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 Class meets: Tech AUD, T/TH 2-3:20pm, TA sections M, W 3pm or 4pm.
 Office Hours: M 10-12:00pm, T. 3:30-5pm and at other times by appointment.
 Texts: [*Macroeconomics 6th edition e-text*](#), by Glenn Hubbard and Anthony O'Brien (2014)

Web notes on the courses page for this class: <https://canvas.northwestern.edu>
 Readings: <https://sites.google.com/site/davidwberger/teaching/Ec201readings>

Objective: The objective of the course is to introduce you to some ideas and conceptual tools that can help you to:

- * understand what is happening in the world's economy
- * think through economic decisions you will face in your personal and professional life
- * understand the terms of current economic policy debates

Topics: The first part of the course will cover general topics such as scarcity, choice, how competitive markets work and how prices are determined. The course will then focus on the study of macroeconomics and cover topics such as economic growth, business cycles and the roles of monetary and fiscal policy.

Requirements: There are no prerequisites for Econ 201. The only requirement is high school algebra and some familiarity with graphs. Some familiarity with Excel or any other spreadsheet program will be useful for some homework (but will not be needed for the exams).

Class Date	Lecture Content	Text Readings for this Lecture (H=Hubbard)
Tue 4/2	Intro to Economic thinking	H 1
Thur. 4/4	Opportunity costs Production Possibilities Frontiers (PPFs)	H 2
TA: M or W	Graphs and Formulas, the Demand Curve	Appendix H 1
Tues. 4/9	Micro: Supply & Demand	H 3, 4.1+ 4.2
Thur. 4/11	More Micro: Elasticity, Taxes, Market failures	H 4.3 + 4.4
TA: M or W	Quantitative Supply and Demand	Appendix to 4
Tues. 4/16	Market power and market failures	H 5, Lecture notes
Thur. 4/18	The Stock Market and Agency Problems	H 6, P/N Deadline
TA: M or W	Present Value	H 6 appendix
Tues. 4/23	Macro: Long Run Growth versus Short Run Fluctuations	H 8,10;
Thur. 4/25	Midterm I - Material from 4/2-4/23	(25% of class grade)

TA: M or W	Computing the Consumer Price Index, Deflators	
Tues. 4/30	Unemployment and Inflation	H 9
Thur. 5/2	Long-Run Growth	H 11, Gordon , Klenow
TA: M or W	Midterm discussion	
Tues. 5/7	Income and Expenditure	H 12
Thur. 5/9	Aggregate Demand and Supply	H 13 Withdrawal Deadline
TA: M or W	Fiscal Problems	
Tues. 5/14	Fiscal Policy	H 16
Thur. 5/16	Money & Banking	H 14
TA: M or W	Money & Banking problems	
Tues. 5/21	Monetary Policy	H 15
Thur. 5/23	Midterm II- Material from 4/30-5/21	(25% of class grade)
TA: M or W	Midterm Review	
Tues. 5/28	Phillips Curve	H 17
Thur. 5/30	Inequality	
TA: M or W	Phillips Curve Problems	
TA: M or W	Final Review	
F 6/XX	Cumulative Final Exam – XXX	(40% of class grade)

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

Q: What do I need to know about the books for this class?

- A:
- Glenn **Hubbard** is the dean of Columbia Business School. He wrote the textbook with expert educator Anthony O'Brien. We will be using the e-book for this class combined with MyEconLab for doing a bunch of text related problems. You can get the e-book and MyEconLab directly for \$122. You can access MyEconLab here: [zd](#) Directions for how to set up your account are on the class Canvas page under the file tab. The text will also be on reserve in the library.
 - For additional reading, Tim **Hartford** wrote a fun book about Macroeconomics, *The Undercover Economist Strikes Back*, and does an outstanding and fun job of making it clear that Macroeconomics is full of interesting, big questions and it *matter*. It will also be on library reserve.
 - On Canvas, I will post notes, readings, and a bunch of old exams, which will be similar to the new exams. That is, 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?

Q: What are the various exams worth?

- A:
- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| First Midterm | 25% of final grade |
| Second Midterm | 25% of final grade |
| Final Exam | 40% of final grade |

Homework

10% of final grade

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

A: The sections will run for 50 minutes and during them TAs will explain some class material and work out some problems similar to those that will appear on the exams. They are also a time for you to ask a very smart person (getting into a good grad school is hard!) any questions you have on the material. They are important.

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

A: I hope that you will do about two hours of study for lecture, and that you will get 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.

Q: Is it OK if I surf the web and watch crazy videos whenever your lectures get too boring?

A: Sorry, no. You may use your computer to take notes or to follow along with the lecture slides (which I will post before class), however, it may be best to take notes on paper as this will limit possible distractions provided by the internet. Even your professor is not immune to these distractions so do not feel bad if you are. Remember, the goal (or at least your parents goal) of this class is for you to learn economics.

Q: What if I need to miss a test?

A: If you must miss a test, you should probably drop the class.

Q: What happens if I fall suddenly ill and am unable to make it to a test?

A: If you do not reach me by e-mail or leave a message on my office answering machine (847 491-8234) or contact the Econ department (847 491-5140), your misfortune will be doubled. 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 or the Econ department prior to the exam*, 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.

Q: In addition to the assigned readings, is it a good idea to read the newspaper?

A: 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](#) being the best source. (The web version is free, but you do have to register). Those of you who want investment banking careers might want to consider [The Wall Street Journal](#) or [Financial Times](#).

Q: 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?

A: 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. I hold office hours for precisely this purpose.

Q: What is your electronic communication policy?

A: **(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) Please silence your cellphone for the duration of the class. (3) If you have any questions about the material or the class do not hesitate to email either your TA or myself

Q: The lecture is running a few minutes over, what should I do?

A: Please quietly stay put and observe a rare occurrence.

Q: Can I expect any leniency if I'm caught cheating or engaging in any unethical behavior?

A: No. I will likely give you a grade of "F" for the **class** and the dean will be notified and asked to pursue further action. I'm serious about this and so is Northwestern's administration (as several students unfortunately found out last year). Weinberg's policy is that students who are suspected of cheating are reported *immediately*. In recent years, I've sent the names of students to the dean; some were expelled and those who were not did not enjoy the experience.

Q: In studying for the tests, should I stress studying the notes, the books, or the readings?

A: All of the above. However, if you pay attention to what I focus on in class, that will give you a good idea about what material I think is most important.

Q: Will there be a lot of math in this class?

A: Yes, if you hate math. If you like math, there will seem to be almost none.

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

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

Q: Am I deserving of special consideration?

A: 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.

Q: Can I use my cellphone with messaging and camera as a calculator on the exams?

A: No, get a regular calculator. A really cheap one will suffice.

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

A: Why, yes! There are both drop in appoints and quarter long Peer-Guided Study Groups. Info below:

Quarter-Long Opportunity – Registration Required:

[Peer-Guided Study Groups](#) offers peer-led academic support in a small-group setting for students enrolled in this course. If you join the program, you 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, raise 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 below course lecture and discussion sections (ex. CHEM 131-SG – CHEM 131-SG Peer-Guided Study Group: Quantitative Problem Solving in Chemistry). Contact Borislava Miltcheva at borislava.miltcheva@northwestern.edu with any questions.

Drop-In Support – No Appointment Needed:

Sunday afternoon Drop-In Peer Tutoring: Students can drop in to study alone or with others and ask

questions of a peer leader who has done well in the class. Occurs on Sundays from 3–5 pm in the Shepard Engagement Center. Snacks provided! Covers many introductory courses in Biology, Chemistry, Economics, Engineering, Math, Physics and Stats.

Evening Drop-In Peer Tutoring: Peer tutoring is available for selected introductory courses in Chemistry, Economics, Engineering, Math, Physics and Stats on Sundays *through* Thursdays, from 8-10 pm in 560 Lincoln, the Main Library, and the Shepard Engagement Center.

Check specific courses and locations on the tutoring website:

<https://www.northwestern.edu/academic-support-learning/course-support/drop-in-peer-tutoring.html>.

If you have questions about drop-in tutoring, please contact Una McGeough at una.mcgeough@northwestern.edu.

Q: What about students with disabilities?

A: Any student with a documented disability needing accommodations is requested to speak directly to the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) (847-467-5530) and me, as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class). All discussions will remain confidential.

Q: What is the most important thing?

A: 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.