ECON 0150 - Introduction to Macroeconomics

Professor Leticia Arroyo Abad

Spring 2015

Policies and schedule are on my website.
Click: teaching and then ECON 0150

1 The basics

Class location & time: Warner Hemicycle, Mondays and Wednesdays: 12:15 - 1:30 pm

Website: Announcements and discussions will take place at the Twitter while all the files (problems sets, presentations etc.) are available on Middfiles.

Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:05-5:05 pm, Tuesdays 1:30-2:30 pm, or by appointment
Officze: Warner 502a
Instructor's website: https://community.middlebury.edu/~larroyoabad
E-mail: larroyoabad@middlebury.edu

2 About the course

How sustainable is the fiscal deficit? Why is the US richer than Rwanda? These are a couple of questions that we deal with in macroeconomics.

Macroeconomics studies the behavior and performance of the overall economy. It looks at the big questions, namely growth, unemployment, and inflation in the short and long run.

In this course you will learn the main concepts in macroeconomics through relevant case studies. Through connections with ‘real world’ examples, you will acquire macroeconomic vocabulary and concepts and you will understand basic macroeconomic mechanisms.

We are living exciting and interesting macroeconomic times. The Great Recession has prompted many debates on the current state of economics as a science and its policy applicability. Throughout the course we will look at these issues and discuss the most relevant points.

2.1 Objectives

The main goal of this course is for you to learn how to think, talk, and write as a macroeconomist. To achieve such ambitious goal, we will focus on the main problems in macroeconomics and build the connections to understand and explain the macroeconomy.

As your instructor, I expect you to:

1. achieve a higher level of economic literacy;

2. learn the basic macroeconomic concepts;
3. understand the economic forces at play in the economy;
4. examine the effects of different macroeconomic policies;
5. connect the macro theory with suitable real-world examples;
6. apply the concepts learned in an accurate and relevant fashion;
7. further develop your analytical and critical thinking skills throughout the variety of activities and assignments;
8. show your engagement in the topics covered in class through active participation and analysis.

3 Textbook

Your textbook is:

In addition, we will learn about a handful of famous economists throughout the term. Based on the schedule you should find out basic information on this economist beforehand. Why was he/she famous? What are his/her main ideas? We will further discuss their contributions in class.

4 Assessment

Your final grade for this course is the result of your performance in a variety of assignments throughout the semester: participation (60 points), homework (6 @ 25 points each = 210 points), three exams (210 points each), and a final project (100 points). See the website for all the information.

5 Important dates

Homework: Homework will be due one week after we finish the topic. (I will announce them in class.)
First exam: March 11th
Second exam: April 8th
Third exam: May 6th
Final project: May 12th (through dropbox)

6 Schedule

See website