

ECON 110A: Intermediate Macroeconomics
Fall 2008

Class Time: MWF, 4:00pm - 4:50pm
Place: YORK 2622

Instructor: Dr. Davide Debortoli

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Office Hours: MWF, 2.30-3.30pm

TA:

Aeimit Lakdawala

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Office Hours: Wed 1-2pm and Fri 9-10am

Course Objectives:

As the first of the macroeconomic sequence, Econ 110A introduces students to macroeconomic modeling. It is designed to teach students how to apply models to understand current macroeconomic issues. We will cover short-run models of economic fluctuations, medium-run models of price flexibility, and long-run models of economic growth.

Required Text:

O. Blanchard, *Macroeconomics* (4th ed.), Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2006.

The UCSD custom edition available at the bookstore is a paperback with black and white illustrations (instead of color illustrations) and is cheaper than the hardcover edition. Either the custom edition or the hardback 4th edition can be used for the course.

Recommended Readings:

It is recommended that students get into the habit of browsing the daily newspapers like *The Wall Street Journal* or *The Financial Times*, or the weekly magazine *The Economist* at least a couple of times per month. This will provide some context for the course.

Course website: <http://webct.ucsd.edu>

This is where you can access syllabus, class handouts, your grades, homework assignments, solutions, etc. Importantly, students should use *WebCT* (and not the e-mail) to ask all the questions related to this class. WebCT is accessible to registered and waitlisted students.

Grade Determination:

Students will have the following possibilities to demonstrate their abilities in Macroeconomics:

	When	Weight
Midterm Exam I	Friday, Oct. 17 th 4:00pm - 4:50pm	20%
Midterm Exam II	Wed, Nov. 12 th 4:00pm - 4:50pm	30%
Final (cumulative)	Tuesday, Dec. 9 th , 3.00 – 6.00pm	50%
Homework assignments	Every week	0%

Grades for the course will be computed from a weighted average of grades on the above items, using the weights listed above. No extra-credits are available. Almost every week, homework assignments will be posted online. These problems will not be collected and will not be graded. The week after the problem set is assigned, solutions will be available online. The homework assignments are *far more important* than their above weight (0%) would indicate. They provide excellent opportunities to apply concepts from the lectures and the material in them is likely to appear in the exams.

Class policies:

In order to establish a fair and level playing field for all involved, the following will be enforced without exceptions:

- 1) Coming to class and review sessions is entirely voluntary. No attendance will be recorded. No points for attendance will be given. However, the lectures will be more mathematical than the text, and examples related to the current economic conditions will be provided that do not appear in the textbook but are fair games for examination.
- 2) Students are expected to take all exams, to avoid a fail grade. Only in exceptional cases of serious illness or other problems, a student may be excused from an exam provided a doctor's written note or appropriate documentation is presented to the instructor *before* the exam. If a student is excused from an exam, his/her grade will be computed using relative weights identical to those above. No make-up exams will be given.
- 3) No notes, books, study aids, calculators, or other personal electronic devices will be allowed during the exams. All three exams must be taken at the scheduled time and place. Students who arrive late will not receive extra time to complete their exam. Once a student completes the exam and leaves the exam room, no other student will be permitted to start the exam.
- 4) Any re-grade consideration will be subject to three rules. First, a re-grade of one question will involve a re-grade of the entire exam. Second, exams written in pencil cannot be re-graded. Third, you have to bring your request for a re-grade to the TA in writing, explaining

carefully what you think the problem is. Final deadline for a re-grade request is 48 hours after the exams are handed back to you.

5) Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will earn a failing grade for the course. In addition the standard procedures described in the UCSD general catalog will be applied. For a review of these policies, please see

<http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/Appendices/app2.htm>

6) For questions related to adding/dropping the class please refer to TritonLink at <http://www.ucsd.edu/portal/site/ucsd/menuitem.135225ab0c7ce3c0c0020010d34b01ca/?vgnextoid=06080ec7898521100ec789852110cdca5105RCRD> or contact the undergraduate advisors in Sequoyah Hall 245.

Tentative Class Outline

Week	Date	Topic	Text Material
	Fri 9/26/08	Introduction: A tour of the world	Ch. 1
1	Mon 9/29/08	Basic macroeconomics concepts	Ch. 2
	Wed 10/1/08	The goods market	Ch. 3
	Fri 10/3/08	The goods market (cont'd)	Ch. 3
2	Mon 10/6/08	Financial markets	Ch. 4
	Wed 10/8/08	Financial markets (cont'd)	Ch. 4
	Fri 10/10/08	Interactions between goods and financial markets	Ch. 5
3	Mon 10/13/08	The IS - LM model	Ch. 5
	Wed 10/15/08	The IS - LM model (cont'd)	Ch. 5
	Fri 10/17/08	Midterm 1	
4	Mon 10/20/08	The labor market	Ch. 6
	Wed 10/22/08	The labor market (cont'd)	Ch. 6
	Fri 10/24/08	All the markets together: the AS-AD model	Ch. 7
5	Mon 10/27/08	The AS-AD model (cont'd)	Ch. 7
	Wed 10/29/08	The AS-AD model (cont'd)	Ch. 7
	Fri 10/31/08	Natural rate of unemployment and the Phillips curve	Ch. 8
6	Mon 11/3/08	The Phillips curve (cont'd)	Ch. 8
	Wed 11/5/08	Inflation, activity and nominal money growth	Ch. 9
	Fri 11/7/08	Inflation and nominal money growth (cont'd)	Ch. 9
7	Mon 11/10/08	Inflation and nominal money growth (cont'd)	Ch. 9
	Wed 11/12/08	Midterm 2	
	Fri 11/14/08	Some facts of growth	Ch. 10
8	Mon 11/17/08	Savings Capital Accumulation and Output	Ch. 11
	Wed 11/19/08	Savings Capital Accumulation and Output	Ch. 11
	Fri 11/21/08	Technological progress and growth	Ch. 12
9	Mon 11/24/08	Technological progress and growth	Ch. 12
	Wed 11/26/08	Technological progress, wages and unemployment	Ch. 13
	Fri 11/28/08	<i>Thanksgiving holiday</i>	
10	Mon 12/1/08	Technological progress, wages and unemployment	Ch. 13
	Wed 12/3/08	Technological progress, wages and unemployment	Ch. 13
	Fri 12/5/08	Conclusions and Review	

Final Exam (Covers Ch. 1-13): Tuesday, Dec. 09, 3.00 – 6.00 pm, Room TBA