



WACO, TEXAS

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**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**AND**

**INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

**Macroeconomics**

**Econ – 2301.D080 –**

**Brooks M. Wilson**

**NOTE: This is a 16-week course.**

**Start Now:**

Read the Syllabus. All class materials can be accessed through MCC's platform, Brightspace. If you are familiar with Brightspace, you can skip the remainder of this paragraph. Click on the following link to find the Brightspace login page <https://brightspace.mclennan.edu/d2l/login>. Your password and login are those that you use for your student email and to register for classes. When you enter your password, you will arrive at a page that lists your MCC classes. Click on your class identified by course name and section number. You will land on the Announcement page. A blue ribbon across the top of the page identifies student options through tabs, some containing drop down menus.

You have purchased Pearson's *MyLab Economics* with the etext, *Macroeconomics*, as part of your tuition and fees. To access *MyLab Economics* and the etext, click on the Content tab of Brightspace. On the Content page, click on the My Lab Economics tab located on the left in a vertical column. Click on any MyLab Economics student link to register. DO NOT WAIT! It is simple for nearly all students but a few will have technology issues. Email me if you have questions.

The MyLab Economics website follows the schedule set in the Syllabus but I have set the exams and the MyLab Economics assignments to allow late completion without penalty, and to allow multiple attempts. Complete the Pretest linked to the Assessment page of Brightspace. Complete your optional introduction to earn 5 extra credit point by clicking on the Discussions tab of Brightspace, then the Introductions link, and finally, the New link. You are then ready learn about macroeconomics by completing the reading, homework, and quiz assignments. If you have questions, email me.

**Course Description:**

Analyzes the economy as a whole including measurement and determination of aggregate demand and aggregate supply, national income, inflation, and unemployment. Other topics include international trade, economic growth, business cycles, fiscal policy and monetary policy.

**Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:**

Must have passed the TSI Assessment or be concurrently enrolled in INRW 0402.

**Your Professor:**

I am Brooks M. Wilson. After earning a BA in Economics, I became a banker specializing in business lending. One day, I was sitting at my desk, immediately in front of my boss's desk, thinking about my career. He was the best boss I had ever had, and the best banker. We had opened a new branch and were having great success expanding both loans and deposits. I decided that I did not want to be a banker thirty more years even under the best conditions so I

went back to school and earned a Ph.D. from the University of California, Davis in Agricultural Economics.

Graduate school was exhilarating. I explored new ideas and learned to quantify data into meaningful statistics. Not only did my knowledge base change, but my opinions did as well. I learned that if a person's opinions didn't change as their knowledge level grew, they were born lucky to always right, and more knowledge was just a method to better argue their inborn opinions. I didn't want to be that person.

You will learn economics. I hope that it will challenge your current beliefs no matter what they are. Throughout the class, we will explore the ideas of many economists with different economic and political beliefs. I have learned from them all and I hope that you do as well.

### **Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:**

#### **Orientation:**

Not all sections of the Syllabus will interest all readers, nor will are they all needed for the successful completion of this class, but some are. Why does the Syllabus contain sections that are not necessary? Some are required by my employer, and I like making my employer happy. Others are required by the state, and while I am not as thrilled about these sections, they are included too. All sections will be of value to some students.

When you have questions about the course or its procedures, the Syllabus should be the first place you look for answers. While I am happy to answer questions, asking me takes more time than seeking answers in the Syllabus. I do prioritize email. Questions that can be answered easily by referring to the Syllabus have a low priority. If you don't understand something in the Syllabus, start your email with something like, "I don't understand what the Syllabus means when you write..." This will give your email higher priority and help me improve my Syllabus.

#### **Instructor Information:**

Instructor Name: Brooks Wilson

MCC E-mail: [bwilson@mclennan.edu](mailto:bwilson@mclennan.edu)

Office Phone Number: 254-299-8678

Office Location: Zoom

Student/Teacher Conference Hours: MTWTH 9:00-10:30am

Conference Hours:

Please let me know if the conference hours do not meet your needs. We can almost certainly find a time that works for both of us.

Communication Policy:

If you are having a problem with this course at any time, please email me at [bwilson@mclennan.edu](mailto:bwilson@mclennan.edu). I will attempt to answer within 24 hours unless it is the weekend. In that case, I will probably answer within 24 hours, but I will answer on the following Monday. If I do not contact you within 24 hours, resend your email. You can also contact me at office number, 254-299-8678, or my personal cellphone number, 254-498-0183, but I prefer email; it is usually faster

Zoom:

Zoom is not a required resource but you can use it to improve the quality of conference time. Email me if you wish to have an appointment. Don't forget to give me some time to set up the meeting and email you the link. I am happy to meet with students outside of normal hours, as late as 11:00pm, but I will need more response time. There is a link to instructions on how to download and use Zoom on the Syllabus tab of Brightspace.

**Required Text & Materials:**

The required text and homework assignments, quizzes, exams, and your final were purchased as part of the cost of taking this class. The materials are integrated into Brightspace. The text is

Title: Macroeconomics

Author: Acemoglu, Laibson, and List

Edition: Macroeconomics 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

Publisher: Pearson

ISBN: 9780134641911

**MCC Bookstore Website:** <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

**Methods of Teaching and Learning:**

We will use Acemoglu, Laibson and List's, "Principles of Macroeconomics: Third Edition" as our textbook. We will also use the Pearson product, MyLab Economics. The cost of both was part of your fees to MCC. You have already purchased MyLab Economics with the etext. Print a copy of the MyLab Economics Registration Instructions on the Content page of Brightspace,

enter the class webpage and register. The first page you see is the Announcements. On the right, you will see a link that reads “Pearson My Lab and Mastering.” Click on it. Next, click on the link that reads, Open MyLab & Mastering. Follow the rest of the instructions. Email me if you have questions.

**Class Notes:**

My class notes and a few videos of lectures are available on the Content page of Brightspace (which is found on the Navigation Bar) as an aid, but you are not required to use them. The best notes are written in Mathematica, saved in a cdf format, and are interactive. To be able to use them, you must own a copy of Mathematic or download a free program, the cdf player which is similar to Adobe reader. To download the pdf player, search the term, “Wolfram pdf player” in your favorite browser. This process should take less than 10 minutes. Contact me if you have questions.

**Course Objectives and/or Competencies:**

Caution: The course objectives can safely be skipped to find material that will be more immediately important. Please review the objectives before starting a new chapter.

The primary objective of this course will be to help students develop a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to the economic system as a whole.

**B. Specific Learning Outcomes**

Successful completion of this course should enable the student to:

1. Explain the role of scarcity, specialization, opportunity cost and cost/benefit analysis in economic decision-making.
2. Identify the determinants of supply and demand; demonstrate the impact of shifts in both market supply and demand curves on equilibrium price and output.
3. Define and measure national income and rates of unemployment and inflation.
4. Identify the phases of the business cycle and the problems caused by cyclical fluctuations in the market economy.
5. Define money and the money supply; describe the process of money creation by the banking system and the role of the central bank. Be able to distinguish between causation and correlation through experimentation.
6. Construct the aggregate demand and aggregate supply model of the macro economy and use it to illustrate macroeconomic problems and potential monetary and fiscal policy solutions.
7. Explain the mechanics and institutions of international trade and their impact on the macro economy.

8. Define economic growth and identify sources of economic growth.

**Course Attendance/Participation Guidelines:**

It is important for students to understand the difference between a drop and a withdrawal. They are not the same. Drops are before the census date [September 6] and can be initiated at the request of the student or by the faculty when a student fails to meet attendance criteria before the census date. They do not count against students in the six-course withdrawal count. Withdrawals are after the census date and do count in the six-course withdrawal limit.

Past the census date, students who fail to submit two consecutive modules of work without notification of an excused absence as per MCC policy prior to the 60% point of the term will be withdrawn from the course. If a student completes any part of a work module, they have “attended” and will not be withdrawn. If a student fails to submit two consecutive modules of work without notification of an excused absence as per MCC policy and the class is past the 60% point of the term, the instructor will NOT withdraw the student. The student will be assigned the grade earned at the end of the term.

In my class, students must complete the pretest, introduction in Brightspace, and the homework and quiz assignments related to chapter 1 prior to the census date not to be dropped. To earn a present for other weeks, students must add to their accumulation of points by completing a homework, quiz or exam. I will allow students to fall behind by as much as an exam, but at that point, students will be required to make normal progress. If I am concerned about a student’s attendance, I will send an email and a response is required.

**Course Outline or Schedule:**

The due dates are also listed at the MyLab Economics website. Assignments are subject to change.

There are three due dates. The recommended due date (Rec Date), intermediate due date (Inter Date), and the final due date (Final Date). Different due dates endow students with flexibility to fit the class assignments into their individual schedules. This will cause some confusion, but I believe that additional flexibility is a good tradeoff for the additional confusion.

Rec Date	Inter Date	Final Date	Assignments
Aug 21	Sept 1	Sept 1	Read Orientation and Syllabus
Aug 22	Sept 1	Sept 1	Complete Pretest
Aug 22	Sept 1	Dec 3	Complete Introduction in Brightspace
Aug 24	Sept 13	Dec 3	CH 1. The Principles and Practice of Economics
Aug 28	Sept 13	Dec 3	CH 2. Economic Methods and Economic Questions

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Sept 6			Census Date
Sept 6	Sept 13	Dec 3	CH 4. Demand, Supply, and Equilibrium
Sept 12	Sept 13	Dec 3	Required MyLab Economics Assignments for first exam due: <b>The Principles and Practice of Economics, Economic Methods and Economic Questions, and Demand, Supply, and Equilibrium</b>
Sept 13	Sept 13	Dec 3	Exam 1 (Chapters 1, 2, 4)
Sept 16	Oct 13	Dec 3	CH 5. The Wealth of Nations. Defining and Measuring Macroeconomic Aggregates
Sept 23	Oct 13	Dec 3	CH 6. Aggregate Incomes
Oct 1	Oct 13	Dec 3	CH. 7 Economic Growth
Oct 7	Oct 13	Dec 3	<b>CH 8 Notes. Case Study: Informality and Peruvian Housing</b>
Oct 7	Oct 13	Dec 3	CH 8. Why Isn't the Whole World Developed?
Oct 7	Oct 13	Dec 3	Required MyLab Economics Assignments for second exam due: <b>The Wealth of Nations: Defining and Measuring Macroeconomic Aggregates, Aggregate Incomes, Why Isn't the Whole World Developed?</b>
Oct 13	Oct 13	Dec 3	Exam 2 (Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8)
Oct 17	Nov 6	Dec 3	CH 9. Employment and Unemployment
Oct 23			60% Date
Oct 23	Nov 6	Dec 3	CH 10. Credit Markets
Oct. 31	Nov 6	Dec 3	CH 11. The Monetary System
Nov 6	Nov 6	Dec 3	Required MyLab Economics Assignments for fourth exam due: <b>Employment and Unemployment, Credit Markets, The Monetary System</b>
Nov 6	Nov 6	Dec 3	Exam 3 (Chapters 9, 10, 11)
Nov 12	Dec 1	Dec 3	Short-Run Fluctuations
Nov 18	Dec 1	Dec 3	Countercyclical Macroeconomic Policy
Nov 30	Dec 1	Dec 3	Required MyLab Economics Assignments for fourth exam due: <b>Short-Run Fluctuations, Countercyclical Macroeconomic Policy</b>
Dec 1	Dec 1	Dec 3	Exam 4 (Chapters 12, 13)
Dec 3	Dec 3	Dec 3	Late MyLab Economics Assignments and Retake Exams due. (Optional to improve grade or complete missed assignment)
Dec 4-6	Dec 4-6	Dec 4-6	Final Exam (Comprehensive)

## Course Grading Information:

### Homework Assignments and Quizzes:

The MyLab Economics graded problem sets are a valuable tool in learning the economics presented in this class. The problem sets are closely related to the Acemoglu, Laibson and List text. Besides being directly responsible for 20% of your grade, these problem sets indirectly affect your grades on exams. I have found that every fifteen questions answered correctly improves exam scores by approximately one letter grade.

The 20% is based on the percentage correct on the MyLab Economics homeworks and quizzes. It is not based on 20% of the questions you answer correctly.

For grading purposes, there are two types of MyLab Economics assignments. Each chapter has two types of required assignments from the MyLab Economics, homeworks and quizzes. Your grades are recorded as the decimal (rather than percentage) of questions answered correctly. The highest grade possible is a 1, which corresponds to 100%. The quizzes and homework assignments are graded on an 80% curve. Each question in each assignment counts for one point divided by .8 when answered correctly. Because of the curve, if you average .8 and your assignments related to a unit, you will earn 100% on that unit. Points above .8 will accrue to extra credit. As it turns out, the extra credit will be valuable for students who are struggling. Each point earned above once the MyLab Economics score reaches 100% adds one point to the exam score until a student reaches 70%. These points will not help students who earn above a 70% on their exams.

In addition to the required assignments, MyLab Economics generates a study plan based on the questions that you missed on the homework and quiz assignments. Although not required, the study plan will help you prepare for exams.

The MyLab Economics assignments can be completed by the final due date without penalty of lost points. There is a cost to being late. You have less time to complete assignments that are currently due.

### **Extra Credit Assignments:**

Before you begin to study Macroeconomics, you will take a pretest. It is a completion grade for 5 extra credit points. Don't look up answers. The pretest is designed to measure your knowledge before you study the subject. Every semester, students panic when they do not do well on it. Don't panic. Students should not yet perform well because they have not yet studied the subject. I will supply additional extra credit assignments during the semester. The first extra credit assignment is to make an introduction on the Discussions tab of Brightspace. You can also email your response to me rather than post it if you prefer. It is worth 5 points. All other extra credit assignments will be given as an Announcement, and you should answer them by email. Although I give opportunities to earn extra credit, most students will not need it. With that caution, it would be wise for even the best students to earn 10 extra credit points as something of an insurance policy in case of a bad performance.

### **Exams:**

Exams will be found in MyLab Economics. Students can retake all exams, including the final, three times. You may ask me to reset the exam if you wish to take it more than three times. I



will grant additional attempts on a case by case basis. Exams are graded on a curve. After the curve has been added, the average grade will be 75% based on students' first attempts on an exam. My cruves, when they exist, are only positive. I will not subtract points from an exam even when the raw scorve exceeds 75%.

The midterm exams and the final will be given online in MyLab Economics. Exams 1-3 will not require the use of Respondus the lockdown browser, exam 4 and the final will. If I could, I would not allow students to use notes or other aides. Without using Respondus, I cannot stop students from access other materials. With Respondus, students cannot use calculators or a pencil and paper for calculations. If I could, I would allow you to use these helps. Because all students face the same difficulty, the curve will still be set at 75% so student grades are not compromised. I also review videos of students writing, doing excessive typing, and looking away from the screen, etc. If problems arise, I will ask the student involved to take the exam at the Testing Center or via Zoom. Let me know if you have questions.

Do not ask for additional time unless you have a documented disability which I will accommodate.

I will evaluate your performance in class using the following metric.

Testing Tool	Percent of Grade
MyLab Economics homeworks and quizzes	20%
Midterms (4 @ 15% each)	60%
Final exam	20%

**The class grading scale is as follows**

A 90% and above  
B 80-89%  
C 70-79%  
D 60-69%  
F Below 60%

**Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:**

Students can retake any and all exams for full credit. They can retake an exam more than once but must contact me so that I can reset the exam.

I will take attendance once a week. Attendance is based on participation. You can fall behind, but you need to do something every week even if it is only beginning an assignment.

**Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:**

Students are expected to maintain classroom decorum that includes respect for other students and the instructor, prompt and regular attendance, and an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the education opportunity.”

**\* [Click Here for the MCC Academic Integrity Statement](#)**

**([www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity](http://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity))**

The link above will provide you with information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

**\* [Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](#)**

**(<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>)**

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have guidelines specific to this course.

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Updated 07/18/2023



## **ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES**

### **Accommodations/ADA Statement:**

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit [www.mclennan.edu/disability](http://www.mclennan.edu/disability).

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

[disabilities@mclennan.edu](mailto:disabilities@mclennan.edu) 2542998122 Room  
319, Student Services Center

### **Title IX:**

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the acting Title IX Coordinator at [titleix@mclennan.edu](mailto:titleix@mclennan.edu) or by calling, Dr. Claudette Jackson, (Accommodations/Title IX) at (254) 299-8465. MCC employees are mandatory reporters and must report incidents immediately to the Title IX Coordinator. Individuals may also contact the MCC Police Department at (254) 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a

confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>. Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at [www.mclennan.edu/titleix/](http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/). It contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence, or domestic violence.

### **Student Support/Resources:**

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

Academic Support and Tutoring is here to help students with all their course-related needs. Specializing in one-on-one tutoring, developing study skills, and effectively writing essays. Academic Support and Tutoring can be found in the Library and main floor of the Learning Commons. This service is available to students in person or through Zoom. You can contact the Academic Support and Tutoring team via Zoom or email ([ast@mclennan.edu](mailto:ast@mclennan.edu)) by going to our website (<https://www.mclennan.edu/academic-support-and-tutoring/>).

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources or want to explore strategies for balancing life and school, we encourage you to contact either MCC CREW – Campus Resources Education Web by calling (254) 299-8561 or by emailing [crew@mclennan.edu](mailto:crew@mclennan.edu) or a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing [SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu](mailto:SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu). Both are located in the Completion Center located on the second floor of the Student Services Center (SSC) which is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff. To schedule an appointment, go to [https://mclennan.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_07byXd7eB8iTqJg](https://mclennan.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_07byXd7eB8iTqJg). Both the Completion Center and Paulanne's Pantry are located on the second floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

### **MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:**

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to

<https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html>

to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at

[https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency\\_Grant\\_Application.pdf](https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf).

**MCC Academic Integrity Statement:**

Go to [www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity](http://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity) for information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating. The unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) for classwork can be a violation of the College's General Conduct Policy. Whether AI is authorized in a course and the parameters in which AI can be used in a course will be outlined by each instructor.

**Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:**

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teachingandlearning/FacultyandStaffCommons/requirements.html> for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

**Minimum Technical Skills:**

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

**Backup Plan for Technology:**

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be notified via your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

**Email Policy:**

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (<http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are

expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails. For more information about your student email account, go to [www.mclennan.edu/studentemail](http://www.mclennan.edu/studentemail).

**Instructional Uses of Email:**

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

**Email on Mobile Devices:**

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email [Helpdesk@mclennan.edu](mailto:Helpdesk@mclennan.edu) for help.

You can find help on the McLennan website about connecting your McLennan email account to your mobile device:

- [Email Setup for iPhones and iPads](#)
- [Email Setup for Androids](#)

**Forwarding Emails:**

You may forward emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

For more helpful information about technology at MCC, go to [MCC's Tech Support Cheat Sheet](#) or email [helpdesk@mclennan.edu](mailto:helpdesk@mclennan.edu).

**Disclaimer:**

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.