

INTERMEDIATE MACROECONOMICS A

ECON 110A- Spring 2021

University of California, San Diego

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SYLLABUS (1.0)

Note: This syllabus covers all the important organizational details. I consider the Syllabus my contract with you and I commit to uphold it as written. However, these are unprecedented times, and events outside our control can change the conditions under which the class is taking place. While I do not anticipate doing so, situations may arise that require adjustments of the class rules to ensure that the quality of your learning is preserved, so please consider the information contained in the Syllabus as subject to revision. I commit to keep you promptly informed and included in the decision process.

Why is the typical American today 10 times richer than the typical American a century ago? Why are some countries much richer than others? Why do some countries grow fast and catch up with the richest countries while others remain stagnant? Can standards of living keep increasing indefinitely? These are arguably among the most important questions studied in macroeconomics. In Econ 110A we will learn how macroeconomists' approach to such questions has evolved over time, what we have come to learn, and what we still only partially understand about the macroeconomy in the long-run. In the process, we will also solidify our knowledge of how to measure important macroeconomic objects such as GDP, Inflation, and Unemployment, which you have already learned in Econ 3, and we will learn how to solve and use formal macroeconomic equilibrium models.

COURSE MATERIAL, ATTENDANCE AND PRACTICE PROBLEMS

The textbook for the class is “Macroeconomics,” 5th Edition, by Charles I. Jones, published by Norton. We will cover chapters 1-8 and 16-17 from Jones’ textbook. Lectures will focus on the more difficult material but you will be responsible for all the material in each chapter. It is strongly recommended to read the required chapters before each lecture. You can find the schedule of lectures below. During lecture I will present examples/remarks/extensions that do not appear in the textbook but that will be part of the examination material. Following lectures is an individual student responsibility, everything I say during lecture is fair game for the exams, unless noted otherwise. I will regularly post on the class website in Canvas problem sets with practice questions of the sort you will find in the midterm and the final. These problem sets will not be collected or graded. However, your performance in this class crucially depends on your constant practice. Attending class and constantly working on the problem sets will significantly affect your level of success in this course. By campus policy, all the lectures will be recorded and posted on Canvas as soon as they become available. Discussion sessions on material presented during lectures and solutions to the problem sets will be held by our TA’s during the session. We will also have a discussion board for the class on Piazza at <https://piazza.com/ucsd/spring2021/econ110a/home>, where you can ask questions, submit comments and also help in providing answers on the material covered in class.

LOGISTICS AND IMPORTANT DATES

We meet two times a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays live on Zoom, from 9:30 am to 10:50 am. You can access the lecture meetings via Zoom through Canvas. I will hold regular office hours on Thursdays from 2 pm to 4 pm. Our TA’s will hold discussion sessions on Mondays, from 4 pm to 4:50 pm, and from 5 pm to 5:50 pm, also via Zoom.

There will be a technology quiz, two out-of-class midterm exams, and one final exam. Please mark your calendar as follows:

- **Technology Quiz, Thursday, April 8th, 10:20 am to 10:50 am;**
- **Midterm 1, Tuesday, April 20th, 6:00 pm to 7:50 pm;**
- **Midterm 2, Tuesday, May 11th, 6:00 pm to 7:50 pm;**
- **Final Exam, Tuesday, June 8th, 8:00 am to 10:50 am;**

GRADING

There are 500 points up for grab in this course. Your final grade will be determined according to the following points (percentages reported in brackets)

Participation	35 pts (7%)
Technology Quiz	15 pts (3%)
Midterm 1	150 pts (30%)
Midterm 2	150 pts (30%)
Final Exam	150 pts (30%)

TESTING

Participation. Participation points will be based on submitting weekly reflection notes in which you will be asked three questions to help you reflect on what you learned during that week. Of the 10 weekly submissions, only 7 will count towards your grade, for a total of 35 points, which means that three of the submissions will not count (i.e. you can skip three submissions if you'd like).

Proctoring Protocol (tentative and subject to revision). You will be required to “self-proctor” your exams by hosting your own Zoom meeting and saving a recording of yourself taking the exams on paper using the “screen share” function in Zoom while having your video and audio on. Once done with the exam, you will have to show your test on camera, page by page, scan the test and upload it on Gradescope. Finally, you will have to upload the zoom recording on Canvas. The protocol requires many steps that need to be executed carefully. I have prepared a separate document with step-by-step detailed guide through the process. The document will be posted on Canvas in Week 2.

Technology Quiz. On Thursday, April 8, we will have a “Technology Quiz,” which consists of a few exam-like questions and which counts for 15 points. The purpose of the quiz is twofold: to make sure that you do not delay working on the foundational topics covered in week 1, and to familiarize yourself with the proctoring protocol that we are going to use for the Midterms and the Final.

Missed Examinations. No make-up exams will be given in this class. You must take the final exam in order to receive a grade in this course. The date is written above, be sure to mark your calendar. If you miss a midterm exam without a university accepted excuse, you will receive a grade of zero (0) for the exam. If you miss a midterm with a university accepted excuse, the weight of the other exams will be increased accordingly. Excuses for missed exams must be pre-approved by Professor Rondina (except when this is not possible in an emergency situation). A student who misses an exam due to physical illness will be required to provide documentation from a health care professional indicating why the student was physically unable to take the exam. All documentation must be provided to Professor Rondina within two working days of the end of the emergency. Failure to comply with any of the above in the specified manner will result in a grade of zero (0) for the exam.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to do their own work, as outlined in the UCSD policy on Academic Integrity. All students of UC San Diego are responsible for knowing and adhering to this institution's policy regarding academic integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, lying, bribery, threatening behavior

and assistance to acts of academic dishonesty are examples of behaviors that violate this policy. Ordinarily, a student engaged in any act of academic dishonesty will receive a failing grade for the course. In addition, all incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Academic Integrity Office. Depending on its findings, students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to non-academic sanctions, including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion. The Academic Integrity Office can be contacted by email at aio@ucsd.edu or by telephone at 858-822-2163. Additional information regarding the University Academic Integrity policy is available at <https://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu/>.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Conduct Code. To foster the best possible working and learning environment, UC San Diego strives to maintain a climate of fairness, cooperation, and professionalism. UC San Diego's Principles of Community illustrate the expectations of all members of our community. Consistent with such principles, the Student Conduct Code underscores the pride and the values that define UCSD's community, while providing students with a framework to guide their actions and behaviors. I recommend reviewing the Student Conduct Code to make sure you are familiar with the behavior that is expected from you in class and on campus in general.

Disability Accommodations. Campus policy regarding disabilities requires that faculty adhere to the recommendations of the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Any student eligible for and needing academic adjustments or accommodations because of disability should submit to me a letter from OSD describing appropriate adjustments or accommodations and should arrange to meet with me as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made in a timely manner. University policies regarding disabilities are available at <http://disabilities.ucsd.edu/students/>. Appointments with OSD (phone or in-person) can be made by calling 858.534.4382 or by email at osd@ucsd.edu. More information can also be found here.

Religious Observance. Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly accommodate all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled examinations, assignments or required attendance. See full details of policies on examinations here. If you have scheduling conflict covered by this policy, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can reschedule the relevant assignment/examination.

Harassment Policy. The University Policy on Discrimination and Harassment applies to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff member or faculty member who believes (s)he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based on race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation, or political philosophy, should contact the Office for the Prevention of Harassment and Discrimination (OPHD) at (858) 534-8298, ophd@ucsd.edu, or reportbias.ucsd.edu.

Data Privacy. The University adheres to the standards for student privacy rights and requirements as stipulated in the Federal Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974, see <http://ucsd.edu/catalog/front/ferpa.html>.

Counseling. Managing the many challenges of being a college student can be very stressful. Always remember that talking to somebody that is professionally trained to help is just an email, or short walk, away: <https://caps.ucsd.edu/>.

ECON 110A - TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE - SPRING 2021

Date	Topic	Book Chapter
Week 1	Intro & A Model of Consumption	16.2
	Measuring the Economy	2.1-2.3
Week 2	Long-Run Growth: Facts	3.1-3.3
	Long-Run Growth: Tools	3.4-3.7
Week 3	A Model of Production	4.1-4.3
	Understanding TFP Differences	4.4-4.5
Week 4	Midterm 1, Tue Apr 20, 6-7:50 pm	2-4 + 16.2
	The Solow Growth Model	5.1-5.4
Week 5	The Solow Growth Model	5.5-5.7
	How do Firms Make Investment Decisions?	17.2
Week 6	The Economics of Ideas	6.2
	The Romer Model	6.3-6.5
Week 7	Midterm 2, Tue May 11, 6-7:50 pm	2-6 + 16.2 + 17.2
	The Present Discounted Value	7.6
Week 8	The Labor Market	7.1-7.3
	The Labor Market	7.4-7.7
Week 9	Lessons from the Neoclassical Model of Consumption	16.3-16.4
	The Stock Market and Financial Investment	17.3-17.4
Week 10	Money and Inflation	8.1-8.3
	The Costs of Inflation	8.4-8.6
Final	Tuesday June 8, 8 am to 10:50 am	All of the above