

# Introductory Macroeconomics

Fall 2016

**Professor:**

Professor Ajay Shenoy  
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**Head TA:**

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**Sections:**

<p>Qing "David" Ge Teaching Assistant <a href="mailto:gge@ucsc.edu">gge@ucsc.edu</a></p> <p><u>01C</u> Tu 03:20PM-04:25PM PhysSciences 140</p> <p><u>01H</u> W 12:00PM-01:05PM Porter Acad 241</p>	<p>Luka Kocic Teaching Assistant <a href="mailto:lkocic@ucsc.edu">lkocic@ucsc.edu</a></p> <p><u>01D</u> W 12:00PM-01:05PM J Baskin Engr 156</p> <p><u>01E</u> W 01:20PM-02:25PM J Baskin Engr 156</p>	<p>Ziyu He Teaching Assistant <a href="mailto:zhe9@ucsc.edu">zhe9@ucsc.edu</a></p> <p><u>01A</u> M 05:20PM-06:25PM PhysSciences 140</p> <p><u>01B</u> M 06:40PM-07:45PM PhysSciences 140</p>
<p>Marissa Lee Teaching Practicum Student <a href="mailto:madalee@ucsc.edu">madalee@ucsc.edu</a></p> <p><u>01F</u> F 08:00AM-09:05AM J Baskin Engr 156</p>	<p>Jett Pettus Teaching Practicum Student <a href="mailto:jvpettus@ucsc.edu">jvpettus@ucsc.edu</a></p> <p><u>01G</u> W 01:20PM-02:25PM Soc Sci 2 363</p>	

**Course Information:**

Lecture: MWF 10:40-11:45, Thimann Lecture Hall 3  
Professor's office hours: Monday 1:00-3:00 PM, Rm. 455, Engineering 2

TA Office Hours (held in E2-403G):

Monday	2:30-4:30pm	Ziyu
Tuesday	1:10pm-3:10pm	David
Wednesday	3-5pm	Luka
Thursday	2-3pm	Marissa
Friday	12-1pm	Jett

## Course Description

In this course we will study the economy as a whole—that is, the macroeconomy. First we will study its behavior in the long run, considering questions such as why some economies grow while others stagnate, and how financial markets sustain economic growth. Second we will study the macroeconomy in the short run, considering questions such as why there is unemployment, why there are recessions, and how/if governments can mitigate them. Third, we will study the international economy, considering questions such as who benefits from international trade and how cross-country investment ties the world together.

## Course Objectives

By the end of this class I aim to teach you two skills:

1. *How to think like an economist*: Thinking like an economist does not mean taking any particular position on policy, but approaching policy like a scientist. This means clearly stating your assumptions about the world, following those assumptions to their logical conclusions, and assessing whether both assumptions and conclusions match the world around us. Economists get from their assumptions to their conclusions using mathematical models. More than anything, thinking like an economist means thinking in terms of models, even as you understand the limitations of each model. When you leave this class you will have some sense of what it means to continue in the economics major and of what it means to be an economist.
2. *How to solve society's problems as an economist would*: Many of you have come to UCSC hoping to make the world a better place. Knowing economics is the best way to turn hope into practical solutions. One of our jobs as economists is to propose solutions to social problems. When you leave this class you will have some sense of how economists approach society's problems, and how you can use the models you've learned to solve those problems. Though the models of this class are gross simplifications, and thus the solutions we find will have limitations, you will leave knowing how further study in economics may help you make the world a better place.

## Grading

- ✓ **Exams (60%)**: There will be one midterm worth 25% and a cumulative final exam worth 35%. The assigned final exam slot is Tuesday, December 6 from 4:00–6:00 p.m. (note that this is a 2-hour final). If you have a conflict with that exam date/time you cannot take this class. *Full final option*: You have the option of instead putting the entire weight of your exam grade (60%) on the final, essentially dropping your midterm grade. You may make this decision at any point up until 11:59 PM on Sunday, 4 Dec. Think carefully before you take this option. The final exam is cumulative; many students find it more difficult than the midterm.
- ✓ **Discussion Section (20%)**: When you enrolled in this class you signed up for a discussion section. *You must attend the section you are enrolled in.* You should expect to take a **quiz in section** that covers the material from the previous homework assignment. Your grade for each day of section

will be based on both attendance and your grade on any quiz given that day. Your lowest section grade will be dropped.

- ✓ **Homework (15%):** You have homework due most weeks. The assignment will be posted on eCommons. You must complete it and turn it in to your TA at your weekly discussion section. Homework is a chance to learn the material and (if need be) make mistakes. The TAs will grade homework for effort rather than accuracy. Your lowest homework grade will be dropped.
- ✓ **i>Clicker/REEF Quizzes (5%):** During lecture I will periodically give quizzes that you must answer using either your iClicker or REEF polling. If you do not have an iClicker, you may purchase or rent an iClicker from Baytree Bookstore. You can also sign up for REEF polling to answer the quizzes using your smart phone, laptop, or tablet. See the instructions below to register your i>Clicker or sign up for REEF. iClicker quizzes are graded on effort; that is, you will get credit for the day if you answer all of the questions, whether correct or not. The exception to this rule is **flipped classes**, where correct answers earn extra credit. **Being late is not an excuse for missing quizzes.** If I give a quiz in the first ten minutes of class and you show up fifteen minutes late, you will not get credit. I will drop the lowest 5 five days to make sure you're not penalized if you are sick or forget your device on a few occasions. **You must register your clicker by 3 October.**

### Errors in Grades

Grades will be posted regularly on eCommons. If you believe there has been a mistake in any grade you have **two weeks from the date it was posted** to bring it to the attention of your TA. After that the grade posted online stands (think of this as a statute of limitations).

### Grade Cutoffs

When the time for final grades comes, I often receive emails like this: "I'm really close to the cutoff for a [LETTER GRADE]. Is there any way my grade can be rounded up?" **Such emails will go unanswered.** There is no reason your grade should be rounded up when the grades of others are not.

### Missed Assignments

Since we drop the lowest homework and section grades, we drop the lowest 5 clicker grades, and you have the full final option for exams, **we will not be making special accommodations for illness.** If you have a long-term illness or other condition that prevents you from completing your coursework, please contact your residential college to discuss a medical withdrawal.

### Cheating

Cheating is wrong. You know it's wrong, and the University knows it's wrong. Any student caught cheating will fail the course and suffer whatever non-academic punishment the University deems appropriate. The overwhelming majority of you will never try to or want to cheat, and for your sake we will do our best to keep the playing field level.

### Grade Distribution

Exam grades will be curved to ensure the distribution of final grades is no worse than the historical distribution for introductory economics classes. Elementary game theory shows that it is in your interest to study as though there is no curve, as doing far worse than your fellow students will doom your grade.

## Readings and Lectures

The recommended textbook for this course is *Modern Principles: Macroeconomics, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition* by Tyler Cowen and Alex Tabarrok (ISBN-10: 1429239980). You can acquire a physical version at Bay Tree Bookstore or a digital version through Worth publishers. If you prefer not to buy the textbook, there are also several copies on reserve at both McHenry Library and the Science and Engineering Library.

Students often find the textbook a useful supplement to my lectures. Often I explain a concept differently from the textbook; coming to lecture and reading the textbook will give you a more complete understanding of the material. But my lectures will often go beyond what is listed in the textbook. I will place more or less emphasis on some concepts than the textbook. And in some rare cases the textbook will disagree with my lecture. Needless to say, **you are responsible for knowing the material as presented in my lecture**. Remember, I'm the one writing your exam.

We will *try* to post the lecture slides on eCommons before each lecture. Reviewing these slides beforehand and taking notes on them during lecture will help you learn the material. There will also be video recordings of each lecture posted afterwards. These recordings are meant to help you catch up if you are forced to miss a lecture. It would be foolish to skip lecture and simply watch the recordings; you have to sit through the lecture eventually, so you may as well come to lecture and get the credit for attending.

## Piazza, Email, and Questions about Course Material

We will coordinate questions and discussions through Piazza. **Any questions about course material must be posted to Piazza**. It is far more likely that everyone's questions will be answered if they are posted to the forum, as all of the TAs and I can collectively handle questions. It is also far more efficient to have your question answered publicly, as others will almost surely have the same question. In short: questions about course material emailed to us will not be answered. Sign up for the Econ 2 Piazza site at <https://piazza.com/ucsc/fall2016/econ201/home> .

Any questions about your specific situation—questions that are of no interest to others or ought not be public—should be emailed or posted as a private message to your TA.

### Online Etiquette

Before posting anything on Piazza or sending an email to me or your TA, think about whether you would be willing to say to our faces what you intend to write.

**Nothing you post to the forum is truly anonymous**. You can hide your name from your fellow students but not from me or the TAs. Posting something to the forum is like standing up and announcing it in lecture. I will not tolerate rudeness either on the forum or in lecture. If you are disrespectful towards me, the TAs, or your fellow classmates **I will ban you from the forum**. You have been warned.

### Check the Syllabus First!

Roughly 90 percent of the questions I get by email are answered in this syllabus. Please **check the syllabus first** if you have a question about course administration. The TAs and I reserve the right to answer questions already answered in this syllabus by form email.

### Ask your question to the right person, through the right medium!

Any course question emailed to me (rather than posted on Piazza), and any question that should first be asked to your TA will be answered by form email. This is not meant as a personal rebuke, but rather because I must devote my time to questions that really should be directed to me.

### i>Clicker/REEF Polling Instructions

To receive credit for the responses you submit with i>clicker or REEF polling, **you must register by 3 October**. Students who register after this day will not receive credit. For detailed instructions on how to register, go to [https://people.ucsc.edu/~azshenoy/files/econ2/iclicker\\_instructions.pdf](https://people.ucsc.edu/~azshenoy/files/econ2/iclicker_instructions.pdf).

**You must register your clicker on eCommons** (see the i>clicker menu option). This will allow me to match your responses with your name. If you're using a used clicker, there is no need for the previous owner to unregister, but you may be charged a fee to register the used remote under your name.

**REEF polling** lets you use a laptop or smart device to answer iclicker questions. You must buy a subscription to use REEF. You can sign up at <https://app.reef-education.com/#/login>. **Use your UCSC ID Number in the student ID field**. REEF Polling comes with a free 14-day trial. **In the past, students who have ordered an iClicker that will not arrive until after class starts have used the 14-day trial to participate until their iClicker arrived.**

### Course Schedule

You can find a calendar, complete with the material we will cover and the due dates of assignments, on eCommons. As assignments are posted we will make announcements through Piazza. I will try to remind you as due dates and exams approach, **but it is your responsibility to check Piazza and eCommons for assignments, due dates, and exam dates.**

### Disability Accommodation

If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please make sure the Disability Resource Center (DRC) is aware of the fact. You may contact DRC by phone at 831-459-2089 or by email at [drc@ucsc.edu](mailto:drc@ucsc.edu). If you qualify for extra time or other exam accommodations, the econ department staff will contact you shortly before each exam to tell you when and where you will take the exam.

## Counseling Services

College is stressful, and for various reasons you may need help or support. These resources can help you:

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)  
Available for all UCSC students, regardless of insurance coverage  
<http://caps.ucsc.edu/>  
831-459-2628 (for scheduling appointments, as well as 24-hour support)

Confidential Victim Advocates  
Available for all UCSC affiliates for have experienced sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking  
<http://care.ucsc.edu/>  
831-502-2273  
care.ucsc.edu

As noted under "missed assignments," if you are having stress or psychological problems that persistently affect your performance in classes, you should contact your residential college to discuss a medical withdrawal.