

FIRM DYNAMICS  
ECON 281- Winter 2024  
University of California, San Diego

*Instructor*  
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SYLLABUS

BROAD CATEGORIES OF TOPICS COVERED

- Firm Dynamics
- Labor Market Frictions
- Consumption inequality and Macroeconomic Implications

COURSE MATERIAL, ATTENDANCE AND PRACTICE PROBLEMS

There is no text book. I will provide slides before each class. The course reading list is listed in Canvas.

LOGISTICS AND IMPORTANT DATES

We meet *in person* two times a week. I will hold office hours on Fridays at 13:00-15:00 in my office.

GRADING The grading of the course is composed of three elements:

**Required Readings (30% of grade)**

In order to produce new macroeconomic knowledge, you must first be able to consume the existing ideas of macroeconomists. For each lecture, you must read in advance at least two journal articles which are specified on the course reading list. These are the two papers marked [Slides](#) and [Required Reading](#). Since there are two lectures per week, there are **four** papers in total which you are required to read on most weeks.

- **Summary Slides:** Each student will prepare a 2-slide summary of one article, indicated with the marker [Slides](#) on the reading list, in advance of each lecture. The first slide should briefly summarize the conclusions of the article. The second slide should present one new idea contributed by the student, i.e. a critique of the paper or a potential extension of the paper. To receive credit for each assigned reading, students must email their summary slides to the instructor no later than **9:00PM the night before the class meeting**.
- **Random Presentation:** At the beginning of each lecture, I will randomly draw an integer with replacement for each assigned reading. Based on seating order and this random draw, one student will give a 5-minute presentation of their slides.

### **Problem sets (20% of grade)**

There will be several computational problems throughout the semester (I expect to have three to four PS). Each will account for an equal weight. You may submit the PS in groups of up to three students.

**Research Project (50% of grade)** A PhD in economics requires you to produce and communicate new ideas effectively. To get you started along this path, you will submit a research project two weeks before the end of the semester. You will then give a short talk about your idea in front of your classmates during the last week. You may work in teams of up to three per project. More details to be discussed in the class.

### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to do their 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 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 violate 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](mailto:aio@ucsd.edu) or by telephone at 858-822-2163. Additional information regarding the University's 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 community members. 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 ensure you are familiar with the behavior 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 arrange to meet with me as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made promptly. 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](mailto: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](mailto:ophd@ucsd.edu), or [reportbias.ucsd.edu](http://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 someone professionally trained to help is just an email, or short walk, away: <https://caps.ucsd.edu/>.