

Seattle University
Albers School of Business and Economics

UCOR-1600-18 Inquiry Seminar in Social Sciences
Economic Booms and Busts – An Investigation of Policy Alternatives
Autumn Quarter 2017

Contact Information

Instructor: Vladimir Dashkeev

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Office Hours: MW, 3:40 pm – 4:40 pm, Pigott 316B

Course Meetings

MWF, 10:55 am – 12:20 pm, Administration Building 203

Course Website

Announcements, lecture notes, assignments, etc. will be posted on Canvas at seattleu.instructure.com/courses/1573761.

Canvas works best with Chrome and Firefox browsers, but has compatibility issues with Safari.

Textbook

Gregory N. Mankiw Principles of Macroeconomics.

Can be substituted with Mankiw Principles of Economics, which includes additional chapters on microeconomics. Any edition starting the 5th is acceptable. I recommend the 6th edition.

Course Summary

Modern economies experience irregular fluctuations of economic activity over time. This course will focus on the question; What if anything, should governments do to moderate business cycles? The course goal is to create informed citizens who can participate in economic discourse at a high level. Course features include economic modeling, analysis of data, and critical evaluation of policy. The course consists of two modules:

1. Foundations of (macro)economics:
 - a. selected general ideas applicable both to micro- and macroeconomic analysis
 - b. specific macroeconomic foundations: definitions and data that serve as building blocks for macroeconomic models
2. Macroeconomic models and their applications:
 - a. study of selected macroeconomic models with focus on business fluctuations and government policies
 - b. application of ideas and models studied earlier in the course to macroeconomic problems United States faced in the past and/or challenged with presently

Course Learning Objectives

UCOR 1600: Inquiry Seminar in Social Sciences

Core Learning Objectives: This course helps students:

1. Understand, at an introductory level, the subjects, contents, methods, and perspectives of a Social Sciences discipline.
2. Reinforce their quantitative reasoning skills through analysis of numerical information.
3. Understand and value the breadth and diversity of academic inquiry through the study of a question in one discipline (students take several courses in different disciplines, which collectively help students understand breadth and diversity in scholarly inquiry).
4. Develop as thoughtful writers of effective academic prose.
5. Develop confidence and basic skills in public speaking.

Grading

Performance in this class is measured by the following:

2 non-comprehensive and 1 comprehensive exam, 5 quizzes, 5 homeworks, 1 group presentation, and 1 individual paper. I reserve the right to assign participation points.

Assignment	Weight, %
3 exams: short essay and problem solving exercises	17+17+16
5 quizzes: problem solving	15
5 homeworks: short essay and problem solving exercises	5
Group presentation: groups of 3 people collaborate on a 10-15 minute in-class presentation followed by a 10 minute Q&A session	15
Individual paper on the topic of your presentation: draft submitted before the presentation date and the final version – before the final exam	15

To meet the Albers School of Business and Economics requirements, grades will be curved.

Note: to succeed in this course, I expect you to do the readings indicated in the schedule **before** the class meetings.

Academic Integrity

Since group work is an important part of your learning experience, I strongly encourage you to review the course material with your classmates and work on homeworks in study groups. However, each of you should write and submit your own answers. Copy-pasting will give you no credit. Cheating on the exams will result in failure.

Use of electronic devices

Electronic devices, such as laptops or tablets, will be allowed in class for educational purposes. You are welcome to follow my lectures using course slides and/or take notes on your device. However, I reserve the right to ask you to put your device away if I feel this privilege is abused.

Please refrain from using cell phones, graphing calculators, laptops, or tablets on exams & quizzes. Four-function and scientific calculators are fine.

Assignment deadlines and extensions

If you miss an exam or quiz for a documented emergency or sports event (you will need a note from your doctor/coach), your grade for the missed test will be computed as an average from the other exam or quiz grades. There will be no make-up quizzes or exams.

Support for students with disabilities

If you have, or think you may have, a disability (including an “invisible disability” such as a learning disability, a chronic health problem, or a mental health condition) that interferes with your performance as a student in this class, you are encouraged to arrange support services and/or accommodations through Disabilities Services staff located in Loyola 100, (206) 296-5740. Disability-based adjustments to course expectations can be arranged only through this process.

Academic Resources

- Academic Integrity Tutorial
<https://www.seattleu.edu/academicintegrity>
- Library and Learning Commons (Includes Learning Assistance Programs, Research [Library] Services, Writing Center, Math Lab)
<http://www.seattleu.edu/learningcommons>

Academic policies on Registrar website

- Academic Integrity Policy
- Academic Grading Grievance Policy
<https://www.seattleu.edu/registrar/academics/performance>

Schedule (subject to change)

		Meeting the class. Course Structure.	
#1, W Sep 20	Week 1	<u>Module 1. Selected foundations of (macro)economics</u>	
#2, F Sep 22		Ch. 10, Measuring nation's income Ch. 11, Measuring the cost of living	F: HW 1 posted (ch. 10, 11)
#3, M Sep 25		Ch. 12, Production and growth	W: HW 1 due
#4, W Sep 27	Week 2	Ch. 15, Unemployment	F: Quiz 1 (ch. 10, 11)
#5, F Sep 29			
#6, M Oct 2		Ch. 13, Saving, investment, and the financial system	W: HW 2 due
#7, W Oct 4	Week 3	Ch. 16, The monetary system	F: Quiz 2 (ch. 12, 15) F: HW 3 posted (ch. 13, 16)
#8, F Oct 6			
#9, M Oct 9		Ch. 17, Money growth and inflation	
#10, W Oct 11	Week 4	W: Review for Exam 1	W: HW 3 due
#11, F Oct 13		F: Exam 1: Ch. 10-13, 15-17	

#12, M Oct 16		<u>Module 2. Macroeconomic models and their applications</u>	
#13, W Oct 18	Week 5	Ch. 18, Open economy macroeconomics: basic concepts	
#14, F Oct 20		Ch. 19, A macroeconomic theory of the open economy	F: HW 4 posted (ch. 18, 19)
#15, M Oct 23		Ch. 20, Aggregate demand and aggregate supply	W: HW 4 due
#16, W Oct 25	Week 6	Ch. 21, Influence of monetary and fiscal policy on AD	F: Quiz 4 (ch. 18, 19)
#17, F Oct 27			F: HW 5 posted (ch. 20, 21)
#18, M Oct 30		Ch. 21 (cont'd)	
#19, W Nov 1	Week 7	Ch. 22, Short-run trade-off between inflation and unemployment	W: HW 5 due
#20, F Nov 3			F: Quiz 5 (ch. 20, 21)
#21, M Nov 6		Review for Exam 2	
#22, W Nov 8	Week 8	Sample presentation (Vlad) A primer on economic databases <i>No classes on F Nov 10 -- Happy Veterans Day</i>	Paper assignment posted
#23, M Nov 13		M: Exam 2: Ch. 18-22	
#24, W Nov 15	Week 9		
#25, F Nov 17		Ch. 23, Debates over macroeconomic policy	
#26, M Nov 20	Week 10	Ch. 23 (cont'd) <i>No classes on W, F -- Happy Thanksgiving</i>	T: submit drafts of your individual paper and group presentation By M: receive my edits of your drafts
#27, M Nov 27		M: Review for Exam 3	
#28, W Nov 29	Week 11	W: Course Conference. Day 1	
#29, F Dec 1		F: Course Conference. Day 2	
W Dec 6 2-3:50 PM	Exams Week	Exam 3 (comprehensive): Ch. 10-13, 15-23	White paper due