



# Economics 131-Principles of Macroeconomics,

CRN 62003

Spring 2024 Semester

## CLASS INFORMATION

This is an ONLINE Asynchronous course.  
WEBSITE: [laulima.hawaii.edu/CRN](http://laulima.hawaii.edu/CRN)

## INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Paul Briggs  
Office: Naauao 126  
Office Hours: via email, I will respond within 24 hours of your email.  
E-mail: via Laulima email  
Phone: 808-236-9218

## ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTOR

My name is Paul Briggs and I do love Economics and especially teaching this subject. I was born and raised in Southern and Northern California and moved to Hawaii in 1992. I love hiking, tennis and cycling and of course, spending time with my wife of 25 years (Liane).



## About This Course

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Study of the economic forces that determine a country's income, employment and prices. Roles of consumers, businesses, banks and governments are explored.

## Course Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

1. Translate important macroeconomic terms and theories into various forms.
2. Identify, explore and analyze macroeconomic concepts using economic analysis and research.

## Course Format

This is a 16 week asynchronous course. This course is designed to teach you the basic underpinnings of markets in terms of consumer and producer behavior. The course will be set up in weekly units generally covering a chapter per week. There will be regular forum assignments that will ask you to address discussion points regarding the chapter as well as selected current events. I will also require you to write two Article Analysis papers. There will also be two midterms and a final exam. All of these assignments will be explained in the Course Tasks and Requirements section of this syllabus. Announcements will be sent out after I grade each assignment to you detailing how I graded the assignment along with other relevant information. All due dates will be based on Hawaiian Standard Time (HST).

## Required Materials

- N. Gregory Mankiw (Required), *Principles of Macroeconomics, Ninth Edition* (I will accept the eighth or the seventh editions). Available at WCC Bookstore or Amazon.
- Economics 130 Handout from WCC Bookstore
- OTHER REQUIRED ITEMS: Access to the Internet (Laulima), UH Email Account (either as main email account or forwarded to another email account).

## Hardware/software

- Daily access to a desktop or laptop computer (Using a smart phone or tablet is not sufficient.)
- Reliable high-speed Internet connection
- A recent version of the [Firefox](#) browser (free)
- A word-processing program, such as [Word](#) (free student version), [Pages](#) (free with Apple hardware) or web-based [Google Docs](#) (free with UH username)
- Presentation program, such as [Powerpoint](#) (free student version), [Keynote](#) (free with Apple hardware), or web-based [Google Slides](#) (free with UH username)
- [Zoom](#) video conferencing tool (free)
- [Adobe \(Acrobat\) Reader](#) (free)
- NOTE ON HANDOUT: This handout is organized by the chapters that we will cover in this course. It contains Powerpoint slides and Practice Questions for each chapter. It also contains review sheet information for the exams in this course as well as for the papers that are due in this class. This is the same handout that I give to the face to face class. While all of the relevant information will be available on the LAULIMA site, it will be a good idea for you to have this hard copy handout for your reference.

## ALTERNATE CONTACT INFORMATION

If you are unable to contact the instructor, have questions that your instructor cannot answer, or for any other issues, please contact the Academic Affairs Office:

Location: Alakai 121

Phone: 808-235-7422

Email: [wccaa@hawaii.edu](mailto:wccaa@hawaii.edu)

## Course Policies

### Participating in our Learning Community

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There will be weekly discussions in which you will be able to communicate with each other as well. There will be two types of weekly discussions:

- Reading Checks-These will be chapter based with a focus on chapter summaries and response to discussion prompts. You will do one response to the class due on Thursdays by 11 pm and one response to another student due on Saturdays by 11 pm.
- Discussion Forums- These will be discussions based on selected topics that have economic applications. You will do one response due the class due on Thursdays by 11 pm and two responses to other students due on Saturdays by 11 pm.

Discussion activity will help sharpen your critical thinking and written communication skills as you study microeconomic topics. From time to time, as current events unfold, additional discussion questions related to the course material may be posted to discussions. These questions should be answered as well.

The more interaction with one another in each discussion, the better. Substantive contributions are defined as those responses providing statements that enhance ongoing discussion of the forum's topics, thus enabling the discussion to build throughout the class. Responses should include demonstration of the forum's topical information as well as how to apply topics covered.

How can the student make substantive contributions?

1. **A student can agree** – providing additional substance to the conversation while building upon the previous students comments.
2. **A student can disagree** (in a professional nature of course) – stating why a different interpretation is better.
3. **Or, students can re-direct** the discussion towards another vantage point presenting additional factors. Many times, a discussion will be redirected or enhanced by someone bringing up a viewpoint that some had not considered before. Thus, the conversation continues.

Students must be interactive, not only with the instructor, but with other students. Expand or redirect discussions as they relate to class. Offer some real-world experience that supports theory or flies in the face of theory. Use critical thinking and possibly come up with new ideas.

Participation is defined as your well thought out responses to classmates and other contributions you make to the discussions. We can learn much from each other, but only if we put forth effort and share our discoveries as we move through the semester. Be sure to read the initial responses posted by your classmates.

### Contacting the Instructor

Please email me through LAULIMA email, and I will get back to you within 24 hours if not sooner.

### Alternative Contact

You can also call me at my office 808-236-9218.

## Assessment & Grading

### LAULIMA READING CHECKS: (10% of your grade).

I require a reading check for each chapter to be done within a specified period of time on LAULIMA FORUMS. These assignments will be worth 10 points each. You will be required to write a summary of each chapter (50 word min) and then respond to at least one (one response) other student's summary (25 words min). The summary will include the main points of the chapter along with anything that you find interesting (i.e real world applications) or confusing about the chapter (To get full credit, you must address these items). I will also ask some directed questions for the Reading Checks as well. The summaries will be done on Thursdays and the response will be due on Saturday. The responses will be due two days after the summaries are due. The due time will be 11 pm on the specified due date (Thursdays for the summary and Saturdays for the response). LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

I will send a final announcement on Sunday for the Reading Check due the previous week. In that announcement, I will also give out answers to the practice questions in the handout for that week. While the practice questions will not be a graded assignment (it is for the face to face class), it will be helpful for you to work on these problems as that will help you on future exams. I may also ask you about selected practice questions for the reading checks.

### LAULIMA DISCUSSION FORUMS: 10% of your grade.

These journal assignments will ask your opinion and/or understanding of some applied areas of economics that we will cover in the course. These journal assignments will be designed to encourage discussion via an Internet forum as there is often not time to cover these areas in class. To facilitate discussion, I will post articles and/or videos on a current event (i.e the Coronavirus). There will be five of these assignments (An Introduction Forum and four Discussion Forums). Each assignment will be 20 points apiece, with 10 points for a thread posting (start new conversation) and 5 points each for responses to another student's thread posting (2 responses). Topic postings need to be at least 50 words in length and responses will be at least 25 words in length. The due time will be 11 pm on the specified due date (Thursdays for the summary and Saturdays for the response). LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

### QUIZZES: 10% of your grade.

There will be a short 10 question quiz on each chapter to be done in Laulima Tests and Quizzes. You will have 3 chances to do each quiz and I will count your highest score. Due date and time for the QUIZZES will be Saturday nights at 11 pm.

### TESTS: 40% of the grade.

There will be TWO MIDTERMS each worth 100 points (10% of the grade each) and a final exam worth 200 points (20% of the grade-cumulative). Tests may be in varying formats ranging from multiple choice to essay questions. Midterm exams will take 75 minutes and the Final exam will take 2 hours.

Normally, online tests will be taken at the WCC Testing Center. However, social distancing requirements due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic mean that the Testing Center can only allow a fraction of the normal student capacity to take exams. **Thus your exams will be taken at home during the test taking period (typically one week) under strict time guidelines (75 minutes for midterms and 2 hours for the final).** Exam questions will be generated randomly from a LAULIMA Question Pool so no two students will receive the same exam questions.

### ARTICLE ANALYSES: (20% of your grade).

There will be two article analyses due during the semester on the various topics that we have covered up to that point. Instructions for this assignment are included in your handout.

### CAREER PAPER: (10% of your grade).

There will be a career paper in which you will explore 2 careers that you could pursue in the future.

Due dates for papers and drafts will be on the Laulima course site.

Specific instructions are included in the handout (and the Laulima course site) for each assignment (Article Analysis and Career Paper).

### Evaluation and Feedback

I will attempt to evaluate your assignment promptly and through comments via the appropriate Laulima assessment tool. Once I have completed all of the evaluations for an assignment, I will send out an announcement to the entire class saying that I have done so along with any other relevant information.

### Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Students are not allowed to use advanced automated tools (artificial intelligence or machine learning tools such as ChatGPT or Dall-E 2) on assignments in this course. Each student is expected to complete each assignment without substantive assistance from others, including automated tools.

### Late Work and Missed Assessments

Reading Checks and Forums are always due on Thursdays and Saturdays at 11 pm. I will accept late entries (reduced credit) between Thursdays and Saturdays, but not after the Saturday due date as a general rule. I will accept late paper submissions after the due date, but for reduced credit. Remember that all work must be turned in via the appropriate Laulima assessment tool. Regarding examinations, I will give a window of one week in order to complete the exam via Laulima Tests and Quizzes. If you need to take the exam after the exam window, please let me know in advance.

### Extra Credit

Generally, I provide extra credit on the reading checks/forums through doing the practice tests that are listed on that week's lesson page. These practice tests (and extra worksheets for some chapters) are an opportunity to practice your skills in Economics. The practice tests are pdf documents, you should submit them as marked documents. Here is my [video](#) showing you how to do this.

## SUMMARY OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Item	Percentage of Total Grade (%)
Reading Checks	10
Quizzes	10
Discussion Forums	10
Midterms	20
Final	20

Article Analysis Papers	20
Career Paper	10
TOTAL	100%

### Grading Curve

Percentages	Grade
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
50-69	D
Below 50	F

I know the amount of work in this class may seem overwhelming to you right now, but I will structure the assignments in such a way that you will have plenty of chances to succeed in this course. My style is to have a lot of little assignments as opposed to a few large assignments that consequently put a lot of pressure on your grade. I will always be around to help you complete the assignments in a timely and professional manner.

All of your assignments will be presented to you on Laulima, typically through the weekly lesson page. The lesson page will have an introduction to the chapter, videos and assignments for you to do. The lesson page will also have a checklist to make it easier for you to manage your assignments.

Here is a summary of the various assignments/ resources, their location and due dates/times.

ASSIGNMENT/RESOURCES	LOCATION	DUE DATES AND TIMES
EMAIL COMMUNICATION	MAILTOOL VIA LAULIMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When appropriate</li> </ul>
DISCUSSION FORUMS AND READING CHECKS	FORUMS TAB VIA LAULIMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post Threads by Thursday at 11 pm</li> <li>Post Responses by Saturday at 11 pm</li> </ul>
QUIZZES	LAULIMA TESTS AND QUIZZES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designated due date at 11 pm.</li> </ul>
READING AND NARRATED LECTURE	APPROPRIATE WEEKLY LESSON PAGE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Before you do the Problem Set.</li> </ul>
PAPER (Article Analysis and Career Papers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UPLOAD VIA LAULIMA ASSIGNMENTS</li> <li>INSTRUCTIONS VIA LAULIMA ASSIGNMENTS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designated due date by 11 pm.</li> </ul>
EXAMS	LAULIMA TESTS AND QUIZZES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designated due date by 11 pm..</li> </ul>

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

### HOW YOU SHOULD COMPLETE THIS COURSE:

1. On the Laulima course page, go to the appropriate week. Complete the checklist for that week.
2. Please read the chapter.
3. Watch the videos on the appropriate lessons page.
4. Do the READING CHECKS by their due dates.
5. Do the Chapter QUIZZES by the assigned due date.
6. Do the ARTICLE ANALYSES and the CAREER PAPERS by the assigned due date.
7. Please do the exams in the WCC Testing Center (or at home given social distancing requirements.)

## GETTING STATED WITH LAULIMA

(for online course material)

Logging on to Laulima

1. Go to the Laulima login page which is located at <http://laulima.hawaii.edu>



2. Log in using your UH ID name and password (of if you are not at UH, log in using the name and password you were provided).

Note: your server may look different from the ones pictured below, with other courses and perhaps other tools (the list on the left side). There are many tools that are available, depending on how your instructors have designing their courses.

You can set up your *My Workspace* by clicking on the *Preferences* tool. You can enter profile information (such as your name, contact information, picture and so on) by clicking on the *Profile* tool.

If a course does not appear click the Sites button.



This will show a complete list of courses. You may need to scroll down to find the course you need.



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## Tentative Course Schedule

The following schedule is subject to change. Should changes occur, you will be notified by Announcement from LAULIMA.

*RC-Reading Check, F-Forum, Q-Quiz, CI-Consumer Interview, PI-Producer Interview, WCC Testing Center or home if social distancing.*

*Reading Checks and Forums will be due on Thursday and Saturday of the indicated week. Consumer and Producer papers will be due on Friday of the indicated week. Quizzes will be due on Saturday of the indicated week. Specific dates are listed on the Google Calendar in the LAULIMA Course Site. All assignments are due by 11 pm on the due date.*

### Week 1, January 7-13: Introduction to the Course, Ch1-Main Ideas

1. RC0 and RC1 due on Thursday and Saturday.
2. Q1 due on Saturday.

### Week 2, January 14- 20: Ch2: Thinking Like An Economist

1. RC2 due on Thursday and Saturday.
2. Q2 due on Saturday.

### Week 3 : January 21-January 27: Ch3-International Trade

1. RC3 due on Thursday and Saturday.
2. Q3 due on Saturday.

### Week 4, January 28-February 3: Ch4-Demand and Supply

1. F 1 due on Thursday and Saturday.

### Week 5, February 4-10: Ch4-Demand and Supply Continued.

1. RC4 due on Thursday and Saturday.
2. Q4 due on Saturday.

### Week 6, February 11-17: Ch10-Externalities

1. RC5 due on Thursday and Saturday.
2. Q5 due on Saturday.

### Week 7, February 18-24: First Midterm (Ch1-4, and Externalities).

1. First Midterm to be taken during Week 7.

### Week 8, February 25-March 2: Ch10-Measuring a Nation's Income

1. F2 due on Thursday and Saturday.

Week 9, March 3-9: Ch10-Measuring a Nation's Income Continued

1. RC6 due on Thursday and Saturday.
2. AA1 due on Friday
3. Q6 due on Saturday.

Week 10, March 10-16: Ch11-Measuring the Cost of Living

1. RC7 due on Thursday and Saturday.
2. Q7 due on Saturday.

Spring Break, March 17-23

1. There is nothing due.

Week 11, March 24-30: Ch15-Measuring the Unemployment Rate

1. RC8 due on Thursday and Saturday.
2. Q8 due on Saturday.

Week 12, March 31-April 6: Second Midterm (Ch 10-11 and 15)

1. Second Midterm to be taken during Week 12
2. F3 is due on Thursday and Saturday.

Week 13, April 7-13: Ch13-Savings and Investment

1. RC9 due on Thursday and Saturday.
2. CP Paper due on Friday.
3. Q9 due on Saturday.

Week 14, April 14-20: Ch16-Money

1. RC 10 due on Thursday and Saturday.
2. Q10 due on Saturday.

Week 15, April 21-27: Ch18-International Finance

1. RC11 due on Thursday and Saturday.
2. AA2 due on Friday.
3. Q11 due on Saturday.

Week 16, April 28-May 4: Forum 4 and Review for Final

1. F 4 due on Thursday and Saturday.

Week 17, May 5-11: Final Exam

1. Final Exam to be taken during this week.

## Institutional Information

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### Student Right to Know-Consumer Information for Windward CC Students

Windward CC provides written consumer information to students as to what their rights and responsibilities are. For more information, please refer to: [Student Right to Know/Consumer Information](#)

#### Services:

Windward is known for being a very supportive college for students! Please don't be shy! Utilize all of the wonderful services that are available to help you succeed. For information on counseling/advising, careers and student employment, tutoring (including services such as the Writing Center, Math Lab, Speech Lab, test proctoring, etc.), HINET, peer mentors, childcare, and more please see: [Services For Students | Windward Community](#)

#### Syllabus Change Policy:

Information contained in the course syllabus may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor. Updates to the syllabus will be communicated via email.

#### Financial Aid

Students of course need money to finance their education. Please refer to this [link](#) for WCC Financial Aid.

### WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

*Windward Community College is committed to excellence in the liberal arts and career development; we support and challenge individuals to develop skills, fulfill their potential, enrich their lives, and become contributing, culturally aware members of our community.*

### WCC DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to fully participate in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor (Ann Lemke) to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. Ann Lemke can be reached at 235-7448, [lemke@hawaii.edu](mailto:lemke@hawaii.edu), or you may stop by her office (Akoakoa 213) for more information.

### TITLE IX

Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance. Specifically, Title IX prohibits sex discrimination; sexual harassment and

gender-based harassment, including harassment based on actual or perceived sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression; sexual assault; sexual exploitation; domestic violence; dating violence; and stalking. For more information regarding your rights under Title IX, please visit: [https://windward.hawaii.edu/Title\\_IX/](https://windward.hawaii.edu/Title_IX/).

Windward Community College is committed to the pursuit of equal education. If you or someone you know has experienced sex discrimination or gender-based violence, WCC has resources to support you. To speak with someone confidentially, contact the Mental Health & Wellness Office at 808-235- 7393 or Kaahu Alo, Designated Confidential Advocate for Students, at 808-235-7354 or [kaahualo@hawaii.edu](mailto:kaahualo@hawaii.edu). To make a formal report, contact the Title IX Coordinator, Karla K. Silva-Park, at 808-235-7468 or [karlas@hawaii.edu](mailto:karlas@hawaii.edu).

#### ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Students are expected to act with personal integrity, to respect other students' opinions and property, and to help create an academic environment in which discussion is encouraged. Students are expected not to engage or tolerate acts of plagiarism, cheating, copying, fabrication of citations, or other acts of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism is treated seriously in this course. If you are quoting someone verbatim, then you must use quotation marks and cite the source immediately after the quotation in parenthetical form, (author's last name, page number). If you are unsure whether or not you are citing sources correctly, please ask me. Ignorance is no excuse. Students charged with academic dishonesty face serious consequences that range from an F grade for the assignment to an F grade for the course.