Fall 2014

ECON 110B

Macroeconomics B: "Introduction to Modern Macroeconomics"

Syllabus

Instructor: David Lagakos
Office: Econ 317
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Lecture: Tue, Thu 2:00pm-3:20pm in CENTR 119

Office hours: Mon, Wed 11:00am-12:00pm

Teaching Assistants:
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Class Outline:
Macroeconomics is the study of aggregate economic activity. In this course we will develop simple models in order to understand the behavior of aggregate economic variables, such as GDP, and their relationship to the well being of individuals in the economy. We will base our macroeconomic analysis on microeconomic foundations, i.e. we will first study the behavior of individual agents, and then describe their interaction on the markets.

The broad sections of this course will be

       (1) National income accounting
       (2) Static model of the macroeconomy
       (3) Solow growth model
       (4) Dynamic model of the macroeconomy
       (5) Special topics

The special topics section will depend on how much time we have left and what I feel like covering, and may cover money, the great depression, the equity premium puzzle, income inequality, or other topics.

Text:
There is no required text. There will be an optional text from A.S. Soft Reserves – details to come.

Homework:
There will be between 4 and 6 homework assignments depending on how much material we get through. The homework assignments will NOT be graded, but are strongly encouraged. In my past experience, I have found that the students who master the course material and achieve high grades tend to be those that spend lots of time working through the homework assignments. You are welcome to work in groups to complete homework assignments.

Grading Policy:
Your grade will be determined by
- Two midterms, 25% each
- Final Exam 50%

The midterms and final exam are solo closed-book exams. You may not use notes on the exams. Any attempt to copy another student's exam or to refer to notes during the exams will be considered academic dishonesty. You are allowed to use calculators on exams although you will not need them.

Make-ups on the midterms and the final exam are available only to those with university approved valid justifications. If you miss a midterm exam, AND have a university approved justification then your final will count 25% more towards your final grade. If you miss the final exam, AND have a university-approved justification, we can arrange a make up exam in the summer. I will make a different exam in this case, and I cannot assure it will be similar in difficulty level to the regularly scheduled final exam.

I use the following guidelines for letter grades: A is "excellent," B is "good," C is "average," D is "passing," and F is "failure." I will also give A+'s and A-'s, B+'s and B-'s, etc for those in between. Midterms and the final exam will be graded by a number score, and I will provide a **rough** guide to what those numbers mean. If no one demonstrates "excellent" mastery of the material than no one gets an A. If everyone demonstrates "excellent" mastery of the material than everyone gets an A.

Academic misconduct:

I take academic misconduct very seriously. Any student engaging in academic misconduct in this course will receive a failing grade. The following is how UCSD defines academic misconduct.

"Academic Misconduct is broadly defined as any prohibited and dishonest means to receive

course credit, a higher grade, or avoid a lower grade. Academic misconduct misrepresents your knowledge and abilities, which undermines the instructor's ability to determine how well you're doing in the course."

The official university policy regarding academic misconduct is here:

Tentative Class Schedule: (subject to changes)

Oct 2nd to Oct 28th: national income accounts; static model of the macroeconomy

<No class Thursday October 23rd>

Midterm 1: Thu Oct 30th in class

Nov 4th – Nov 20th: Solow model of economic growth

<No class Tuesday Nov 11th, Veteran's Day>

Midterm 2: Tue Nov 25th in class

<No class Tuesday Nov 11th, Thanksgiving>

Dec 2nd – Dec 11th: Dynamic model of the macroeconomy, special topics

Final Exam (Covers all course material)

Date TBA