

UCOR 1600(25) Inquiry Seminar in Social Sciences
Economic Booms and Busts - An Investigation of Policy Alternatives
Fall Quarter 2019

Contact Information

Professor: Adeliada Mehmetaj

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Office Hours: Pigott 529, MW, 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm or by appointment.

To make an appointment, please email me one day in advance.

Course Meetings

MW, 03:40 pm – 05:45 pm, Pigott 208

Course Website

Announcements, lecture notes, assignments, etc. will be posted on Canvas at <https://seattleu.instructure.com/courses/1587637>.

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

Recommended Textbook

Baumol, William J., and Blinder, Alan S. (2019). *Macroeconomics: Principles and Policy*.

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 helps 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 midterm exams and 1 comprehensive final exam, 5 class group exercises, 3 homeworks, 1 group presentation, and 1 individual paper. I reserve the right to assign participation points.

Assignment	Weight, %
3 exams: multiple choice and problem solving exercises	18+18+19
5 group exercises: problem solving	10
3 homeworks: multiple choice and problem solving exercises	15
Group presentation: groups of 2 people collaborate on a 10-15 minute in-class presentation followed by a 10 minute Q&A session	10
Individual paper on the topic of your presentation.	10

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

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

The lowest exam score will be dropped and your grade will be computed as the average of the highest two exam grades. There will be no make-up quizzes or exams. This policy should protect you if you miss an exam or quiz for a documented emergency or sports event (you will need a note from your doctor/coach).

To submit a late homework, you get 75% if submitted on the next class date, and 50% if submitted two classes following the HW's original due date. Beyond that date you get 0% for the missed homework, even if you choose to work on it and submit it anyways.

Week 7

#11 M Nov 4 Fiscal Policy. Paper Assignments Posted.

#12 W Nov 6 Fiscal Policy (cont'd). HW 2 due.

Week 8

#13 M Nov 11. *No class. Happy Veterans Day!

#14 W Nov 13 Review for Midterm 2. Group Exercise 4.

Week 9

#15 M Nov 18 Midterm 2.

#16 W Nov 20 Presentations.

Week 10

#17 M Nov 25 Monetary Policy. Group Exercise 5.

#18 W Nov 27 *No class. Happy Thanksgiving!

Week 11

#19 M Dec 2 Putting it all together. HW 3 posted. Submit Individual Paper.

#20 W Dec 4 Review for Final Exam.

***Final Exam**

Wednesday, Dec 11, 4-5:50PM, in class (Pigott 208).