Course Syllabus

Econ 102 - Macroeconomic Analysis, Fall 2026

The objective of the course is to analyze the aggregate or "macro" behavior of the U.S. economy. The first part of the course will examine the economic theory of the long run. We will study the factors that determine income, savings and consumption in the long-run with a special focus on theories of economic growth. The second part of the course will consider short-run business-cycle issues, like how unemployment and inflation change during periods of unusually fast economic growth or periods of unusually slow or even negative growth. We will also examine current issues in the conduct of monetary and fiscal policy. The goals of the course is to give you the tools needed to analyze the aggregate (macro) behavior of the U.S. economy and understand it in a coherent framework, understand monetary and fiscal policy responses to short and long run economic problems, and familiarize you with macro data and their interpretations in the context of the models.

PREREQUISITES: ECON1A

Administrative Information

- Instructor: Ayden Young
- Email: ayden.young@sjsu.edu
- Lectures: TuTh 3p - 4:15p PST in DMH 353
- Office Hours: TuTh 10:30-11:30a, 1:30-2:30p in DMH 144
- Course Website: Canvas (It is your responsibility to check the website regularly for updates.)

Textbook

Jones, Charles. Macroeconomics, 4th or 5th edition. W.W. Norton & Company Press. (Other versions are probably fine, but use at your own risk.)

Grading

- Problem sets: 20% (the lowest score of 5 problem sets will be dropped)
- Readings/Discussions: 20%
- Midterm: 30%
- Final: 30%
- There will be **no makeup** exams.
- The final grade is not negotiable and I will not engage in any discussion about it.

Problem Sets

- There will be 5 problem sets. The problem sets will be graded coarsely (check plus, check, check minus) and will be based largely on the effort that you put in. Unless otherwise specified for a given problem, please hand-write all problem sets (this is also how the exam will be administered so it's good practice).
- Problem sets must be uploaded on Canvas before each class they are due. **Allow ample time to upload your problem sets to avoid being late due to, for example, internet problems. Late problem sets will not be accepted, no exceptions.**
- You are encouraged to discuss your problem sets with your classmates. However, you must write down your own solutions. In completing the problem sets, you may not consult solutions that may be available online or from classes from previous years. You may not consult AI chatbots such as Claude, Chat-GPT. A violation of this policy will be considered cheating. Cheating, even on homework, will result in an automatic F.
- Further, you may not reproduce, distribute, or display (post/upload) any content from the class. You also may not allow others to do so. Sharing any content of the course or exam – or communicating with others during the exam – will constitute a violation of the academic integrity policy for the course and result in a failing grade.

Exams

- Exams are closed notes and closed book. Calculators are not allowed.

Re-grading Policy

If you feel that your problem sets or exams were incorrectly or unfairly graded, you have one week after the class in which it is returned to submit a **specific written request** a re-grading. **Verbal communications are not allowed**. When an exam is turned in for a re-grade, the entire exam will be re-graded and the scores for individual questions can be either increased or decreased. The same policy applies to problem sets.

Rules of Communication

- It is best to ask your questions during class because it is highly likely that if you are either confused by something, or interested to know more about something, then others are too. So, **please, interrupt me during class**.
- I am available for questions during office hours. If you cannot make it to the office hours for some reason, please send me an email to set up an appointment.
- Please ensure that your answer cannot be answered by looking at the course website or syllabus before sending in an email question.

Schedule

(Schedule is *tentative* and is subject to change based on course pacing)

Wk 0 (Aug 20) Syllabus, Course Intro, Diagnostic

Wk 1 (Aug 25) Math review
(Aug 27) Math review

Wk 2 (Sep 1) Math review
(Sep 3) Intro Macro Review

Wk 3 (Sep 8) Intro Macro Review
(Sep 10) Intro Macro Review

Wk 4 (Sep 15) Chp 2: Measurement
(Sep 17) Chp 2: Measurement

Wk 5 (Sep 22) Chp 3: Growth Intro
(Sep 24) Chp 4: Production Model

Wk 6 (Sep 29) Chp 4: Production Model
(Oct 1) Chp 5: Solow Model

Wk 7 (Oct 6) Chp 5: Solow Model
(Oct 8) Chp 5: Solow Model

Wk 8 (Oct 13) Chp 5: Solow Model
(Oct 15) Review

Wk 9 (Oct 20) **MIDTERM**
(Oct 22) Chp 6: Romer Model

Wk 10 (Oct 27) Chp 6: Romer Model
(Oct 29) Chp 6: Romer Model

Wk 11 (Nov 3) Chp 7: Unemployment
(Nov 5) Chp 7: Unemployment

Wk 12 (Nov 10) Chp 8: Inflation
(Nov 12) Chp 9: Intro to Short-Run

Wk 13 (Nov 17) Chp 11: IS Curve
(Nov 19) Chp 11: IS Curve

Wk 14 (Nov 24) Chp 12: Monetary Policy and the Phillips Curve
(Nov 26) Thanksgiving Holiday

Wk 15 (Dec 1) Chp 12: Monetary Policy and the Phillips Curve
(Dec 3) Review

Wk 16, 17 **FINAL EXAMS**