

Department of Economics

**Syllabus -- Spring 2023**

Course and Instructor Information

**Course Title:** Principles of Macroeconomics

**Credits:** 3

**Format:** In-person

**Prerequisites:** None. Not open for credit to students who have passed ECON 1200, 2198, 2327 or 2202.  
May not be taken concurrently with ECON 1200. May be taken before or after ECON 1201.

**Professor:** Dr. Natalia V. Smirnova

**How to address me:**

I prefer you call me by my professional name, *Dr. Smirnova* or *Professor Smirnova*.

**Email:** [Natalia.Smirnova@uconn.edu](mailto:Natalia.Smirnova@uconn.edu)

Please read tips on <[How to Email a Professor](#)> (4-min).

**Office Hours/Availability:** Room 3.65. Thursdays 5 – 6 p.m. by appointment made on [Nexus](#) -- in-person.  
You can email me to request another time to meet (virtually).

**Virtual Office:** Natalia Smirnova's Personal Room  
<https://uconn-cmr.webex.com/meet/nvs95001> | 643596241

**Course HuskyCT Web Page:** <https://lms.uconn.edu>

Course Materials

**Required Materials:**

Asarta/Butters "Principles of Economics" Online Textbook.

Official Title:

*Connect Master 1-Semester Online Access for Principles of Economics, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*  
By Carlos Asarta and Roger Butters, Copyright: 2022, McGraw-Hill.

ISBN10: 1264322100

ISBN13: 9781264322107

The product can be purchased at the [UConn Bookstore](#) or directly from McGraw-Hill through the HuskyCT site for this class.

I recommend purchasing the product through the HuskyCT site:

1. Navigate to the HuskyCT class site.
2. On the left-hand-side locate "Connect" and follow the steps.
  - o An additional document "How to Register for Connect" is available within the "Course Content" tab on the left-hand-side.

Once you purchase the product, please review [this video](#).

You will be able to have complimentary access to the course for 14 days. Follow the process described above, but choose the complimentary access option at registration.

Additional course readings and media will be available within HuskyCT.

### Course Description

This is a one-semester course in *macroeconomics*. It provides a basic introduction to the organization and function of the economic system as a total unit. Economic decisions, institutions, and policies that determine levels and rates of growth of production, employment, and prices will be examined. (This is as opposed to *microeconomics* – ECON 1201 – which studies how the invisible hand of the market functions through the economic decisions of firms and individuals.)

### Course Objectives

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

- Explain such economic concepts as GDP, business cycles, inflation, unemployment, and economic growth.
- Distinguish between fiscal and monetary policies.
- Identify the tools of fiscal and monetary policies.
- Analyze the effects of fiscal and monetary policies on economic growth.
- Analyze current economic conditions in the US in the light of macroeconomic policies in effect.

### Career-Readiness Course Objectives:

Identifying and articulating the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Career Competencies, technical, and transferable skills you acquire in this course and during your time at UConn are critical to [Becoming Career Ready](#) and your success both as a student and post-graduation. In this course, you have opportunities to enhance and gain the Career Competencies and skills that employers and graduate programs are seeking, such as **Critical Thinking, Technology, and Professionalism**.

This will occur via assignments and class conversations and will contribute to your ability to identify and articulate these competencies and skills when applying for leadership roles, internships, jobs, graduate school, fellowships, and more. For assistance in identifying and articulating these competencies and skills, [schedule an appointment](#) with a Career Coach at the Center for Career Development.

### Course Outline and Calendar

Weeks	Topic	Assignment
1. Tuesday, January 17 Thursday, January 19	Course overview, requirements, registration, logistics, etc.	Introductory videos on <i>Connect</i> Video: <a href="#">What Economists Really Do</a>
2. Tuesday, January 24 Thursday, January 26	Money	Module 1 – Money (videos and problems) - homework due 1/26@11:59 p.m.
3. Tuesday, January 31 Thursday, February 2	Monetary Policy	Module 2 – Monetary Policy
4. Tuesday, February 7 Thursday, February 9	Measuring Output and Income	Module 2 – Monetary Policy homework due 2/9@11:59 p.m. <u>Assignment</u> : New Monetary Policy Tools due on Sun 2/12 @ 11:59 p.m.
5. Tuesday, February 14 Thursday, February 16	Measuring Output and Income  <b>Exam # 1 – take home -- online</b> <b>Opens: Friday, 02/17 @ 8 a.m.</b>	Module 3 – Measuring Output and Income homework due 02/16  <b>Exam # 1 coverage: Modules 1, 2, 3</b>

	<b>Due: Tuesday, 02/21 @ 11:59 p.m.</b>	
6. Tuesday, February 21 Thursday, February 23	<b>Tuesday – no class meeting -- finishing Exam #1.</b>  Thursday – Economic Growth  <b>Women in Economics Symposium</b> - optional attendance of the Watch Party in room 1.06 at 4:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.	<b>Exam # 1 due Tuesday, 02/21 @ 11:59 p.m.</b>  Module 4 – Economic Growth
7. Tuesday, February 28 Thursday, March 2	Economic Growth	Module 4 – Economic Growth homework due 03/02
8. Tuesday, March 7 Thursday, March 9	Business Cycles, Unemployment, and Inflation	Module 5 – Business Cycles, Unemployment and Inflation - homework due 03/09
March 14 - March 19	Spring Break	
9. Tuesday, March 21 Thursday, March 23	Aggregate Expenditure Model	Module 6 – Aggregate Expenditure Model -- homework due 03/30
10. Tuesday, March 28 <b>Thursday, March 30</b>	Tuesday and Thursday: Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply  <b>Exam #2 –take home – online</b> <b>Opens: Friday 03/31 @ 8:30 a.m.</b> <b>Due: Tuesday 04/04 @ 11:59 p.m.</b>	<b>Exam # 2 coverage: Modules 4, 5</b>
11. Tuesday, April 4  Thursday, April 6	<b>Tuesday -- no class meeting</b> <b>Exam # 2 is due 04/04 @11:59 p.m.</b>  Thursday: Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply	<b>Exam # 2 is due on Tuesday 04/04@11:59 p.m.</b>  Module 7 – Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply - homework due 04/13
12. Tuesday, April 11 Thursday, April 13	Fiscal Policy	Module 8 – Fiscal Policy
13. Tuesday, April 18 Thursday, April 20	Fiscal Policy	Module 8 – Fiscal Policy- homework due 04/20
14. Tuesday, April 25 Thursday, April 27	Fiscal Policy Participation scores revealed	
<b>15. Tuesday, May 2</b>	<b>Final Exam – take home – online</b> <b>Opens: Friday, April 28 @ 8 a.m.</b> <b>Due: Tuesday, May 2 @ 12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Final Exam Coverage: Modules 6, 7, 8</b>

## Course Requirements and Grading

### Summary of Course Grading:

Course Components	Percent	
Participation	20%	Participation is <b>consistent</b> attendance, preparedness, engagement, and punctuality, including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ FRED graphs – occasional assignments – 10 pts each</li> <li>▪ Other occasional assignments - various points for each - in class and out of class</li> </ul>
Connect Master	20%	Online homework assignments for each Module: 10 points for each.
Exam # 1	20%	Take home, online Maximum points = 100
Exam # 2	20%	Take home, online Maximum points = 100
Final Exam	20%	Take home Maximum points = 100
Total	<b>100%</b>	

### Participation

Students are expected to participate in class discussions, and to take part in activities that are conducted during a class. There will be other exercises in class such as the construction of FRED graphs, in-class activities, and out-of-class assignments. You must be present in class to receive points for in-class activities' participation.

### Connect Master

*ConnectMaster* modules will be available online on Tuesdays. *ConnectMaster* is a product that is interactive, adaptive, and in alignment with how today's students seek and learn new information. These modules replace the traditional textbook experience.

Each module needs to be completed by **Thursday at 11:59 p.m.** (see up-to-date details on *ConnectMaster*).

Each module is worth 10 points. Students will be graded based on the percent of the module completed by the deadline. For example, a student who completes 80 percent of the module by 11:59pm on Thursday night will receive 80 percent of 10 points for that specific module, or 8 points ( $10 \times 0.8 = 8$ ).

### Midterm Exams

There will be 2 midterm exams, which will be given as take-home online assignments. The details will be provided in class closer to the date.

### Final Exam

Final exam will be non-cumulative. It will be given as a take-home online exam.

### Due Dates and Late Policy

All course due dates are identified in the *Connect Master*. Deadlines are based on Eastern Standard Time.

*Connect Master* will not accept late assignments. Due time is 11:59 p.m. EST.

Since each assessment is available in a window of several days with clearly stated due dates, there will be no make-ups of missed assessments except under very *unusual* circumstances. Being away and having no Internet access is **not** a valid reason.

*The instructor reserves the right to change dates accordingly as the semester progresses. All changes will be communicated in an appropriate manner.*

### "No Late Assignments, No Make-Ups, No Extra Credit" Policy

**Late assignments are not accepted.**

**There are no extra credit opportunities.**

**There are no make-up exams and/or assignments.**

#### WHY?

- Because there is **evidence** that this approach benefits students.
- Because dependability is one of the most **important qualities for employers.**
- Because it is not fair to students who make an effort to meet deadlines.

### Feedback and Grades

Connect Master will have your scores displayed immediately after completion of the module.

### Grading Scale

Grade	Letter Grade	GPA
93-100	A	4.0
90-92.99999	A-	3.7
87-89.99999	B+	3.3
83-86.99999	B	3.0
80-82.99999	B-	2.7
77-79.99999	C+	2.3
73-76.99999	C	2.0
70-72.99999	C-	1.7
67-69.99999	D+	1.3
63-66.99999	D	1.0
60-62.99999	D-	0.7
<60	F	0.0

### Course Etiquette

Please be considerate of classmates: arrive to class meeting on time and be respectful during class discussions.

Cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices must be off (or in silent mode) before the class begins. Computer use is required for this class. Occasionally, we will be doing research work online. Be prepared to follow along with the instructor.

Please refrain from visiting the internet sites that are not being used during a class. You will miss important information.

## Email

I will communicate with you via your UConn email address (usually [firstname.lastname@uconn.edu](mailto:firstname.lastname@uconn.edu)). It is your responsibility to check this email account for messages. If you have a personal email address that you prefer to use, forward your UConn email to that address.

You should communicate with me via your UConn email and address me by my professional title, Dr. Smirnova or Professor Smirnova. When emailing me, please identify yourself by your first and last name, the course you are taking with me, the section you are taking with me (i.e. 11 a.m., 3:30 p.m., etc.) and state your question concisely. If you put "ECON 1202 Question" in the subject line, it will get my attention. Please read tips on [How to Email a Professor](#) (4-min).

The email etiquette is building your career competency of **Professionalism**.

## Student Responsibilities and Resources

As a member of the University of Connecticut student community, you are held to certain standards and academic policies. In addition, there are numerous resources available to help you succeed in your academic work. Review these important [standards, policies and resources](#), which include:

- The Student Code
  - Academic Integrity
  - Resources on Avoiding Cheating and Plagiarism
- Copyrighted Materials
- Netiquette and Communication
- Adding or Dropping a Course
- Academic Calendar
- Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment and Inappropriate Romantic Relationships
- Sexual Assault Reporting Policy

## Students with Disabilities

Students needing special accommodations should work with the University's [Center for Students with Disabilities \(CSD\)](#). You may contact CSD by calling (860) 486-2020 or by emailing [csd@uconn.edu](mailto:csd@uconn.edu). If your request for accommodation is approved, CSD will send an accommodation letter directly to your instructor(s) so that special arrangements can be made. (Note: Student requests for accommodation must be filed each semester.)

Blackboard measures and evaluates accessibility using two sets of standards: the WCAG 2.0 standards issued by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act issued in the United States federal government." (Retrieved March 24, 2013 from [Blackboard's website](#))

## Software Requirements

The technical requirements for this course include:

- Word processing software

- [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#)
- Reliable internet access

## Help

[Technical and Academic Help](#) provides a guide to technical and academic assistance.

This course’s online portion is facilitated using the learning management platform, [HuskyCT](#). If you have difficulty accessing HuskyCT, you have access to the in person/live person support options available during regular business hours through the [Help Center](#). You also have [24x7 Course Support](#) including access to live chat, phone, and support documents.

## Minimum Technical Skills

To be successful in this course, you will need the following technical skills:

- Use electronic mail with attachments.
- Save files in commonly used word processing program formats.
- Copy and paste text, graphics or hyperlinks.
- Work within two or more browser windows simultaneously.
- Open and access PDF files.

University students are expected to demonstrate competency in Computer Technology. Explore the [Computer Technology Competencies](#) page for more information.

## Evaluation of the Course

Students will be provided an opportunity to evaluate instruction in this course using the University's standard procedures, which are administered by the [Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness](#) (OIRE).

Additional informal formative surveys may also be administered within the course as an optional evaluation tool.



### Husky Study Groups

Are you interested in forming a study group with other students in the class? There is a study group application in Nexus that can help you get started.

Here is the [video](#) and [here](https://nexus.uconn.edu/secure_per/studygroups/index.php) ([https://nexus.uconn.edu/secure\\_per/studygroups/index.php](https://nexus.uconn.edu/secure_per/studygroups/index.php)) is more information.



### Resources for Students Experiencing Distress

The University of Connecticut is committed to supporting students in their mental health, their psychological and social well-being, and their connection to their academic experience and overall wellness. The university believes that academic, personal, and professional development can flourish only when each member of our community is assured equitable access to mental health services. The university aims to make access to mental health attainable while fostering a community reflecting equity and diversity and understands that good mental health may lead to personal and professional growth, greater self-awareness, increased social engagement, enhanced academic success, and campus and community involvement.

Students who feel they may benefit from speaking with a mental health professional can find support and resources through visiting <https://studenthealth.uconn.edu/regional-campuses/> where students can make an appointment with a mental health professional and engage in confidential conversations or seek recommendations or referrals for any mental health or psychological concern.

Mental health services are included as part of the university's student health insurance plan and also partially funded through university fees. If you do not have UConn's student health insurance plan, most major insurance plans are also accepted. Students can visit <https://studenthealth.uconn.edu/regional-campuses/> for services or questions.

+++++

### Accommodations for Illness or Extended Absences

Please stay home if you are feeling ill and please go home if you are in class and start to feel ill. If illness prevents you from attending class, it is your responsibility to notify your instructor as soon as possible. You do not need to disclose the nature of your illness, however, you will need to work with your instructor to determine how you will complete coursework during your absence.

If life circumstances are affecting your ability to focus on courses and your UConn experience, students can email the Dean of Students at [dos@uconn.edu](mailto:dos@uconn.edu) to request support.

Stamford campus students should [email](#) the [Student Services](#) staff at Stamford campus to request support and faculty notification. **Until I hear from Student Services about their determination of your accommodations due to illness, you will not be excused from any assignments, and "no late assignments, no make-ups, and no extra credit policies" will still apply to you.**

Location: Office of Student Services, Room 201 Stamford campus

Hours: Monday- Friday, 8:00am-4:30pm Phone: (203) 251-8484 Email: [stamfordstudentservices@uconn.edu](mailto:stamfordstudentservices@uconn.edu)

Information about **COVID-19**, including what to do if you test positive or you are informed through contract tracing that you were in contact with someone who tested positive, and answers to other important questions can be found here: <https://studenthealth.uconn.edu/updates-events/coronavirus/>

+++++

### The Course is Too Hard and My Professor's Fault

A complaint I get a lot is about horrible, awful, terrible instructors or that "a course is too hard". The advice that I give is "no matter how good your GPA is there is absolutely no teaching that can reduce student effort costs to zero. You have **to put in the work** and make up for what you may be missing".

Good teaching is not easy. It also takes time to pitch a course at the right level. Professors are human. If you firmly believe that something is truly wrong with the course, try and find out if other students feel the same way. Of course, you have a right to voice your concerns. The best advice on this topic I can give is before taking a course, do your research, ask around, look at reviews, and register for those Professors whom you believe will teach a good course. But remember college is not easy and productive classroom experiences require **active participation on your part**.

(Adapted from Dr. Joan Nix's advice to me as a student at Queens College (CUNY). Provided here with Dr. Nix's permission.)

+++++