ECON 110A: Intermediate Macroeconomics Spring 2013

Instructor: Davide Debortoli Office: 225 Econ Building

Office Hours: Tue-Thu, 11.00am-12.00pm

email: ddebortoli@ucsd.edu

TAs: Ho Yong Lee

email: hol006@ucsd.edu

Office Hours: Fri, 10am-12pm

Ji Zhang

Office: 113 Economics Building email: j5zhang@ucsd.edu Office Hours: Mon, 9.30-11.30am

Irina Zhecheva

Office: 233 Sequoyah Hall email: j5zhang@ucsd.edu Office Hours: Wed, 9.40am-11.40pm

Course schedule:

Section A00

Class Time: Tue-Thu, 8:00 - 9:20am, CENTR 101

Review Sessions:

A01: Wed, 4-4.50pm, PCYNH 106 Wed, 5-5.50pm, PCYNH 106 A02:

Section B00

Class Time: Tue-Thu, 9:30 - 10:50am, PCYNH 121

Review Sessions:

B01: Wed, 7-7.50pm, SEQUO 147 B02: Wed, 8-8.50pm, SEQUO 147

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* (5th ed., UCSD custom), Pearson/Prentice Hall.

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 5th edition updated 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 once

every two weeks. This will provide some context for the course.

Course website: http://ted.ucsd.edu

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

Grade Determination:

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

	When	Weight
Midterm (ch. $1 - \text{ch. } 7$)	Tue, May 7 th (in class)	45%
Final (cumulative)	A00: Thu, Jun. 13 th , 08.00 -11.00am	50%
	B00: Tue, Jun. 11 th , 08.00am - 11.00am	
Homework assignments	Every week	5%

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, and discussed during the review sessions. The homework assignments are *far more important* than their relative weight (5%) 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) All the 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. No notes, books, study aids, calculators, cell phones or other personal electronic devices will be allowed during the exams.
- 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 regraded. 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 or contact the undergraduate advisors in Sequoyah Hall 245.

Tentative Class Outline

Week	Date		Торіс	Text Material
1	Tue	4/2/13	Introduction: A tour of the world	Chap. 1
	Thu	4/4/13	Basic macroeconomics concepts	Chap. 2
2	Tue	4/9/13	The goods market	Chap. 3
	Thu	4/11/13	The goods market (cont'd) / Financial markets	Chap. 3/ Chap. 4
3	Tue	4/16/13	Financial Markets	Chap. 4
	Thu	4/18/13	The IS-LM model	Chap. 5
4	Tue	4/23/13	The IS-LM model (cont'd)	Chap. 5
	Thu	4/25/13	The labor market	Chap. 6
5	Tue	4/30/13	All the markets together: the AS-AD model	Chap. 7
	Thu	5/2/13	The AS-AD model, (cont'd)	Chap. 7
6	Tue	5/7/13	Midterm (Ch. 1 - Ch. 7)	
	Thu	5/9/13	The natural rate of unemployment and the Phillips Curve	Chap. 8
7	Tue	5/14/13	The Phillips curve (cont'd)	Chap. 8
	Thu	5/16/13	Inflation and nominal money growth	Chap. 9
8	Tue	5/21/13	Inflation and nominal money growth (cont'd)	Chap. 9
	Thu	5/23/13	Some facts of growth	Chap. 10
9	Tue	5/28/13	The determinants of growth (capital accumulation)	Chap. 11
	Thu	5/30/13	The determinants of growth (technological progress)	Chap. 12
10	Tue	6/4/13	Technological progress, wages and unemployment	Chap. 13
	Thu	6/6/13	Conclusions and review	

Final Exam (Covers Ch. 1-13):

Section A00 Thu, June 13, 8.00 - 11.00am, Room TBA Section B00 Tue, June 11, 8.00 - 11.00am, Room TBA