Economics 102: Macroeconomic Theory

Summer 2017

Instructor: Chris Surro
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Office Hours: Wednesday 1-3 Alper Room (Bunche 2265)

Course Webpage:
https://moodle2.sscnet.ucla.edu/course/view/171C-ECON102-2

Goal of the class:
This class will introduce you to many of the most important concepts in macroeconomic theory as well as connect these theories to real world applications. By the end of the course you should be able to comment intelligently on topics such as business cycles, economic growth, inflation, unemployment, and monetary policy.

Textbook:
Macroeconomics, N. Gregory Mankiw 9th Edition (Earlier editions are fine)

Additional readings will be posted on the class website. Some of these will be mandatory and included on the exams and others will be optional but highly recommended if you are interested in that specific topic.

Tentative Course Outline:

Week 1 ......................................................... Chapter 2-5
Week 2 ......................................................... Chapter 6, 7, and 10
Week 3 ......................................................... Additional Material and Midterm
Week 4 ......................................................... Chapter 11, 12, and 13
Week 5 ......................................................... Chapter 14, 8, and 9
Week 6 ......................................................... Additional Material and Final

Grading Policy:

Option 1: Midterm (25%), Final (50%), Problem Sets (15%), Discussion Board (10%)

Option 2: Final (75%), Problem Sets (15%), Discussion Board (10%)

Your final grade will be calculated based on the higher of the two options.

Important Dates:

Problem Set 1 Due ........................................ 8/21
Midterm ....................................................... 8/23
Labor Day (No Class) ................................. 9/4
Problem Set 2 Due ........................................ 9/11
Final Exam ................................................... 9/13
Graded Material:

**Midterm:** The midterm will cover chapters 2-7 as well as chapter 10 of the Mankiw textbook. Additionally it will cover anything discussed in lecture and any readings on the website in weeks 1-3 listed as mandatory. As noted in the grading scheme above, the midterm will only count towards your final grade if it helps you. Therefore, it will be a good test to see how you are progressing in the class and allow you to adjust your studying if necessary.

**Final:** The final will cover through chapter 14 (cumulative) as well as anything in lecture and any readings on the website in weeks 4-6 listed as mandatory.

**Problem Sets:** There will be 2 problem sets in this course. One will be due the class before the midterm (8/21) and the other will be due the class before the final (9/11). These will be graded on completeness rather than correctness and the idea is that they will serve as practice to help you study for the exams.

**Discussion Board:** Each of you will be assigned one week where you will be required to find one article from an online news source (New York Times, Wall Street Journal, etc.) related to macroeconomics. You need to post on the discussion board a link to this article as well as a 1 paragraph summary and 1 paragraph describing your own thoughts (2 paragraphs total). This should be at least 250 words but you are welcome to write more. Additionally, throughout the course, you must comment on at least 2 other people’s posts. Comments should be a few sentences (around 100 words) and should give your own opinion on the article and the original poster’s thoughts. More details can be found on the class webpage.

**Exam Policies:**

No make up exams unless you have a very good excuse

You must bring your Bruin ID with you to the exam

Calculators are allowed and recommended

Use of any other electronic devices will not be allowed

**Academic Integrity:**

Please refer to the University of California’s policies on academic integrity [http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Academic-Integrity](http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Academic-Integrity). Any cheating, plagiarism, or other violations of academic integrity will be reported to the Office of the Dean of Students.