Introduction to Macroeconomics

WELCOME TO SUMMER 2021

This course will be delivered remotely in recorded lectures posted to Canvas. I will record lectures on my iPad as well as in the UCSC studio. I will post these lectures to our Canvas page each week. Most of the course can be completed at your leisure (but don’t procrastinate!). There are, however, a few things that will need to be completed at specific times: the homework due Sunday night, the midterm and final during scheduled 8-hour windows in ProctorU (July 6th and 23rd), and the zoom office hour meetings and sections. I will require each student to check in at least once a week, either in office hour or section or possibly in review sessions as well. This will be part of your grade (attendance - 1 point per week/5% of your overall grade).

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Principles of Macroeconomics examines how the overall level of national economic activity is determined, including output, employment, and inflation. Explores the roles of monetary and fiscal policies in stabilizing the economy and promoting growth, with a focus on contemporary policy debates.

This is an interesting time to study macroeconomics given the current environment. I will try to update our website with current articles discussing some of the topics we will be studying.

COURSE MATERIALS

The required textbook is the second edition of Macroeconomics by Acemoglu, Laibson, and List (course id: gonzalez43839). The cheapest option available is the online-only homework/e-text. By-passing the bookstore gives us the option of a much lower price. If you would like a hard copy of the book, you can purchase it with the online access code, or you can purchase a first edition from another website. We will cover the following chapters: 4-7 and 9-13. On Canvas you will find a link to the MyLab and Mastering website (Pearson) as well as the online question forum, Piazza. There is also an “Economics” version of this text that covers Macro and Micro. You may use this book but you will need to sort
out the chapter numbers on your own.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Each week you will have up to four assignments (two homeworks, two quizzes) to be completed using the MyLab link. The assignment will be due on Sunday at 11:59 p.m. The homework must be electronically submitted to be counted. You may submit the assignments late at a 7%-per-day penalty. The homework portion of the course will be worth 15% of your final grade, while the weekly quiz portion will be worth 15%, so it is important that you keep up with assignments.

EXAMS

I will give one midterm and one final exam. The midterm and final each count for 32.5% of your grade. The dates for these exams are **Tuesday, July 6th, and Friday, July 23rd**. A window of time will be open in ProctorU for you to register for the exams. The remaining 5% of your course grade comes from participation, or your weekly TA check-ins. I would recommend being even more mindful of dates and times this quarter as it is easier to lose track of the day and time when you are not physically checking in two to three times a week. Note: the lectures do not need to be viewed at any specific time since they are pre-recorded. You can listen to lecture at your leisure.

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

The Teaching Assistant, Amy Ma, is here to help you succeed in this course. During discussion sections and office hours, she will hold zoom meetings. In these meetings she can review homework assignments as needed, review questions from the lecture, and answer other course-related questions. Her email address is **kma41@ucsc.edu**.

IN SUMMARY

Course Grade:
Midterm 32.5%
Homework 15%
Quizzes 15%
Final Exam 32.5%
Participation 5%
OFFICE HOURS/PHONE/EMAIL/WEBSITE

My office hours will be held on Mondays at 7 pm. These hours may change if it seems necessary to move them around in order to serve all students. Keep in mind the TA will also be holding zoom meetings throughout the week. My email address is jhgonzal@ucsc.edu. Please look to Piazza for announcements before emailing us a question about logistics.

OTHER INFORMATION
Please be respectful and professional on our online forum (Piazza). You are welcome to use other platforms/message boards, but the only one formally connected to this course is the Piazza page I set up and is linked through Canvas.

If you have DRC accommodations, please get them to me ASAP so that I can add them to ProctorU’s exam set up.

Note: We will be using ProctorU this quarter for exams. Please set up your account ASAP. If you do not want to use ProctorU, I would recommend taking the course at a different time, possibly in a different format. Use of ProctorU is the only way to protect exam security.