NORTHEAST TEXAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ECON 2301 DEC – Principles of Macroeconomics

Course Syllabus: December Intercession 2026

"Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide personal, dynamic learning experiences empowering students to succeed."

Instructor: Heidi Wooten
Office: BT 119 A
Phone: 903-434-8310
Email: hwooten@ntcc.edu

Weekday	Office Hours
Monday	Online
Tuesday	Online
Wednesday	Online
Thursday	Online
Friday	Online

This syllabus serves as the documentation for all course policies and requirements, assignments, and instructor/student responsibilities.

Information relative to the delivery of the content contained in this syllabus is subject to change. Should that happen, the student will be notified.

Course Description:

An analysis of the economy including measurement and determination of Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply, national income, inflation, and unemployment. Other topics include international trade, economic growth, business cycles and fiscal policy and monetary policy.
Prerequisite(s): None

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Explain the role of scarcity, specialization, opportunity cost and cost/benefit analysis in economic
2. decision-making.
3. Identify the determinants of supply and demand; demonstrate the impact of shifts in both market supply and demand curves on equilibrium price and output.
4. Define and measure national income and rates of unemployment and inflation.
5. Identify the phases of the business cycle and the problems caused by cyclical fluctuations in the market economy.
6. Define money and the money supply; describe the process of money creation by the banking system and the role of the central bank.
7. 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.
8. Explain the mechanics and institutions of international trade and their impact on the macro economy.
9. Define economic growth and identify sources of economic growth.

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

The breakdown of the course requirements is as follows:

Points	Requirement
100	Exam 1
100	Exam 2
200	Project
500	Chapter Assignments
100	Quizzes

Semester grades will be earned as follows

Percentage	Letter Grade
90% and above	A
80 %–89%	B
70 %–79%	C
60%–69 %	D
59.9% and below	F

Required Instructional Materials:

OpenStax Principles of Macroeconomics 2e.

You can choose either the Digital textbook at no cost or a printed text for a small fee (check the bookstore for details.) A pdf link to this text can be found in Blackboard.

Publisher: OpenStax **ISBN Number:** 13: 978-1-951693-64-0

Optional Instructional Materials:

None

Minimum Technology Requirements:

- Daily high-speed internet access
- PowerPoint
- Internet Explorer or Microsoft Edge as these browsers support Flash Player which is required to view these resources. If you are using a Mac, please use the Firefox browser.

Required Computer Literacy Skills:

- Email skills
- Basic computer usage skills

Course Structure and Overview:

This is an online, 4-week course and will require extensive engagement (with other students, the instructor, and the course materials) as well as timely completion of assignments. Many assignments are due weekly. Thus, keeping up with the schedule is essential to your success. Your personal schedule must allow you to keep up with the due dates for the readings and other assignments. The following items reflected your grade criteria and must all be completed and submitted via Blackboard.

Exams:

Exams will include 50 multiple-choice questions and will be worth 100 points each. No exam grades will be dropped. The exams will be timed (1 hour). Exams not taken by the assigned due date will receive a 10-point penalty for each day past the original due date for up to 3 days. After 3 days a makeup exam must be taken in the testing center and the highest grade possible is a 70. Please see the course schedule attached to this syllabus for dates.

Project:

There are 3 options for you to select from to complete this semester's course project. You only need to complete 1 of the options below!

Option 1:

The Study of Inflation:

1) Using Chapter 7 resources within your textbook and the chapter 7 assignments, research the prices of 10 specific goods to determine individual product inflation rates between January 2018 and December 2025. You must show your calculations to receive credit. Please be very specific with your product choices (ex. instead of "cars" you should select "ford…"). Points will be deducted for lack of specificity in product choices.
2) Answer the following questions:
    a. After calculating the inflation rates for your 10 products, analyze which products experienced the highest and lowest inflation between January 2018 and December 2025. What economic factors discussed in Chapter 7 (such as supply and demand changes, production costs, shortages, or consumer preferences) may help explain these differences?
    b. Compare the inflation rates of your selected products to overall U.S. inflation during the same time period. Did any products increase in price faster or slower than the general inflation rate? Explain what this suggests about the market conditions or industry trends affecting those products.
    c. Based on your findings, evaluate how inflation impacts consumer purchasing decisions and standards of living. Using specific examples from your products, explain how rising prices may change consumer behavior, substitution choices, or budgeting decisions.

Submissions should be made via an attachment in Microsoft Word or PDF format. Projects submitted late will be assessed a 20-point deduction for each day late up to 3 days. After that, students who have not submitted the project will receive a grade of zero.

Option 2:

The study of US unemployment according to varying educational levels.

For this project, students will analyze unemployment rate data from 2010 to 2025 to gain a better understanding of unemployment trends over time and how they vary based upon educational attainment.

Requirements:

Research and locate the annual data for US unemployment rates based upon education level. Make sure your research findings are from a reputable website that maintains this data. After completing your research and reviewing the data, answer the following questions:

1.) Analyze the unemployment trends for each educational attainment group from 2010–2025. Which educational groups consistently experienced the highest and lowest unemployment rates, and what economic factors may explain these differences?
2.) Compare how unemployment rates changed during major economic events between 2010 and 2025, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent recovery period. Which educational attainment groups were most affected, and why do you think those groups experienced greater changes in unemployment?
3.) Evaluate the relationship between educational attainment and long-term employment stability using the unemployment data. Based on your analysis, does higher education appear to reduce the risk of unemployment? Use specific data examples to support your conclusions.
4.) Using the unemployment data and Chapter 8 concepts, explain how unemployment trends can impact individuals, businesses, and the overall economy. Include discussion of how differences in education levels may influence income potential, labor market opportunities, and economic mobility.

Submissions should be made via an attachment in Microsoft Word or PDF format. Projects submitted late will be assessed a 20-point deduction for each day late up to 3 days. After that, students who have not submitted the project will receive a grade of zero.

Option 3:

The Study of GDP Per Capita: Comparative analysis of GDP per capita and the understanding of the building blocks that lead to increases in this number.

Even though GDP does not measure a country's standard of living with any exactness, it can be relied upon to signify when a country is better or worse off in terms of jobs and incomes. Of course, there are factors that can lead to increased GDP per capita.

A) Research and provide a list of at least 3 of the factors that lead to improved GDP per capita in any country. For each factor, use clear, detailed and factual evidence to support your argument as to how each factor impacts GDP per capita.
B) Choose a foreign country and research the specific ways your country improved each factor (listed in part 1). You must provide evidence from the textbook or other credible external sources. Make sure and cite all external sources.
C) Create a bar chart in Excel or Word comparing your foreign country's GDP per capita to that of the US for the years 2015-2025. *Any charts directly copied from the internet will not be considered original work and zero credit will be awarded.*

This final project is worth 200 points toward your grade (see specific due date within BB). Late projects will receive a 20-point deduction for each day late up to 3 days. After that, no projects will be accepted.

Chapter Assignments:

There are 10-chapter assignments that are to be completed in Blackboard. Each assignment is worth 50 points. These assignments must be submitted as a pdf or word document. I cannot open "pages" files or "shared" files. Submissions received timely, but in a format that cannot be opened or as a blank document will be given an original grade of zero. If resubmitted correctly within 3 days of the due date, a late penalty will be applied. The assignments can be submitted for full credit no later than the assigned due date at midnight.

The due dates for these assignments can be found in Blackboard.

Quizzes:

There are 5 multiple choice quizzes that are to be completed in Blackboard. These are related to your chapter material, and each quiz has 20 questions and is worth 20 points. You have 2 attempts at each quiz, and the highest grade will be counted. There is a 30-minute time-limit for each quiz. If submitted late but within 3 days of the due date, a late penalty 3 points per day will be applied. After that no late quizzes will be accepted. There is no proctoring requirement for the quizzes.

In addition to adding points to your course grade, these quizzes are great practice for the exams but please do not use them as your only study tool. The homework questions and problems will also be represented on your exams, and these short quizzes cannot possibly cover all material. So, these quizzes are merely a "sample" of what the test questions might look like and not reflective of everything that you will be tested on. All quiz answers will be released to you after the due date passes. See course schedule below for specific due dates.

Late Work Policy:

Please allow yourself an appropriate amount of time to complete the coursework. Students who wait until the last minute often miss the deadline and then cannot receive credit for their work. All due dates for the entire course are included with this syllabus so you can work as far ahead as you would like. This policy will be applied consistently, and exceptions will only be made for verifiable extenuating circumstances. Any request for an exception will require completion of a formal written request. Students should reach out to the instructor to obtain the appropriate forms for making this request. Please understand that I must adhere to this policy for all students.

Final Grades:

This course is set up on a point scale. You can calculate your grade at any time as all point values are listed on this syllabus. Your final course grade will be based upon this scale only. There are NO extra credit opportunities. In addition, there are no "retakes" for any assignments or exams. The scores that you receive on your original submissions will be what is counted toward your final grade. Please understand that I must adhere to this grading policy for all students so exceptions will not be made.

Communications:

- EMAIL: Please check your NTCC email EVERYDAY. Email is the official form of communication used here at NTCC. All emailed questions to the instructor will be responded to within 24 hours, but usually within a few hours when possible.
- PHONE: My office phone number is 903-434-8310, however this voicemail is only checked every 48 hours. Email comes directly to my phone, so this is the best form of communication. If you need immediate assistance, you may call my cell phone at 903-466-3853. I do not respond to long detailed questions via text message-if the text message is longer than 25 words then it needs to be an email. I will also not respond to text messages that do not include the name and course section of the student sending the message.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS: These can be found within Blackboard under the course link on your Bb homepage. Please make sure you read any announcements thoroughly when they are posted there.

Institutional/Course Policy:

Several elements are essential for your success in this course. You will need to understand these fully prior to starting the course:

All online courses require extensive engagement (with other students, the instructor, and the course materials) as well as timely completion of assignments. Assignments are due weekly. Thus, keeping up with the schedule is essential to your success. Your personal schedule must allow you to keep up with the due dates for the readings and other assignments. Although attendance is not the same as a face-to-face course you must "attend" regularly online to complete all assignments and meet required due dates.

Alternate Operations During Campus Closure and/or Alternate Course Delivery Requirements:

In the event of an emergency or announced campus closure due to a natural disaster or pandemic, it may be necessary for Northeast Texas Community College to move to altered operations. During this time, Northeast Texas Community College may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include, but are not limited to, online through the Blackboard Learning Management System, online conferencing, email messaging, and/or an alternate schedule. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor NTCC's website (http://www.ntcc.edu/) for instructions about continuing courses remotely, Blackboard for each class for course-specific communication, and NTCC email for important general information.

Additionally, there may be instances where a course may not be able to be continued in the same delivery format as it originates (face-to-face, fully online, live remote, or hybrid). Should this be the case, every effort will be made to continue instruction in an alternative delivery format. Students will be informed of any changes of this nature through email messaging and/or the Blackboard course site.

Statement Regarding the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technology:

Employees and students shall be permitted to explore artificial intelligence (AI) and implement its use in and out of the classroom in accordance with policy and administrative regulations. The use of AI shall only be as a support tool to enhance student outcomes or as necessary to engage in research and shall never take the place of faculty, staff, and student decision-making. Any use of AI must comply with law, policy, and administrative regulations relating to student and employee privacy and data security. A student shall only use AI tools with faculty permission and shall be expected to produce original work and properly credit sources, including AI tools used in creating the work.

Example:
APA (7th edition)

OpenAI. (2026). ChatGPT (March 25 version) [Large language model]. https://chat.openai.com/

MLA (9th edition)

OpenAI. ChatGPT. 25 Mar. 2026, https://chat.openai.com/.

Employees or students who use AI tools to deceptively harm, bully, or harass others shall be disciplined in accordance with policy. [See DH, DIA series, FFD series, FFE, FLB, and the FM series] AI Use by Employees and Students. Northeast Texas Community College 225500 TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES CRB ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (LOCAL) DATE ISSUED: 12/8/2025 1 of 1 UPDATE 50 CRB(LOCAL)-AJC Adopted: 12/16/2025

NTCC Academic Honesty/Ethics Statement:

NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. The college expects all students to engage in their academic pursuits in an honest manner that is beyond reproach using their intellect and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty and Academic Ethics policies stated in the Student Handbook. Refer to the student handbook for more information on these subjects.

ADA Statement:

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodation for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodation as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodation. An appointment can be made with the Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in Student Services and can be reached at 903-434-8264. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the special populations page on the NTCC website.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.

Tentative Course Schedule:

Module	Graded Assignment	Points	Due Date
Module 1	Chapter 1 Assignment	50	Tuesday, December 15
Module 1	Chapter 2 Assignment	50	Tuesday, December 15
Module 2	Quiz 1	20	Thursday, December 17
Module 2	Chapter 6 Assignment	50	Sunday, December 20
Module 2	Chapter 7 Assignment	50	Sunday, December 20
Module 2	Chapter 3 Assignment	50	Sunday, December 20
Module 3	Quiz 2	20	Tuesday, December 22
Module 3	Exam 1	100	Tuesday, December 22
Module 4	Chapter 8 Assignment	50	Sunday, December 27
Module 4	Chapter 9 Assignment	50	Sunday, December 27
Module 5	Quiz 3	20	Tuesday, December 29
Module 5	Chapter 12	50	Tuesday, December 29
Module 5	Chapter 14	50	Tuesday, December 29
Module 6	Quiz 4	20	Thursday, December 31
Module 6	Chapter 15	50	Sunday, January 3
Module 7	Quiz 5	20	Tuesday, January 5
Module 7	Exam 2	100	Tuesday, January 5
Module 7	Project	200	Thursday, January 7