

ECN 136

## Topics in Macroeconomics, Winter 2022

*Ethan Feilich, UC Davis*

### COURSE OVERVIEW

The goal of this course is to develop an understanding of advanced tools of macroeconomic theory, their applications, and their limitations. Topics include endogenous growth theory, consumption theory, investment under uncertainty, bank runs and financial crises, and modern business cycle theory.

A main objective of this course is to introduce students to the models and methods currently used by academic economists and policymakers. Empirical analysis with macroeconomic and financial data will complement theory to help explain recent macroeconomic phenomena including the financial crisis and recession of 2007-2009.

### INSTRUCTOR

Ethan Feilich  
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Office Hours: TBA

### TEACHING ASSISTANT

TBA  
Email: [TBA@ucdavis.edu](mailto:TBA@ucdavis.edu)  
Office Hours: TBA

### LECTURES

Mondays-Wednesdays 2:10-3pm PST  
Location TBA

### SECTIONS

Thursdays 6:10-7pm PST  
Location TBA  
Thursdays 7:10-8pm PST  
Location TBA

### PREREQUISITES

ECN 101

### TEXTBOOK

Recommended course readings should be completed prior to each lecture, and are outlined in the calendar below. The readings come from Pablo Kurlat's *A Course in Modern Macroeconomics* textbook. A pdf of the textbook may be purchased cheaply at <https://sites.google.com/view/pkurlat/a-course-in-modern-macroeconomics>.

### GRADING

Final grades will be based on four short in-class exams and one comprehensive final exam.

- **Exam 1: Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup> in class**
- **Exam 2: Friday February 4<sup>th</sup> in class**
- **Exam 3: Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup> in class**
- **Exam 4: Friday March 4<sup>th</sup> in class**
- **Final Exam: Monday March 14<sup>th</sup> at 8am PST**

Each in-class exam will be worth 15% of your final grade, while the final exam will absorb the remaining 40%. The lowest score among the in-class exams will be dropped. There will be no make-up exams.

## **PROBLEM SETS**

There will be weekly problem sets posted on Canvas. These will have a multiple-choice section and a short answer section. You should complete the assignments ahead of the relevant discussion session. Be prepared to discuss your work and ask questions. The problem sets will not be graded and will not count towards your final score, but will be a good guide to the material on the exams – it's in your interest to complete these thoroughly!

## **REGRADES**

You have one week after exams are handed back to request a re-grade. The whole exam will be re-graded, so the score might go down. Re-grade requests must be made in writing and submitted in person. In your request, explain which question(s) deserve special attention and why. Attach the original version of your exam.

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

In order to protect the integrity of a UC Davis degree and reward the sincere efforts of my students, academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. This includes using cell phones or notes in exams, copying or looking at another student exam during the exam period, writing after the exam's end time, talking during exams or turning in work (or part of the work) that was not originally generated by you and only you. I expect strict adherence to the Code of Academic Conduct at all times. Be sure you read it and understand it at <https://ossja.ucdavis.edu/code-academic-conduct>. My policy is to refer all violations of the Academic Code to Student Judicial Affairs for discipline and impose the strictest sanctions. If you are found by Judicial Affairs to have violated this code, you will receive an "F" in this course.

## **ACCOMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

UC Davis is committed to educational equity in the academic setting, and in serving a diverse student body. I encourage all students who are interested in learning more about the Student Disability Center (SDC) to contact them directly at [sdc@ucdavis.edu](mailto:sdc@ucdavis.edu) or (530) 752-3184.

If you are a student who currently receives academic accommodations, please submit your SDC Letter of Accommodation to me as soon as possible, ideally within the first two weeks of this course. If you have a physical disability, any difficulty with the English language, or other special needs that are relevant to your success in this class please see me immediately. I will help you get access to resources that may help you deal with any challenges you may face with the course.

## COURSE OUTLINE

### Part 1: Economic Growth

- The Kaldor Facts (Chapter 3)
- Optimal Growth
- Expanding Varieties
- Creative Destruction

### Part 2: Microeconomic Foundations

- Consumption and Saving (Chapter 6)
- Labor and Leisure (Chapter 7)
- Investment (Chapter 8)
- General Equilibrium (Chapter 9)

### Part 3: Money and Inflation

- Money (Chapter 10)
- Prices and Inflation (Chapter 11)

### Part 4: Business Cycles

- Business Cycle Facts (Chapter 12)
- Real Business Cycles (Chapter 13)
- The New Keynesian Model (Chapter 14)

### Part 5: Additional Topics

- Monetary and Fiscal Policy
- The Liquidity Trap
- Bank Runs