

Laurence J. Kotlikoff

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Office Hours: Tues and Wed 2-3 pm, Friday 11 AM

Teaching Assistant

Atanu Bandyopadhyay

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Office Hours: W 2-4 pm

NOTE: I TRAVEL A LOT, SO PLEASE CONFIRM WHEN YOU WILL
SEE ME IN OFFICE HOURS SO I DON'T FRUSTRATE YOU.

**Economics 202
Intermediate Macroeconomics**

Fall 2010

Tues/Thurs 9:30 am - 11:00 am

CAS 222

Review Section meets
TBA

Course Description and Reading Assignment

This course provides an extension and elaboration of your previous introduction to macroeconomics. It has a big payoff -- you'll learn most of what economists know about the macro economy. The course covers economic growth, the supply of labor and capital to the economy, fiscal and monetary policy, Keynesian and other explanations of the business cycle, international trade, exchange rates and exchange rate policy, the nature of unemployment, the banking system, the role of the central bank in creating money, credit market imperfections, and firms' investment behavior.

The goal is to put you on the frontier of modern macroeconomic knowledge and research. The method is to use a single model – the life-cycle growth model – to consider all the key issues in macroeconomics and their interrelationships.

Reading Assignment

The required texts are 1) the second edition of Macroeconomics - An Integrated Approach, written by myself and Alan Auerbach, a Professor of Economics at the University of California, Berkeley; 2) Study Guide to Macroeconomics – An Integrated Approach written by Debra Moore Patterson, 3) The Coming Generational Storm written by myself and Scott Burns, Dallas Morning News personal finance columnist, and 4) Jimmy Stewart Is Dead, written by myself.

We'll also be using www.esplanner.com/basic -- a free, personal financial planning program developed by my company. We'll use it in examining life-cycle saving and consumption.

Finally, I'll be assigning some op eds and blogs posted at www.kotlikoff.net.

My goal is to cover a chapter of the book each week. The reading assignment for the first week is Chapter 1; the reading assignment for the second week is Chapter 2, etc. We may go slower or faster than a chapter a week, so I will keep you posted in class on which chapter you should be reading. Each chapter builds on the previous chapter.

Teaching Assistants, Section Meetings, and Problem Sets

We will have an excellent teaching assistant, who will be responsible for grading problem sets as well as the midterm and final exams. The TA's contact info is TBA. Any complaints about grading must be taken up with the teaching assistant before I will consider them. The teaching assistant will conduct section meetings periodically.

The time and location of sections will be announced shortly. You are expected to attend the sections. The sections will review answers to the problem sets and midterm, answer questions that you may have, and present additional analysis of course material. The problem sets for each chapter are the numerical and analytical questions found in the Study Guide for that chapter. The first problem set is due on **Thursday, September 14th**.

Examinations and Grades

The course will have midterm and final exams. Each problem set will be graded based on effort, not whether you answered the questions perfectly correctly. You are free to work with your classmates on the problem sets. The grades for problem sets will account for 20 percent of your final grade. Problem sets handed in late, without a medical or other reasonable excuse, such as a religious holiday, will receive lower grades. The midterm will account for 35 percent of your final grade, and the final will account for 45 percent.

The midterm will be held in class on Tuesday, October 26.
The final exam will be held on TBA.

While you are strongly encouraged to collaborate with your classmates on the

problem sets as well as to study for the exams, no collaboration of any kind is permitted during exams. The CAS Academic Conduct Code is available for your perusal at CAS 105. Any suspected academic misconduct will be reported to the Dean's office.

Class Attendance and Requirements

Class attendance is required. Failure to attend classes without medical excuses will have a *very* negative repercussion on your final grade. I will be taking attendance periodically, and I take attendance very seriously.

Math Requirement

The course involves a modicum of 10th-grade algebra. Page 82 of the text reviews all the algebra used in the course. Each of you will need a hand calculator that takes exponents. While some calculus will occasionally be used in class as an additional method for showing particular theoretical relationships, knowledge of calculus is not a pre-requisite for the course, nor will the exams or other course work require knowledge of calculus.

Office Hours

My office hours are 2-3:00pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Friday, 11 AM or by appointment. My secretary is Norma Hardeo. Please call her at 617 353-4623 to schedule an appointment. My office is Room 300, 264 Bay State Rd. My office phone is 353-4002. The teaching assistant's office hours are TBA.