

Economics 110A: Macroeconomics
Syllabus
Fall 2013

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The email above is my general email. For emails related to the course, however, it is preferable to email me through TED (aka Blackboard). This helps me keep course related emails organized.

Office hours: Thursday 3:00 – 5:00, or by appointment.

The course website is located on TED.

I will use TED to:

- Post announcements
- Post powerpoint slides of the lectures
- Compile your clicker responses
- Post problem sets
- Post practice midterms
- Respond to email

In general, the powerpoint slides will be posted by noon the day prior to the lecture. Ideally, you would print out the slides before lecture and bring the hard copy of the slides to class. This way you already have the basic notes for the lecture and don't have to be distracted writing the basic stuff down, but can add some additional notes to the printout of the slides.

If you are enrolled in the course as a regular UCSD student, you should already be able to access the course on TED. If you are enrolled, or plan to enroll, through UCSD extension, you will need to get a userid and password from ACS in order to access TED. If for some reason you are unable to access the course on TED, please contact me within the first week of classes so that I can help you get it straightened out.

Text: Macroeconomics, by Olivier Blanchard
5th edition (updated), Pearson/Prentice Hall

The textbook is also available somewhat more cheaply as a "UCSD custom edition".

Study guide: A study guide that accompanies the text is available at the bookstore. Buying the study guide is completely optional. Personally, I would skip the study guide, but if your studying style is such that you find the use of a study guide helpful, you may want to buy it.

Lectures:

A00 Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30 – 1:50 Center 115

B00 Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 – 12:20 Center 214

Discussion sections:

You are also enrolled in a discussion section. The discussion sections will be led by TAs and will be used primarily to go over the problem sets. In addition to leading the discussion students the TAs will be available during office hours.

The TAs for the course are:

Kilian Heilmann kheilmann@ucsd.edu

Xuan Liang x5liang@ucsd.edu

Xiabin Wang xiw105@ucsd.edu

Exams:

Two midterms:

Midterm 1: Tuesday, October 22, 8:00 – 9:20 pm in Peterson 108

Midterm 2: Tuesday, November 12, 8:00 – 9:20 pm in Peterson 110

Note: For both sections of the course (A00 and B00), the midterms will be given at the same time in the *evening*, rather than during the normal lecture time. On the days of the midterms, there will be no lecture.

Final exam: The two sections of the course will have their finals at different times, as specified in the schedule of classes:

You must take the final at the time specified for the section in which you are enrolled. If there is a compelling reason for you to take the final with the “other” section, please check with me well in advance of finals week.

Grading:

Grading is made somewhat more complicated by the use of clickers. Research shows decisively that the use of clickers substantially improves learning, and that the effect is most pronounced when a student’s performance on the clicker questions actually matters to the final grade. At the same time, some students feel that the decision to attend or not attend lecture is a personal choice, and that nonattendance should not incur any penalty. While I do not actually endorse the latter view, this quarter I am experimenting with a grading policy that is designed to encourage and reward class participation with the clickers without actually penalizing students who choose not to attend lectures.

The grading policy is this:

I will calculate your final average two different ways, and take the highest final average of these two methods:

final course average #1 = $.25(\text{midterm 1}) + .25(\text{midterm 2}) + .50(\text{final exam})$

final course average #2 = $.25(\text{midterm 1}) + .25(\text{midterm 2}) + .40(\text{final exam}) + .10(\text{clicker grade})$

The calculation of your “clicker grade” is explained in a separate document on TED in the information on clickers. Briefly, though, you will have a clicker score for each of the 16 lectures in which we use the clickers (clickers will not be used on the two midterm days or in the first two lectures). Your clicker score is based on the average of the 11 highest daily clicker scores, out of the 16 days we use clickers. This means that you can miss 5 out of the 16 lectures without penalty to your clicker score.

Note that if you attend most of the lectures and participate in the clicker questions, you can over the course of the quarter lock in (or click in) a good clicker grade and reduce the weight on your final exam from 50% to 40%. At the same time, there is no actual penalty to not participating in the clicker questions.

Econ 110A Schedule of lectures:

Thursday, September 26:	Chapter 1: Introduction
Tuesday, October 1:	Chapter 2: Measuring Output, inflation, and unemployment
Thursday, October 3:	Chapter 3: The goods market
Tuesday, October 8:	Chapter 4: The financial markets
Thursday, October 10:	Chapter 4, continued
Tuesday, October 15:	Chapter 5: The IS-LM model
Thursday, October 17:	Chapter 5, continued
Tuesday, October 22:	Midterm 1 on chapters 1-5 [8:00 – 9:20 pm in Peterson 108]
Thursday, October 24:	Chapter 6: The labor market
Tuesday, October 29:	Chapter 7: The AD-AS model
Thursday, October 31:	Chapter 7, continued
Tuesday, November 5:	Chapter 8: Unemployment and the Phillips curve
Thursday, November 7:	Chapter 8, continued
Tuesday, November 12:	Midterm 2 on chapters 6 – 8 [8:00 – 9:20 pm in Peterson 110]
Thursday, November 14:	Chapter 9: Inflation, output, and monetary policy
Tuesday, November 19:	Chapter 9, continued
Thursday, November 21:	Chapter 10: The facts of growth
Tuesday, November 26:	Chapter 11: Saving, capital accumulation, and output
Thursday, November 28:	Thanksgiving
Tuesday, December 3:	Chapter 11, continued
Thursday, December 5:	Chapter 12: Technological progress and growth

Final exam for 11:00 lecture: Wednesday, December 11, 11:30 – 2:30

Final exam for 12:30 lecture: Friday, December 13, 11:30 – 2:30