Meeting Time and Location: MWF 10:05-10:55 a.m., G10 Old C.E. Building
Instructor: Dr. Matthew E. Oliver, Assistant Professor
Office: 223 Old C.E. Building
Office Hours: MW, 1:30-3:00 p.m., or by appointment
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Office Phone: 404-894-0941

Course Description: Following the major recession that occurred in 2008 and 2009, and thanks in part to the primary focus of politicians and major news media outlets when speaking of “the economy,” these days when most people think of “economics” they’re really thinking of “macroeconomics.” In reality, macroeconomics is a distinct sub-discipline of economics that deals with aggregate measures of production, consumption, and general economic wellbeing, as well as the government policies designed to influence these measures. To put it loosely, the key distinction between macroeconomics and microeconomics is that the former focuses on the economic behavior of the aggregate economy (i.e. all producers, consumers, and markets in aggregate), whereas the latter focuses on the economic behavior of individual agents or markets (i.e., one producer, consumer, and/or market by itself). Things like aggregate supply and demand, gross domestic product (GDP), the unemployment rate, monetary and fiscal policies, the business cycle, inflation, international trade, and many other concepts comprise the arena of modern macroeconomics. As such, the focus of any graduate level Macroeconomics course is to make sure students understand these key concepts, and to help them develop a working understanding of the basic underlying theories of macroeconomics at their most fundamental levels.


Grading Scale:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85%-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>70%-84.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>55%-69.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>&lt; 55%</td>
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Your grade for this course will comprise four components:

1. Group Project (15%) – For more information, please see the Group Project Guidelines document, which is available on the t-square course site.
2. **Homework** (25%) – For each chapter we study in class, I will assign a number of problems either out of the book, or that I have written myself. Homework assignments will be posted on the T-square website.

3. **Mid-term Exam** (25%) – We will discuss an appropriate date for your mid-term exam. Once agreed upon by class and instructor, this date is non-negotiable. For those with GT-approved absences only, a make-up exam will be scheduled accordingly.

4. **Final Exam** (35%) – The final exam will be comprehensive. The date and time of the final exam will be in accordance with the Institute’s final exam schedule, and is non-negotiable. For those with GT-approved absences only, a make-up final exam will be scheduled accordingly.

The percentages next to each component indicate the weight that each component carries in your final grade. Thus, your final grade will be calculated as a *weighted average*. So, for example, if at the end of the semester your group project grade is a 95, your homework average is an 80, you got an 85 on the mid-term, and a 90 on the final exam, your grade for the class will be:

\[
0.15 \times 95 + 0.25 \times 80 + 0.25 \times 85 + 0.35 \times 90 = 87 \rightarrow A
\]

**Attendance Policy:** You are required to attend class. However, to make things more interesting, I will implement a class attendance game. For more information, please see the **Attendance Game** document, which is available on the t-square course site.

**Other Course Policies:** Please make every effort *not* to arrive late or leave early. Please set cell phones to ‘silent’, and *do not* answer your phone while in class (do not get up and leave the classroom to answer your phone either). If it is a genuine emergency, you will be permitted to exit the classroom to address the issue. Texting during class is not permitted. Any other rude or disruptive behavior will be dealt with appropriately. You may bring your laptop computer or other device to class, but only if you are using it for course-related activities (not for playing games or looking at Facebook, among other things). During exams, you *may not* use your cell phone calculator (so bring an actual calculator), and if you need to go to the restroom, you must leave your cell phone with me while you go.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any violation of the Institute’s Honor Code will be reported to the Dean of Students.

**Group Work Guidelines:** You are encouraged to interact with other students outside the classroom to discuss the homework assignments and study for exams. For the formal group project assignment, see the **Group Project Guidelines** document.

**Disclaimer:** If anything significant should change with respect to this syllabus, I will let you know immediately.