

**ECON 302, Fall 2011****Course information****Course Title:** Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory**Number of Units:** 3**Course ID:** Econ 302 – 01**Schedule Number:** 36205**Class Location:** T-J1 (Trailer J1)**Class Schedule:**

- Lecture: Tuesday & Thursday, 14:10 – 15:25
- Midterm 1: Tuesday, September 27, in class
- Midterm 2: Tuesday, November 1, in class
- Final: Thursday, December 15, 13:30 – 16:00

**Instructor's information****Instructor:** Michael Bar**Office:** HSS 148**Email:** [mbar@sfsu.edu](mailto:mbar@sfsu.edu)**Course webpage:** <http://bss.sfsu.edu/mbar/ECON302.htm>**Office Phone Number:** 415-338-3026**Office Hours:** Tuesday and Thursday 16:00 – 17:00**Course Description**

This is one of the core courses for Economics majors. The goal is to introduce a more formal language into macroeconomic analysis. Our approach to analyzing the economy will involve three basic steps. The first step is measuring economic performance. We will study how important economic variables, such as total output of the economy, unemployment rate and price level, are measured and reported. The second step involves the study of different theories that can be used to analyze the observed data. The last step is policy analysis.

Throughout the course, students are required to work with macroeconomic data and to confront the predictions of the models studied with the empirical evidence. This approach reflects the way modern economic research is done, and my hope is that it will develop critical thinking and appreciation of the scientific approach (i.e., theories should be tested). As a byproduct, students will improve their spreadsheet skills and their ability to analyze data.

**Prerequisites**

It is an intermediate level macroeconomics course. Students must have passed Introduction to Macroeconomic Analysis (ECON 100), **and** Introduction to Microeconomic Analysis (ECON 101), or their equivalents at other institutions, with grade of C- or better. Students must also have taken and passed Calculus I (MATH 226), or its equivalent at another institution, with a grade of C- or better.

**Textbook**

Recommended textbook for this course is *Macroeconomics* by Stephen Williamson, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, ISBN: 978-0131368736. The material covered in class is based on the lecture notes posted on the course web page, and additional articles as will be announced in class.

**Attendance**

Your attendance in class is absolutely essential. The material is cumulative, so if you miss one class, it is often impossible to understand the next one. Office hours are not to be used to teach material that was covered in a class to students who missed that class. If you must miss a class session, it is your responsibility to get a copy of the class notes from another student. I expect you to attend all classes and actively participate in the discussions.

**Homework Assignments**

- There will be 6 homework assignments. The assignments will be posted on the course web page at least one week before the due date.
- The due dates of the assignments are also indicated in the course calendar below.
- Late homework is not accepted, but the lowest homework score is dropped.
- The first homework assignment is mandatory and cannot be dropped.
- Assignment rules are written on the first page of each homework assignment. You are required to follow these rules.

**Grading**

Homework	20%
Midterm 1	25%
Midterm 2	25%
Final exam	30%

**Grading Scale**

92%-100%	A
90%-91%	A-
88%-89%	B+
82%-87%	B
80%-81%	B-
78%-79%	C+
72%-77%	C
70%-71%	C-
68%-69%	D+
60%-67%	D
0-59%	F

**Tentative course calendar**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Homework</b>
08/23	Introduction and Preliminaries	
08/25		
08/30		
<b>09/01</b>	National Income and Product Accounts	<b>HW1 due</b>
09/06		
09/08	Micro Foundations	
09/13		
09/15	Business Cycles: the Classical Model	
<b>09/20</b>		<b>HW2 due</b>
09/22		
<b>09/27</b>	<b>Midterm 1</b>	
09/29	Business Cycles: the Keynesian Model	
10/04		
10/06		
<b>10/11</b>	Unemployment	<b>HW3 due</b>
10/13	Saving	
10/18		
10/20		
<b>10/25</b>	Investment and capital market	<b>HW4 due</b>
10/27		
<b>11/01</b>	<b>Midterm 2</b>	
11/03	Money and Banking	
11/08		
11/10	Economic Growth	
<b>11/15</b>		<b>HW5 due</b>
11/17	Unemployment and Inflation: The Role of Expectations	
11/29		
12/01	International Macroeconomics	
<b>12/06</b>		<b>HW6 due</b>
12/08	Income Inequality	
<b>12/15</b>	<b>Final exam, 13:30 – 16:00, in class</b>	

**School theme**

“Making a Difference in a Diverse Society: Leadership for a New Millennium”.

**Statement on Cheating and Plagiarism**

Cheating is the actual or attempted practice of fraudulent or deceptive acts for the purpose of improving one’s grade or obtaining course credit; such acts also include assisting another student to do so. Typically, such acts occur in relation to examinations. However, it is the intent of this definition that the term ‘cheating’ not be limited to examination situations only, but that it include any and all actions by a student that are intended to gain an un-earned academic advantage by fraudulent or deceptive means. Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating which consists of the misuse of the published and/or unpublished works of others by misrepresenting the material (i.e., their intellectual property) so used as one’s own work. Penalties for cheating and plagiarism range from 0 or F on a particular assignment, through an F for the course, to expulsion from the university. For more information on the University’s policy regarding cheating and plagiarism, refer to the University Catalog (‘Policies and Regulations’). **In this class, copying and pasting parts of my notes into your homework assignments is considered by me as cheating and will result in a grade of “0” for the assignment.**

**Statement on Services for Students with Disabilities**

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations:** The University is committed to providing reasonable academic accommodations to students with disabilities. The Disability Programs and Resources Center provides university academic support services and specialized assistance to students with disabilities. Individuals with physical, perceptual, or learning disabilities as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact Services for Students with Disabilities for information regarding accommodations. Please notify your instructor so that reasonable effort can be made to accommodate you. If you expect Accommodation through the Act, you must make a formal request through Disability Programs & Resources Center in SSB 110, Telephone 338-2472.

**Statement on Disruptive Classroom Behavior**

The classroom is a special environment in which students and faculty come together to promote learning and growth. It is essential to this learning environment that respect for the rights of others seeking to learn, respect for the professionalism of the instructor, and the general goals of academic freedom are maintained. Differences of viewpoint or concerns should be expressed in terms which are supportive of the learning process, and to develop and understanding of the community in which they live. Student conduct which disrupts the learning process shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

**Syllabus is Subject to Change**

This syllabus and schedule are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances. If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to check on announcements made while you were absent.