



Macroeconomics Analysis and Policy (ECON 501)

Units: 4

Fall 2024, TTh 12:30 – 1:50

Location: DMC 211

Instructor: Ladan Masoudie

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Office Hours: T/Th 2:00 – 3:00

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Course Description

Macroeconomics tries to explain economic environment and events and its dynamic at the national level. We develop variety of theoretical economic models to explain the following topics: long-term and short-term economic growth, unemployment and inflation, interest rate and budget balance. The first part of the course will study long-run economic growth, while the second part of the course will look at models to explain short-term business cycles.

Learning Objectives

- Analyze Economic Models: Develop the ability to critically evaluate and apply advanced macroeconomic models. To explain macroeconomic variables using a variety of models and use these models to analyze the relationship of different exogenous variables on other variables.
- Deepen knowledge of advanced theoretical concepts such as endogenous growth theory and real business cycle theory.
- Research Methodology: Enhance research skills by conducting empirical analysis using econometric techniques to test macroeconomics theories and assess policy outcomes. To understand how to develop theoretical macroeconomic models.
- Develop the ability to critically read and understand and assess macroeconomic research.

Required Materials

Advanced Macroeconomics, *Romer, D.*, (2019). 5th edition.

Papers and other relevant material will be introduced during the semester.

Homework

All problem sets will be posted on the Blackboard. I will announce them in class when they are posted on the Blackboard, however, you are ultimately responsible for periodically checking the system to see whether you have work that is due. Each individual must submit their own entry, however, I encourage you to collaborate and work in groups. Detailed solutions will be posted on the web-site after the homeworks are collected. No late homeworks are accepted, **EVER!**

Research Project

Teams of four members will be required to submit a research assignment (5-10 pages main text + appendices) and deliver a 15-minute presentation about a current topic of debate in macroeconomics. The team members and the research assignment topic should be preapproved by me via email within the first month of class. Presentations must be scheduled with the professor and will take place between during the last month of class. The research assignment will in total account for 20 % of your final grade. Late submissions will not be scored and there will be no make up for the assignments or presentation.

Exams

It is your responsibility to show up on time for the exams. You may not make-up any exams after the scheduled exam dates unless for a valid reason such as illness (written proof required; a job interview is not a valid reason). There will be two mid-term exams and one cumulative final.

Grading

Midterm1: 20%, Midterm2: 20%, Final: 30%, Homework: 10%, Final Project: 20%. To calculate final grade, I will take a weighted average of exams and homework grades and assign letter grades.

F < 59 ≤ D- < 62 ≤ D < 66 ≤ D+ < 69 ≤ C- < 72 ≤ C < 76 ≤ C+ < 79 ≤ B- < 82 ≤ B < 87 ≤ B+ < 90 ≤ A- < 93 ≤ A.

Topics – (All dates are tentative)

Week	Topic	Chapter
Week 1	The Solow Growth Model	1
Week 2	The Solow Growth Model	1
Week 3	Infinite Horizon Model (Ramsey- Cass-Koopman Model)	2
Week 4	Infinite Horizon Model (Ramsey- Cass- Koopman Model)	2
Week 5	Overlapping Generations Model	2
Week 6	Oct 1 st : Midterm 1 - Overlapping Generations Model	2
Week 7	Overlapping Generation Model, Endogenous Growth	3
Week 8	Endogenous Growth	3
Week 9	Endogenous Growth, Real Business Cycle Theory	3, 5
Week 10	Real Business Cycle Theory	5
Week 11	Nov 5 th Midterm 2, Real Business Cycle Theory	5
Week 12	Nominal Rigidities	6
Week 13	Nominal Rigidities	6
Week 14	Presentations	
Week 15	Review, Presentations	
	Final Exam, Dec. 17 th , 11:00 – 1:00	

Academic Integrity

The University of Southern California is foremost a learning community committed to fostering successful scholars and researchers dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas. Academic misconduct is in contrast to the university's mission to educate students through a broad array of first-rank academic, professional, and extracurricular programs and includes any act of dishonesty in the submission of academic work (either in draft or final form).

This course will follow the expectations for academic integrity as stated in the [USC Student Handbook](#). All students are expected to submit assignments that are original work and prepared specifically for the course/section in this academic term. You may not submit work written by others or "recycle" work prepared for other courses without obtaining written permission from the instructor(s). Students suspected of engaging in academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity.

Other violations of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication (e.g., falsifying data), knowingly assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty, and any act that gains or is intended to gain an unfair academic advantage.

Academic dishonesty has a far-reaching impact and is considered a serious offense against the university. Violations will result in a grade penalty, such as a failing grade on the assignment or in the course, and disciplinary action from the university itself, such as suspension or even expulsion.

For more information about academic integrity see the [student handbook](#) or the [Office of Academic Integrity's website](#), and university policies on [Research and Scholarship Misconduct](#).

Please ask your instructor if you are unsure what constitutes unauthorized assistance on an exam or assignment or what information requires citation and/or attribution.

This course aims to develop creative, analytical, and critical thinking skills. Therefore, all assignments should be prepared by the student working individually or in groups. Students may not have another person or entity complete any substantive portion of the assignment. Developing strong competencies in these areas will prepare you for a competitive workplace. Therefore, using AI-generated text, code, or other content is prohibited in this course, will be identified as plagiarism, and will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity.

If found responsible for an academic violation, students may be assigned university outcomes, such as suspension or expulsion from the university, and grade penalties, such as an "F" grade on the assignment, exam, or in the course.

Course Content Distribution and Synchronous Session Recordings Policies

USC has policies that prohibit recording and distribution of any synchronous and asynchronous course content outside of the learning environment.

Recording a university class without the express permission of the instructor and announcement to the class, or unless conducted pursuant to an Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) accommodation. Recording can inhibit free discussion in the future, and thus infringe on the academic freedom of other students as well as the instructor. ([Living our Unifying Values: The USC Student Handbook](#), page 13).

Distribution or use of notes, recordings, exams, or other intellectual property, based on university classes or lectures without the express permission of the instructor for purposes other than individual or group study. This includes but is not limited to providing materials for distribution by services publishing course materials. This restriction on unauthorized use also applies to all information, which had been distributed to

students or in any way had been displayed for use in relation to the class, whether obtained in class, via email, on the internet, or via any other media. Distributing course material without the instructor's permission will be presumed to be an intentional act to facilitate or enable academic dishonesty and is strictly prohibited. ([Living our Unifying Values: The USC Student Handbook](#), page 13).

Students and Disability Accommodations:

USC welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. [The Office of Student Accessibility Services](#) (OSAS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter disability-related barriers. Once a student has completed the OSAS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and accommodations are determined to be reasonable and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be available to generate for each course. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at osas.usc.edu. You may contact OSAS at (213) 740-0776 or via email at osasfrontdesk@usc.edu.

Student Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress:

To be eligible for certain kinds of financial aid, students are required to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) toward their degree objectives. Visit the [Financial Aid Office webpage](#) for [undergraduate-](#) and [graduate-level](#) SAP eligibility requirements and the appeals process.

Support Systems:

[Counseling and Mental Health](#) - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

[988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#) - 988 for both calls and text messages – 24/7 on call

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. The Lifeline consists of a national network of over 200 local crisis centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices. The new, shorter phone number makes it easier for people to remember and access mental health crisis services (though the previous 1 (800) 273-8255 number will continue to function indefinitely) and represents a continued commitment to those in crisis.

[Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services \(RSVP\)](#) - (213) 740-9355(WELL) – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender- and power-based harm (including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking).

[Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX \(EEO-TIX\)](#) - (213) 740-5086

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

[Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment](#) - (213) 740-2500

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

[The Office of Student Accessibility Services \(OSAS\)](#) - (213) 740-0776

OSAS ensures equal access for students with disabilities through providing academic accommodations and auxiliary aids in accordance with federal laws and university policy.

[USC Campus Support and Intervention](#) - (213) 740-0411

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

[Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#) - (213) 740-2101

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

[USC Emergency](#) - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

[USC Department of Public Safety](#) - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-1200 – 24/7 on call

Non-emergency assistance or information.

[Office of the Ombuds](#) - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)

A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.

[Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice](#) - (323) 442-2850 or otfp@med.usc.edu

Confidential Lifestyle Redesign services for USC students to support health promoting habits and routines that enhance quality of life and academic performance.