EC 502 A1

Macroeconomic Theory
Fall 2025
Syllabus current as of October 30, 2025

Class Time & Physical Location
Mon & Wed 12:20-1:35PM
CAS 313

Section Time & Physical Location
Fri 12:20-1:10PM
CAS 313

Course Website & Zoom Links
See Blackboard at https://learn.bu.edu

Instructor: Joaquin Blaum
jblaum@bu.edu

Instructor Office Hours
Thursdays 10:00-11AM at SSW 513
Fridays 2:00-3PM by Zoom

TA: Martin Martinez Palomino
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TA Office Hours Thursdays 5 PM
Room: Principle Center

Course Overview

The course explores theoretical and empirical issues of central importance for macroeconomics. The major topics covered in the course include economic growth, consumption and savings, investment, business cycle fluctuations, the relationship between monetary policy and output, and optimal monetary policy. Throughout the course emphasizes the implications of macroeconomic theory for macroeconomic data. Readings may include selected chapters from the textbook, class notes, and research articles.

Textbook & Readings

Romer, David. *Advanced Macroeconomics*, 4th Edition, McGraw-Hill. Recommended but not required. Note that I will post self-contained lecture notes on Blackboard.

Course Requirements

Midterm Examination (45% of Grade)

This exam will be held on **October 22 in class**.

Exam (45% of Grade)

This exam will be held on **December 10 in class**.

Problem Sets (10% of Grade)

These problem sets will be made available on the course Blackboard site, and due dates will be indicated in class and on Blackboard. You are allowed to work in groups of no more than 5 students on the problem sets. If you do work in groups, you must list your group members. Each student must turn in their own unique writeup of the solutions to receive credit.

Blackboard Grade Center

All problem sets will be made available and turned in by students using the Blackboard Grade Center. You will therefore need to remotely submit an electronic version of your solutions, either typeset or handwritten and scanned.

Accommodations

If you have a need for accommodation, please send information from the BU Office of Disability Services to me so that I can ensure you receive such accommodation.

Course Outline

- Economic Growth
  - Production Functions
  - Solow Growth Model
  - Growth Accounting
  - Convergence
  - Growth Empirics
  - Endogenous Growth
- Business Cycle Fluctuations
  - Consumption and Savings
  - Investment
  - Real Business Cycles
  - Monetary & New Keynesian Economics
  - Monetary & Fiscal Policy
  - Financial Crises & the Great Recession
  - Unemployment