Fall 2015

ECON 210A

Core PhD Macroeconomics A

Syllabus

Instructor: David Lagakos
Office: Econ 317
Email: lagakos@ucsd.edu

Lecture: Mon, Wed 12:30pm-1:50pm in ECON 300

Office hours: Mon 3:30pm to 4:30pm or by appointment

Teaching Assistant:
Olga Denislamova, odenisla@ucsd.edu

Class Outline:
Dynamic optimization: Lagrangean methods and recursive methods. The neoclassical growth model: social planner, competitive equilibrium, first welfare theorem, steady state analysis, dynamic analysis, shocks, recursive competitive equilibrium, applications. **Prerequisites:** none. Enrollment limited to Economics PhD students (EN75); or consent of instructor.

Text:
There is no required text. You may find the following books helpful.

- Acemoglu, Daron, Introduction to Modern Economic Growth, Princeton University Press, 2008
- Ljundqvist, Lars and Thomas J. Sargent, Recursive Macroeconomic Theory, MIT Press, 2012
- Stokey, Nancy L. and Robert E. Lucas, Jr., with Edward C. Prescott: Recursive Methods in Economic Dynamics, Harvard University Press, 1989

Homework:
There will be between 4 and 6 homework assignments depending on how much material we get through. The homework assignments will be graded, and are a valuable way to learn the course material.

Grading Policy:
Your grade will be determined by
- Midterm exam, 30%
- Homeworks, 30%
- Final exam 40%

Disclosures about Grading:
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.

Disclosures about 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:

http://senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/appendix2.pdf

Tentative Class Schedule: (subject to changes)

Midterm: Monday Nov 2nd in class

Final Exam: Thu Dec 10th, 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.