

ECON 110A –MACROECONOMICS A

(Winter 2012)

Class Meetings: MWF, 10:00-10:50am, Petersen Hall 110

Instructor: Lili Xie

Office: Econ109

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Office Hours: MW, 1:00-2:00pm

Class Webpage: <http://ted.ucsd.edu>

Course Information

- 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 Book and Materials:

- Olivier Blanchard, *Macroeconomics*, 5th ed. The UCSD custom edition is fine. The Student Study Guide by David Findley is strongly recommended. Textbooks are available at the Bookstore and at the library on reserve.
- We will cover Cha. 1-13 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.

Attendance:

- Class attendance is individual students' responsibility. However, due to the mathematical nature of the course, frequent attendance can help your performance significantly. Students who show up frequently and actively participate in class discussion can also be considered for an upgrade if they are on the border of two grades.

Practice Problems:

There is no graded homework. However, there are two sources of practice problems that you can make use of:

- Student Study Guide: Students who made intensive use of the study guide have been much happier with their grades than those who did not.
- Practice Problems: posted on TED.

Evaluation:

- Your grade will be determined based on: Midterm I (25%), Midterm II (35%), and Final (40%). Final will be cumulative.
- Exam Dates (Please mark these in your calendar):
Midterm I: 10:00-10:50am, Feb. 3rd (Friday), in class
Midterm II: 10:00-10:50am, Feb. 24th (Friday), in class
Final Exam: 8:00am-10:59am, **March 23rd** (Friday), Room TBA
- Make-up Policy: There will be no make-up exam available 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 for a verifiable medical/legal/sports reason, the weight of the **final** exam will increase accordingly. Excuses for missed exams must be pre-approved by Prof. Xie except when it is impossible in an emergency situation. All documentation for proving the claimed excuses must be provided to Prof. Xie within two working days of the student's return to campus. Failure to comply with any of the above will result in a **zero grade** for that exam.
- Regrade Request: If you would like a regrade of your midterm exam, please make a request in writing to your TA **within one week** after the exam is returned. You need to state your reason for requesting a regrade clearly. It will be at the discretion of the TAs whether your exam grade will be changed. **There will be no regrading for final.**
- Grade Distribution: Total grade for the course will be curved. However, I will not curve individual exam grades. I will offer you some statistics to help you gauge how you are doing in class after each exam.
- Academic Dishonesty: Students are expected to do their own work, as outlined in the UCSD policy on Academic Integrity published in the UCSD General Catalog. Cheating will not be tolerated, and any student who engages in suspicious conduct will be confronted and subjected to the disciplinary process. Students found guilty of academic misconduct will receive a failing grade on the exam and/or in the entire course. They may also be suspended from UCSD.

Discussion Sessions:

There will be weekly review sessions led by teaching assistants (Wed. 3:00-3:50pm & 4:00-4:50pm in York Hall 2622). Although you are not required to attend these sessions, you can get additional help on class materials from them. TAs will explain problems similar to those that you will see on exams and can also answer your questions.