ECON 702, Spring 2019

Course information
Course Title: Seminar in Macroeconomic Theory
Number of Units: 3
Course ID: Econ 702-01
Class Number: 2437
Class Location: HSS 147
Class Schedule:
- Lecture: Mondays, 7:00pm – 9:45pm
- Midterm: Monday, March 18, in class
- Final: Monday, May 20, at 7:00pm, in class

Instructor’s information
Instructor: Michael Bar
Office: HSS 148
Email: mbar@sfsu.edu
Course webpage: http://online.sfsu.edu/mbar/ECON702.htm
Office Phone Number: 415-338-3026
Office hours: Mo, We 11:00am – 12:00pm, 4:00pm – 5:00pm, or by appointment.

Course Description
This course provides a more in depth look into contemporary macroeconomic concepts, theoretical and quantitative analysis. We will learn how empirical observations help us discern the validity of different models. We will also learn how empirical observations can be used to calibrate economic models, which is a necessary step for quantitative inquiry into important questions. The main goal is for you to gain a deeper understanding of how modern economic analysis is conducted. In the meantime, you will learn a number of widely used economic models, as well as computational techniques. My approach in this class will be to cover few topics in depth, including mathematical details and quantitative analysis using Matlab. The assignments will illustrate how modern economic research is conducted and student will learn quantitative and computational techniques that are highly valued in the job market and Ph.D. programs.

Student Learning Objectives
1. Knowledge outcomes
   - Broad knowledge of the main macroeconomic theories of economic growth and business cycles.
   - Broad knowledge of macroeconomic models designed for evaluating economic policies (fiscal, monetary).
   - Broad Knowledge of modern methodology used in macroeconomics research, namely the Computational Experiment.

2. Practical Skills
   - Be able to solve analytically (when possible) the major models used in modern macroeconomic research.
• Be able to calibrate a macroeconomic model, to make it suitable for quantitative analysis.
• Use Matlab, a high-performance programming language, for simulating Dynamic Stochastic General Equilibrium (DSGE) models.
• Be able to apply the DSGE framework for analyzing particular fiscal and monetary policies.
• Be able to contrast the simulated data from DSGE models with real world time series data.
• Be able to apply the DSGE for pricing of financial assets.

Prerequisites
Before taking this course, students must have passed the following course with a grade "C-" or better.

1. Intermediate Microeconomic Theory (ECON 301)
2. Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory (ECON 302)
3. Mathematical Economics (ECON 715)
4. Microeconomic Theory I (ECON 701)
5. Econometric Theory (ECON 731)

Textbook
There is no required textbook for this class. The course will be based on my lecture notes, as well as assigned reading (articles, handouts, notes by other instructors).
Recommended texts:

Matlab
Matlab is now available for free to all CSU students. Install a full version of Matlab from here.

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 several homework assignments. The assignments will be posted on the course web page after the material for them is covered.
• The assignments will not be graded, but points will be deducted for missing or incomplete assignments.
Grading

Homework 10%
Midterm exam 45%
Final exam 45%

Grading Scale

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Tentative course calendar

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<td>02/04</td>
<td>Solow Growth Model</td>
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<td>Neoclassical Growth Model</td>
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<td>Stochastic Neoclassical Growth Model</td>
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<td>Monetary Economics</td>
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<td>International Macroeconomics</td>
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<td>Labor Markets - Search Model</td>
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<td>Dynamic asset pricing</td>
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<td>Life Cycle Models</td>
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**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. 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 see the College of Business Academic Standards. 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.

**Cellphones, Laptops, Tablets, and other devices**
The use of cellphones or any other electronic devices for texting, web browsing, phone calls, or any other purpose in class is strictly prohibited, and constitutes disruptive behavior. Please turn all your devices off or place them in silent mode while in class, as you would in a movie theater.

**Punctuality**
You are expected to arrive to class on time, and stay for the duration of the class. Students who arrive late or leave early disrupt the learning experience of other students. If you must leave the class early, please inform me about this. If you need to arrive late or leave the class early on a regular basis, please do not enroll in this course.

**SF State Disability Programs and Resource Center**
Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. The Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The DPRC is located in the Student Service Building and can be reached by telephone (voice/TTY 415-338-2472) or by email (dprc@sfsu.edu) ([http://www.sfsu.edu/~dprc](http://www.sfsu.edu/~dprc)).

**SF State Student Disclosure of Sexual Violence**
SF State fosters a campus free of sexual violence including sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and/or any form of sex or gender discrimination. If you disclose a personal experience as an SF State student, the course instructor is required to notify the Dean of Students. To disclose any such violence confidentially, contact: The SAFE Place - (415) 338-2208; [http://www.sfsu.edu/~safe_plc](http://www.sfsu.edu/~safe_plc) Counseling and Psychological Services Center - (415) 338-2208; [http://psyservs.sfsu.edu](http://psyservs.sfsu.edu) For more information on your rights and available resources: [http://titleix.sfsu.edu](http://titleix.sfsu.edu)

**SF State Withdrawal from Courses Policy**

**College of Business Center for Career Services and Professional Development**
Please see this link: [http://cob.sfsu.edu/resources/career-services](http://cob.sfsu.edu/resources/career-services) or stop by BUS 137.