

**ECONOMICS 498: SEMINAR IN MACROECONOMICS**  
**The University of North Carolina - Greensboro**  
**Fall 2022**

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**Course Information**

Instructor:	Dr. Timothy Moreland
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Class Period:	Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:30pm-4:45pm
Classroom:	Bryan 110
Office Hours:	Tuesday, 4:00 – 5:00
Office Hours Location:	Online via Zoom - To access office hours, go to the Zoom tab on the course Canvas page at the scheduled time. I'm also available to meet individually on Zoom by appointment (please email me to setup an appointment).

**Course Description**

This course contains three main components: (1) an exploration of current monetary policy issues; (2) practice of data analysis and interpretation techniques with an application to macroeconomic data; and (3) a student simulation of a Federal Open Market Committee meeting. This is a designated speaking- and writing-intensive course. Students will have the opportunity to practice and improve speaking skills through sectoral analysis presentations and a mock Fed Challenge. Students will have the opportunity to practice and improve writing skills primarily through a 2-3 page paper analyzing a sector of the economy and a 5 page paper analyzing the current state of the economy and proposing specific monetary policies.

To be successful in this course, you should expect to devote no less than 8 hours each week attending class, reading the course material and completing assignments.

**Learning Objectives**

- Producing a major paper and presentation addressing current economic issues
- Simulating a Federal Open Market Committee meeting through completion of a mock Fed Challenge
- Knowing how to find and use appropriate data to address a relevant economic issue
- Gain detailed knowledge of monetary policy and associated institutions
- Understand the current state of the US economy and evaluate currently-proposed macroeconomic policies
- Understand the interconnectedness of the world economy

## Course Materials

There are no required course materials. Students might find it useful to refer to a textbook on money and banking (e.g. *The Economics of Money, Banking, and Financial Markets*, by Frederic Mishkin) and/or your intermediate macroeconomics textbook.

You will need to purchase a Packback subscription (included in the course as part of the First Day Complete program). This is detailed next and will also be discussed on the first day of class.

## Packback Questions

Participation is a requirement for this course, and the Packback Questions platform will be used for online discussion about class topics. Packback Questions is an online community where you can be fearlessly curious and ask open-ended questions to build on top of what we are covering in class and relate topics to real-world applications.

## Packback Requirements:

Your participation on Packback will count toward 10% of your overall course grade.

There will be a weekly Sunday at 11:59PM EST deadline for submissions. In order to receive full credit, you should submit the following per each deadline period:

- 1 open-ended Question every week with a minimum Curiosity Score of 65, worth 4pts of each assignment grade
- 2 Responses every week with a minimum Curiosity Score of 65, worth 6pts of each assignment grade

## How to Register on Packback:

Note: Only access Packback through **Canvas** in order to ensure your grades sync properly

1. Click the Packback assignment link within **Canvas** to access the community
2. Follow the instructions on your screen to finish your registration.
3. **In order for your grade to be visible in Canvas**, make sure to click each Packback assignment link as you post your Packback submissions.

Packback may require a paid subscription. Refer to [www.packback.co/product/pricing](http://www.packback.co/product/pricing) for more information.

## How to Get Help from the Packback Team:

If you have any questions or concerns about Packback throughout the semester, please read their FAQ at [help.packback.co](http://help.packback.co). If you need more help, contact their customer support team directly at [help@packback.co](mailto:help@packback.co).

For a brief introduction to Packback Questions and why we are using it in class, watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OV7QmikrD68>

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:** The structure of this course is unlike that of a typical course. The first half of the semester will focus on preparation for the mock Fed Challenge, while the second half of the semester will be centered around lectures. Student participation is not only required by the University by virtue of the course being a writing- and speaking-intensive course, it is absolutely crucial for success. As required of all University writing- and speaking-intensive courses, this course will have both informally and formally graded writing and speaking assignments.

Over the course of the semester, students are expected to:

- Attend class regularly and arrive on time. Especially since there is no textbook for this class, it is very important that students attend all lectures.
- Use instructor-provided feedback about their writing and speaking assignments to improve later writing and speaking assignments.
- Read assigned material ahead of time, be willing to share their thinking and work – however incomplete – with the class, and be willing to support fellow students through both praise and criticism of their work. To help facilitate class discussion, students will utilize the Packback discussion forums between class periods.
- Not use cell phones during class.
- When you begin to feel lost, **be proactive!** I am more than happy to answer questions over email, or feel free to request a Zoom appointment.
- Approach me sooner rather than later with any concerns they have about the class.

## Grading

Your overall course grade is based on the following components and weights.

▪ Participation/Packback discussion:	15%
▪ Data analysis assignment:	5%
▪ Fed articles assignment:	5%
▪ Sectoral Analysis paper:	10%
▪ Final paper:	25%
▪ Mock Fed Challenge:	20%
▪ Final Exam:	20%

Your final course letter grade will be assigned based on the following scale.

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|-----------------------------------|----|
| ▪ 93% and above:                  | A  |
| ▪ At least 90% but less than 93%: | A- |

- At least 87% but less than 90%: B+
- At least 83% but less than 87%: B
- At least 80% but less than 83%: B-
- At least 77% but less than 80%: C+
- At least 73% but less than 77%: C
- At least 70% but less than 73%: C-
- At least 67% but less than 70%: D+
- At least 63% but less than 67%: D
- At least 60% but less than 63%: D-
- Less than 60%: F

## **Final Exam**

There will be one exam during the semester. The exam will be taken during the assigned exam period: **Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> (3:30pm-6:30pm)**. The exam will be a combination of multiple-choice and short-answer questions. A practice exam will be provided before the exam to help students prepare.

**Exam Make-up Policy:** Make-up exams will be granted on a case-by-case basis if an acceptable excuse is provided as soon as possible. There are very few acceptable excuses for missing the exam. Acceptable excuses include a documented death in the family, a documented university-sponsored event or excursion, a documented military obligation, or a serious illness documented by a doctor. Acceptable excuses must be approved **before** the scheduled exam date.

## **Attendance and participation**

I expect students to come to class prepared and to participate in discussions. Regularly missing lecture will lower your participation grade.

## **Late submission penalty**

Please pay careful attention to due dates/times. I will deduct 10 percentage points for each day that your assignment is late.

## **WRITING AND SPEAKING CENTERS**

I encourage students to visit the UNCG Writing Center and Speaking Center to get help with their paper and presentations.

## **Academic Integrity Policy**

Students are expected to know and abide by the Honor Code in all matters pertaining to this course. Violations of this code will be pursued in accordance with the code. UNCG's academic integrity policy can be accessed at: <https://osrr.uncg.edu/academic-integrity/>

## **Faculty and Student Guidelines**

Please familiarize yourself with the Bryan School's *Faculty and Student Guidelines*. These guidelines establish principles and expectations for the administration, faculty, staff, and students of the Bryan School of Business and Economics. The link for this document is: <https://bryan.uncg.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Faculty-and-Student-Guidelines-2018-2019.pdf>

## **Student Resources**

Students are encouraged to seek help from the instructor, should they need it. Using office hours is the primary way to get extra help. You may also find it helpful to set up or participate in peer study groups. In addition, UNCG offers academic support for this class through the Academic Achievement Center (AAC), a subdivision of the Student Success Center (SSC). Services include tutoring, individual academic skills sessions, and workshops on study skills. The AAC main office is Forney 114 and open 8:00 am- 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. You can find more information and request assistance by visiting [studentsuccess.uncg.edu](http://studentsuccess.uncg.edu). All AAC services are free of charge. Tutoring requests are contingent on tutor availability. It is recommended that you submit requests for tutoring as early as possible in the semester.

## **Academic Accommodations**

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro respects and welcomes students of all backgrounds and abilities. If you feel you will encounter any barriers to full participation in this course due to the impact of a disability, please contact the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS). The OARS staff can meet with you to discuss the barriers you are experiencing and explain the eligibility process for establishing academic accommodations. You can learn more about OARS by visiting their website at [ods.uncg.edu](http://ods.uncg.edu), by calling 336-334-544 or by visiting Suite 215 in the EUC.

## **Health and Wellness Resources**

Health and well-being impact learning and academic success. Throughout your time in the university, you may experience a range of concerns that can cause barriers to your academic success. These might include illnesses, strained relationships, anxiety, high levels of stress, alcohol or drug problems, feeling down, or loss of motivation. Student Health Services and The Counseling Center can help with these or other issues you may experience. You can learn about the free, confidential mental health services available on campus by calling 336-334-5874, visiting the website at <https://shs.uncg.edu/> or visiting the Anna M. Gove Student Health Center at 107 Gray Drive. For undergraduate or graduate students in recovery from alcohol and other drug addiction, The Spartan Recovery Program (SRP) offers recovery support services. You can learn more about recovery and recovery support services by visiting <https://shs.uncg.edu/srp> or reaching out to [recovery@uncg.edu](mailto:recovery@uncg.edu).

**COVID-19 Policies:** As we return for Fall 2022, all students, faculty, and staff and all visitors to campus are required to uphold UNCG's culture of care by actively engaging in behaviors that limit

the spread of COVID-19. While face-coverings are optional in most areas on campus, individuals are encouraged to wear masks. All individuals and visitors to campus are asked to follow the following actions:

- Engaging in proper hand-washing hygiene.
- Self-monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19.
- Staying home when ill.
- Complying with directions from health care providers or public health officials to quarantine or isolate if ill or exposed to someone who is ill.
- Completing a [self-report](#) when experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, testing positive for COVID-19, or being identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive.
- Staying informed about the University's policies and announcements via the [COVID-19](#) website.

Students who are ill, quarantining, or isolating should not attend in-person class meetings, but should instead contact their instructor(s) so alternative arrangements for learning and the submission of assignments can be made where possible.

As we continue to manage COVID-19 on our campus, we are following the lead of the local health department and we will adjust our plans to balance student success, instructional requirements, and the hallmarks of the collegiate experience with the safety and wellbeing of our campus community.