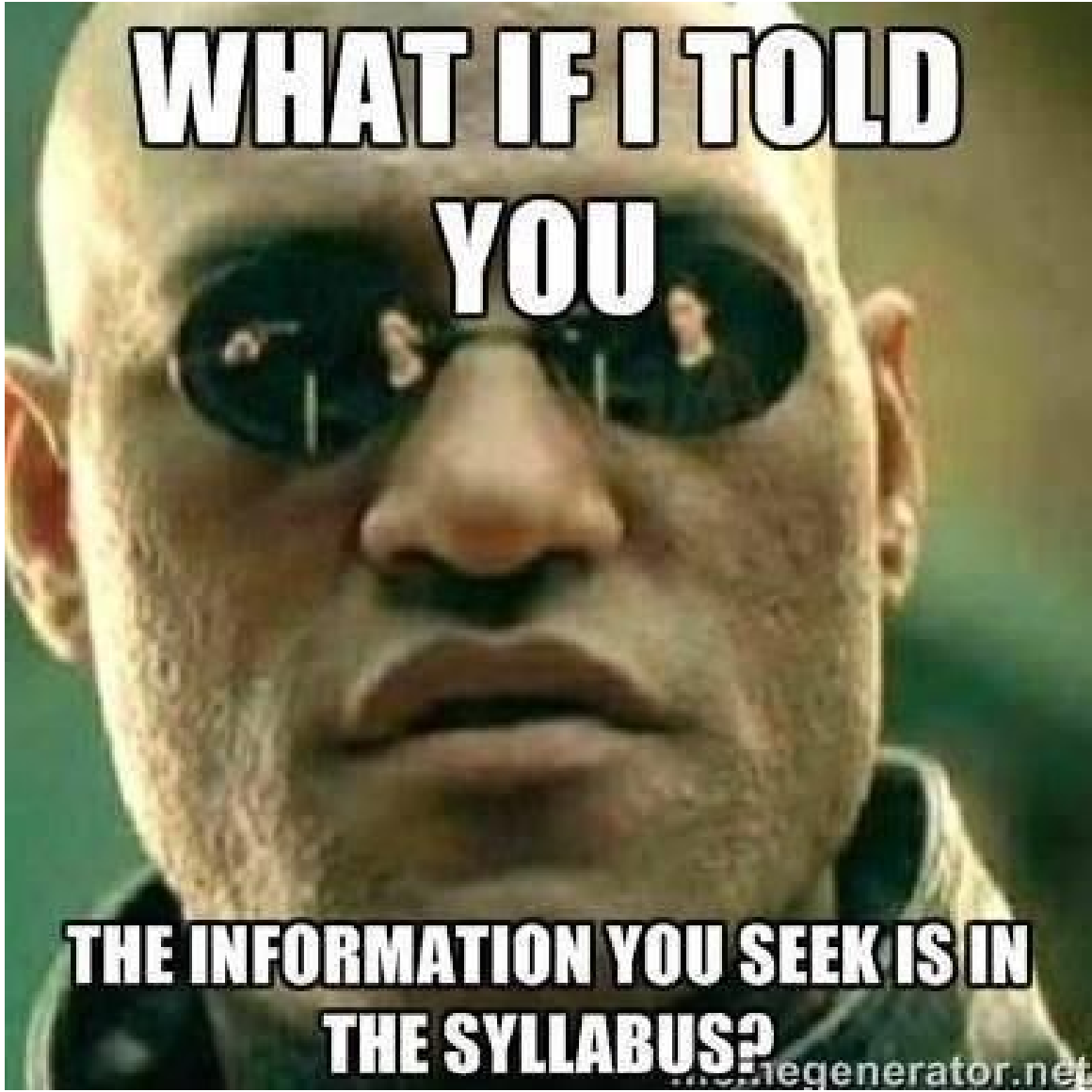
Students are welcome to stop by [Drop-In Peer Tutoring](#) to get support with a specific question or issue, or just talk through course materials with others. Covers many introductory courses in Biology, Chemistry, Economics, Engineering, Math, Physics and Stats. Tutoring takes place Sundays through Thursdays in the Shepard Engagement Center and 560 Lincoln. Snacks provided! **Check specific times, courses and locations on the [Drop-In Peer Tutoring website](#).** Feel free to contact Una at una.mcgeough@northwestern.edu with any questions. Provided through [Academic Support & Learning Advancement](#).

Q22: What if I have concerns about accessibility for this class?

A22: Any student with a documented disability needing accommodations is requested to speak directly to the AccessibleNU (accessiblenu@northwestern.edu, 847-467-5530) and the instructor, as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first two weeks of class). All discussions will remain confidential.

Q23: What is the most important thing?

A23: Most important, please be assured that I want students to learn and to receive the good grades they deserve. So please make an appointment with me should you have undue difficulty with your work in the course.



**WHAT IF I TOLD
YOU**

**THE INFORMATION YOU SEEK IS IN
THE SYLLABUS?**

memegenerator.net