

Econ 102 – Macroeconomic Theory

Summer 2026

INSTRUCTOR

Chris Surro

EMAIL

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OFFICE HOURS

TBD

TIME

T/Th 10:45-12:50

PLACE

Online

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 economic growth, labor market dynamics, business cycles, inflation, and macroeconomic policy.

Course Materials

No textbook is required for this class. All necessary material will be presented in the lecture and notes. Notes for each lecture will be posted on Bruin Learn in the corresponding lecture page.

Additional readings will be posted on the class website and questions from these readings will be included in problem sets/exams.

Lectures

Lectures for the class will be held on Zoom live at the scheduled course time. For those who cannot make a class, lectures will be recorded and posted on the course website. Extra points will be provided through iClicker questions for students who attend class live.

Important Dates

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Problem Sets Due | Mondays 11:59pm |
| Midterm | 7/14 |
| Excel Assignment Due | 7/24 |
| Final Exam | 7/30 |

Grading Policy

Your grade for the class will be based on the following components:

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Midterm | 300 points |
| Final | 300 points |
| Excel Assignment | 150 points |
| Problem Sets | 25 points each (Max 100) |
| Quizzes | 5 Points each (Max 60) |
| Attendance | 5 points per class (Max 40) |

Only the exams and the Excel Assignment are strictly required. Any points earned on quizzes, problem sets, or attendance will be added to both the numerator and the denominator of your final points total. For example, if you average 75% on exams and the Excel Assignment you would earn 675/900 points. Getting maximum points on problem sets, quizzes, and attendance would then earn you an additional 200 so your final score would be $875/1100 = 79.5\%$

Graded Material

Exams: The midterm will be held in class during week 3 and cover everything covered in lecture and problem sets during the first 2 weeks. The final will be held in week 6 and cover material from weeks 4 and 5. Each exam will consist of a mix of multiple choice and open response questions.

Excel Assignment: This assignment will help you understand one of the most important models from the first half of the class (the Solow growth model) and practice your Excel skills. More information will be provided on the details of the assignment in the second half of the class. Late assignments will lose 15 points per day. No assignments will be accepted beyond 3 days after the due date.

Problem Sets: There will be 5 problem sets in this course, due each Monday at 11:59pm (excluding week 1). Problem sets are graded on completion, with full credit provided as long as there is clear effort on each question. You may work in groups, but your answers should be your own (for questions on the readings, your responses must be in your own words). Problem sets are due at 11:59pm PT on the scheduled due date. No late problem sets will be accepted, but you are allowed to miss 1 problem set with no penalty.

Quizzes: Following each lecture there will be 2 short quizzes posted online for you to complete. The goal of these quizzes is to see how well you understood the topics in lecture and are meant to be taken before you review the material from lecture without referring back to your notes (you can always review them later). Quizzes are due before the start of the next lecture. No late quizzes will be accepted, but you can miss up to 3 quizzes and still get max points.

Attendance: While live Zoom attendance is not required, I will give some extra points for attending lecture live. These will be awarded using random iClicker question checks throughout class. You will need to download the iClicker app on your phone. See the course website for details.

Practice Questions

Each lecture will be accompanied by a short set of practice questions. I will hold an additional session each week to cover the answers to these questions. The questions do not need to be turned in and will not be graded. However, you are strongly encouraged to attempt them before I go over them. Even if you feel that you haven't quite grasped the concept and aren't totally sure how to approach the question, you will gain far more from the questions if you have given them your best shot before we go over them in class.

Additionally, practice exam questions will be provided on each topic. These are real exam questions that I have given in the past. I recommend attempting these questions only after you feel you have a solid understanding of each topic. Full written answers are provided for each question.

Campuswire and Email Policy

Please do not email me with questions about the class material. Instead, you can post your question on our class Campuswire forum (you will have to make a free account). This will allow others to see your question and prevent me from answering the same question many times. You are also encouraged to try to answer other students' questions, which can be a great way to check your understanding of class material! You may email me with personal questions. Do not use the message feature on Canvas to contact me - I will likely not respond to Canvas messages.

Exam Policies

Exams will be proctored live during the class time on Zoom on Wednesday of weeks 3 and 6. You must attend during this time in order to take the exam. Makeups will be provided only in the event of true documented emergencies. You will be required to use a lockdown browser and also position your phone so that your workspace is visible on the Zoom call.

You may use a calculator (graphing calculator is allowed), a 3x5 note card, and blank scratch paper. Your exam workspace must otherwise be clear of all materials other than the computer you are using to take the exam.

Any students seeking disability services should register with the CAE and release accommodation letters as soon as possible. You must schedule your exam with CAE. If you miss their deadline, I will not be able to provide you with accommodations.

AI Policy

You are encouraged to use AI tools to aid, but not substitute for, your learning in this course. AI use is strictly prohibited during exams. While you can use it for help on problem sets, I would caution against relying on it - if AI does all of your work for you, you will not be well prepared for the exam.

Academic Integrity

Please refer to the University of California's policies on 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.

Tentative Course Outline

| Week | Dates | Topic |
|------|-------|---|
| 1 | 6/23 | Introduction and Measuring the Economy |
| | 6/25 | Basic Macro Concepts and The Solow Growth Model |
| 2 | 6/30 | The Solow Growth Model (Continued) |
| | 7/2 | Classical Theory of Saving and Labor Markets |
| 3 | 7/7 | Midterm Review |
| | 7/9 | Midterm |
| 4 | 7/14 | Keynesian Economics and IS-LM |
| | 7/16 | Expectations and IS-MP-PC |
| 5 | 7/21 | International Macroeconomics |
| | 7/23 | Macro History/Current Events |
| 6 | 7/28 | Final Review |
| | 7/30 | Final Exam |