Macroeconomic Theory, Econ 102

François Geerolf UCLA

Lectures: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2-3:15pm, Dodd Hall Room 147.

Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:15-4:15pm. (Bunche 8389)

Website: https://moodle2.sscnet.ucla.edu/course/view/18S-ECON102-1.

Prerequisites: Econ 101.

Textbook: Olivier Blanchard's *Macroeconomics*, 7th Edition, without MyLab http://www.mypearsonstore.com/bookstore/macroeconomics-9780133780581 (Ebook ISBN: 978-0-13-383799-5; Print ISBN: 978-0-13-378058-1; Print ISBN: 978-0-13-383801-5).

Graduate Student Instructors:

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Course description. In this course we will examine the forces that determine economic activity in the short-run, the medium run and the long run. Particular emphasis will be placed on the most recent recession associated with the 2007-2009 global financial crisis, to stabilization policies, and the determinants of unemployment and inflation. I will emphasize issues related to open economy macroeconomics, and those which are relevant to policymaking – such as fiscal policy and monetary policy. The class will mostly be concept-based, and will involve some empirical analysis. I will emphasize the importance of macroeconomic statistics, and how to study and interpret them. I will also stress how different macroeconomic theories can be put to scientific testing, and how to choose between competing schools of thought through rigorous statistical testing.

Course Objectives. My objective is that, by the end of the course, you will be able to read, and critically assess writings from *The Economist*, *The Wall Street Journal*, or the *New*

York Times. The bibliography below suggests some readings in relation with the theme of the class. Macroeconomics is everywhere in the news, and I hope to be able to go through the tools you need to understand it better. I will try to be as transparent as possible on which questions have reached broad consensus among macroeconomists (incentives matter, capital accumulation increases GDP, etc.), and which have not (is public debt too high in advanced economies? do Americans save enough? etc.). However, in all these cases I shall give you some arguments for and against each side of the debate, hoping that you will be able to make a more informed opinion.

Prerequisites. A strict prerequisite for the class is that you have taken Econ 101. If you do not meet this prerequisite, you are advised to take this course during another term. You should also be familiar with some elementary mathematics. For example, you need to know what a logarithm i. Olivier Blanchard's *Macroeconomics*, 7th Edition has a mathematical appendix page A-7 (Appendix 2 - A math refresher). We shall review these tools during the beginning-of-quarter TA review sessions, but it is best if you start studying them as soon as possible.

Need Help? If you have any question about the material covered during the course, you should consider the following options in order:

- 1. First, you should never refrain from asking questions during class.
- 2. Second, you may ask questions during <u>recitation sections</u>. The smaller group should allow you to ask questions more freely. Our teaching assistants are all passionate graduate students, writing a phD thesis on macroeconomics or other related subjects, so they will be very happy to help you.
- 3. Third, TAs will hold their office hours. The time of their office hours is available on the Moodle platform.
- 4. Fourth, you should **feel free to ask questions on the discussion board (not by email)**. We will never respond to questions about contents by email (especially those starting with "is X, Y, Z, test material"), because doing so would be unfair to the rest of the class. In contrast, we commit to respond to all questions on the Moodle Website within 24 hours (either me or the TAs will). Beware! You should start studying for the midterm exam earlier than April 29, 2018 we will stop answering questions at 6pm the day before each exam (either the midterm on April 30, or the final on June 14).
- 5. Finally, I will hold regular office hours on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, after the class, in my office 8389, from 3:15 to 4:15pm.

Readings. There is one textbook for this course, copies of which have been ordered at the UCLA Bookstore: Olivier Blanchard's *Macroeconomics*, 7th Edition (without Mylab). The chapters from the class will more or less follow the textbook. Readings are indicated at the end of this syllabus, with a bibliography. Only the material indicated with a parker is compulsory reading, and therefore, potentially examinable.

I strongly suggest that you practice from the end of chapter Problems in the Blanchard textbook, in order to prepare for the exam. Some of them will be covered during recitation The Blanchard textbook is also available as an eBook at a lower price; however eBooks cannot be sold back at the end of the quarter. If you choose to use an older edition you are responsible for any differences in the material: having an older edition of the book will not constitute an acceptable excuse for missed homework, or poor performance in the exam.

Exams. Everything that I say during the class, that is covered during recitation sections, is potentially examinable. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that you attend all lectures! It is encouraged to take notes during the class. As for practicalities: sufficient space will be provided on the sheets to answer. No notes, no books, no smartphones, no calculators, will be allowed during the exam. You need to bring a **Scantron 882-E** for multiple choice questions. You **must** bring your UCLA ID in order to take the exam. Without a UCLA ID, you will not be allowed to take the exam.

Final Grade. Your final grade has two components: one midterm exam, and a comprehensive final exam. Your final grade will be given by whichever of these two options gives you the best grade: (Midterm (30%) + Final Exam (70%)) or (Final Exam (100%)). In any case, there will be **no makeup exams**. If a midterm exam is missed due to a **documented** serious illness or emergency, the final exam will be worth 100 % of your grade. Note that attending the midterm is like an "option value": you are necessarily better off attending the midterm, no matter what your grade is.

Grade Distribution. As an indication, I will be using roughly the official UCLA Economics Department grade distribution for core classes (Econ 1, 2, 11, 41, 101, 102, 103): (A+/A/A-: 25%), (B+/B/B-: 35%), (C+/C/C-: 25%), (Ds/Fs: 15%).

Regrade Policy. Students who wish to have their midterm or their final examinations regraded should submit a request in written form to their assigned Graduate Student Instructor, clearly explaining why they think they deserve a regrade. If a student requests a regrade, the whole exam will be regraded. Therefore, the grade can increase or decrease.

Other. For more details about policies regarding grading, exams and other matters please refer to the following link: https://www.econ.ucla.edu/undergraduate/. I will adhere to the guidelines specified in this webpage. If you wish to request an accommodation due to a suspected or documented disability, please contact the Center for Accessible Education as soon as possible at A255 Murphy Hall, (310) 825-1501, (310) 206-6083 (telephone device for the deaf). Website: http://www.cae.ucla.edu/

Preliminary Course Time Table

(Tentative, subject to change)

Date	Topics / Review sessions	Readings
April 2, 2018 April 4, 2018	 Math refresher / Intro to Econometrics What is Macroeconomics? The Goods Market 	App 2-3 Ch 1-2 Ch 3
April 9, 2018 April 11, 2018	2) An introduction to the NIPA 3 - Financial Markets 4 - Goods and Financial Markets: the IS-LM Model	App 1 Ch 4 Ch 5
April 16, 2018 April 18, 2018	3) Multipliers5 - Financial Markets, Aggregate Demand and the Crisis6 - The Labor Market	Ch 6 Ch 7
April 23, 2018 April 25, 2018	4) Midterm Review Session7 - The Phillips Curve, Unemployment, and Inflation8 - The IS-LM PC Model	Ch 8 Ch 9
April 30, 2018 May 2, 2018	5) The Medium Run Midterm Exam: The Short & Medium Run 9 - The Facts of Growth	Ch 10
May 7, 2018 May 9, 2018	6) The Facts of Growth10 - Saving, Capital Accumulation and Output11 - Technological Progress	Ch 11 (Ch 12-13)
May 14, 2018 May 16, 2018	7) Solow Model 12 - Expectations 13 - Openness in Goods and Financial Markets	(Ch 14-15-16) Ch 17
May 21, 2018 May 23, 2018	8) Openness 1 14 - The Goods Market in an Open Economy 15 - Output, the Interest Rate, and the Exchange Rate	Ch 18 Ch 19
May 28, 2018 May 30, 2018	9) Openness 2 Memorial Day 16 - Exchange Rate Regimes	Ch 20
June 4, 2018 June 6, 2018	10) Final Review Session17 - Fiscal Policy18 - Twin Deficits	(Ch 21-22)
June 14, 2018	Comprehensive Final Exam (3pm - 6pm)	

Bibliography

(updated throughout the quarter)

This bibliography is preliminary and will be updated throughout the quarter. Only the material indicated with the sign $^{\bowtie}$ is compulsory reading, and therefore, potentially examinable. $^{\bowtie}$ $^{$

1 What is Macroeconomics?

Lecture 1. Link

Appendix 1: An introduction to the NIPA. Link

Chapter 1-2, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

Chapter 2, Problems 4, 5, and 6, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

Chapter 2, Problem 3, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

The Economics of Well Being, Harvard Business Review. Link

G.D.P. R.I.P., The New York Times, August 9, 2009. Link

Keeping up with the Karumes, The Economist, October 29th, 2015. Link

△ Abraham, Katharine G. "Distinguished Lecture on Economics in Government-What We Don't Know Could Hurt Us: Some Reflections on the Measurement of Economic Activity." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 19, no. 3 (September 2005): 3–18. Link

© Guerrieri, V., and H. Uhlig. "Chapter 17 - Housing and Credit Markets: Booms and Busts." In Handbook of Macroeconomics, edited by John B. Taylor and Harald Uhlig, 2:1427–96. Elsevier, 2016. Link

2 The Goods Market

Lecture 2. Link

The Keynesian Cross. Link

Chapter 3, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

The Chapter 3, Problems 5, 6, 7, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

Chapter 3, Problems 4, 8, 9, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

Chapter 3, Problem 10, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

Keynes, John Maynard. The Economic Consequences of the Peace, 1919. Link

Keynes, John Maynard. The General Theory of Employment, Interest, and Money, 1936. Link

In Japan, the Government Gets Paid to Borrow Money, Wall Street Journal, March 1, 2016. Link

What Is Keynesian Economics?, Finance & Development, September 2014, Sarwat Jahan, Ahmed Saber Mahmud, and Chris Papageorgiou. Link

3 Financial Markets

- Lecture 3. Link
- Chapter 4, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

Emptying the tills, The Economist, August 11th, 2016. Link

- Chapter 4, Problem 7, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.
- Minutes of the Federal Open Market Committee, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, January 30-31, 2018. Link

4 Goods and Financial Markets: the IS-LM Model

- Lecture 4. Link
- The Paradox of Thrift. Link
- Deficit Reduction and Investment. Link
- Chapter 5, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.
- ** Chapter 5, Problems 2, 3, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.
- ** Chapter 5. Problem 11. Macroeconomics. 7th Edition. Olivier Blanchard.
- Chapter 5, Problem 5, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.
- The Paradox of Thrift for real, Paul Krugman, The New York Times, July 7, 2009. Link
- "Fear the Boom and Bust": Keynes vs. Hayek Rap Battle. Link
- Hicks, J. R. "Mr. Keynes and the 'Classics'; A Suggested Interpretation." Econometrica 5, no. 2 (1937): 147–59. Link
- © Christiano, Lawrence J., Martin Eichenbaum, and Charles Evans. "The Effects of Monetary Policy Shocks: Evidence from the Flow of Funds." The Review of Economics and Statistics 78, no. 1 (1996): 16–34. Link
- Christiano, Lawrence J., Martin Eichenbaum, and Charles L. Evans. "Chapter 2 Monetary Policy Shocks: What Have We Learned and to What End?" In Handbook of Macroeconomics, 1:65–148. Elsevier, 1999. Link
- [™] Keynes Useful Economics for the World Economy, Peter Temin and David Vines, MIT Press, 2014. Link

5 Financial Markets, Aggregate Demand and the Crisis

- Lecture 5. Link
- Chapter 6, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.
- Chapter 6, Problem 7, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

Chapter 6, Problem 8, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine, Michael Lewis, W. W. Norton & Company, March 15, 2010. Link

The Big Short, Adam McKay, 2015. Link Excerpts: Link 1, Link 2. Michael Burry's UCLA Economics Commencement 2012. Link

I Saw the Crisis Coming. Why Didn't the Fed?, Michael J. Burry, *The New York Times*, April 3, 2010. Link

The Financial Crisis Inquiry Report, January 2011. Link

6 The Labor Market

- Lecture 6. Link
- Chapter 7, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.
- Blanchard Olivier, and Wolfers Justin. "The Role of Shocks and Institutions in the Rise of European Unemployment: The Aggregate Evidence." The Economic Journal 110, no. 462 (December 25, 2001): 1–33. Link

What We Know About the 92 Million Americans Who Aren't in the Labor Force, Wall Street Journal, Oct 21, 2015. Link

7 The Phillips Curve, Unemployment, and Inflation

- Lecture 7. Link
- Chapter 8, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.
- Phillips, A. W. "The Relation Between Unemployment and the Rate of Change of Money Wage Rates in the United Kingdom, 1861-1957." Economica 25, no. 100 (November 1, 1958): 283–99. Link
- Samuelson, Paul A., and Robert M. Solow. "Analytical Aspects of Anti-Inflation Policy." The American Economic Review 50, no. 2 (1960): 177–94. Link
- Friedman, Milton. "The Role of Monetary Policy." The American Economic Review 58, no. 1 (1968): 1–17. Link
- Lucas, Robert E., and Thomas J. Sargent. "After Keynesian Macroeconomics." In Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, 49–72, 1978. Link
- [⊗] Blanchard, Olivier, and Justin Wolfers. "The Role of Shocks and Institutions in the Rise of European Unemployment: The Aggregate Evidence." The Economic Journal 110, no. 462 (December 25, 2001): 1–33. Link

Phillips Curve Doesn't Help Forecast Inflation, Fed Study Finds, *Bloomberg Markets*, August 24, 2017. Link

The Phillips curve may be broken for good, *The Economist*, November 1, 2017. Link The Phillips hydraulic machine. Link

8 The IS-LM PC Model

Lecture 8. Link

Chapter 9, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

The Chapter 9, Problems 3, 4, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

Chapter 9, Problems 7, 9, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

Chapter 24, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

How to Teach Intermediate Macroeconomics after the Crisis?, Olivier Blanchard, June 2, 2016. Link

Blanchard, Olivier, Eugenio Cerutti, and Lawrence Summers. "Inflation and Activity – Two Explorations and Their Monetary Policy Implications." Working Paper. National Bureau of Economic Research, November 2015. Link

Larry Summers: Advanced economies are so sick we need a new way to think about them, *The Washington Post*, November 3, 2015. Link

9 The Facts of Growth

Lecture 9. Link

Chapter 10, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

The Chapter 11, Problems 3, 4, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

Chapter 11, Problem 2, 6, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

Chapter 11, Problem 8, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

Foreign Investment in Africa, The Economist, January 23, 2015. Link

Henderson, J. Vernon, Adam Storeygard, and David N. Weil. "Measuring Economic Growth from Outer Space." *American Economic Review* 102, no. 2 (April 2012): 994–1028. Link

10 Saving, Capital Accumulation and Output

Lecture 10. Link

The Solow Growth Model. Link

Chapter 11, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

The Chapter 11, Problems 6, 7, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

☆☆ Chapter 11, Problem 8, 9, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

Chapter 11, Problem 10, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

Tu'ppence, Mary Poppins, 1964. Link

Capital/Labor Substitution in Practice, Wall Street Journal, October 6, 2013. Link

Garon, Sheldon. Beyond Our Means: Why America Spends While the World Saves. Princeton University Press, 2012. Link

Solow, Robert M. "A Contribution to the Theory of Economic Growth." The Quarterly Journal of Economics 70, no. 1 (1956): 65–94. Link

The paradox of the paradox of thrift, The Economist, November 18, 2009. Link

11 Technological Progress

Lecture 11. Link

Chapters 12-13, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

Romer, Paul M. "Endogenous Technological Change." Journal of Political Economy 98, no. 5, Part 2 (October 1, 1990): S71–102. Link

A question of utility, The Economist, August 8 2015. Link

Time to fix patents, The Economist, August 8 2015. Link

Economists understand little about the causes of growth, The Economist, April 12, 2018. Link

12 Expectations

Lecture 12. Link

Chapters 14-15-16, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

© Giavazzi, Francesco, and Marco Pagano. "Can Severe Fiscal Contractions Be Expansionary? Tales of Two Small European Countries." NBER Macroeconomics Annual 5 (January 1, 1990): 75–111. Link

Alesina, Alberto, Roberto Perotti, Francesco Giavazzi, and Tryphon Kollintzas. "Fiscal Expansions and Adjustments in OECD Countries." Economic Policy 10, no. 21 (1995): 207–48.

Leigh, Daniel, Pete Devries, Charles Freedman, Jaime Guajardo, Douglas Laxton, and Andrea Pescatori. "Will It Hurt? Macroeconomic Effects of Fiscal Consolidation." World Economic Outlook 93 (2010): 124. Link

Cutting edge, The Economist, September 30, 2010. Link

13 Openness in Goods and Financial Markets

Lecture 13. Link

Chapter 17, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

 $\stackrel{\smile}{\bowtie}\stackrel{\smile}{\bowtie}\stackrel{\smile}{\bowtie}$ Chapter 17, Problems 2, 4, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

☆☆ Chapter 17, Problem 5, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

Chapter 17, Problem 7, 8, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

On the hamburger standard, The Economist, September 6, 1986. Link

Paul Krugman, Marc Melitz, Maurice Obstfeld, Prentice Hall, International Economics, Theory and Policy, 11th edition. Link

14 The Goods Market in an Open Economy

Chapter 18, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

The Chapter 18, Problems 7, 8, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

Chapter 18, Problem 3, 6, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

Chapter 18, Problem 9, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

European leaders seem determined to remake the "global savings glut" on a massive scale, Financial Times, November 8, 2017. Link

15 Output, the Interest Rate, and the Exchange Rate

Chapter 19. Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

Chapter 19, Problems 5, 6, 7, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

Chapter 19, Problem 4, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

Turkish lira strikes historic low after more than 1% drop, Financial Times, April 5, 2018. Link

16 Exchange Rate Regimes

Chapter 20, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

 $\stackrel{\leftarrow}{\bowtie} \stackrel{\leftarrow}{\bowtie} \stackrel{\leftarrow}{\bowtie} \text{Chapter 20, Problems 2, 3, } \textit{Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.}$

A Chapter 20, Problem 4, 5, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

Chapter 20, Problem 7, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

Temin, Peter. "Transmission of the Great Depression." Journal of Economic Perspectives 7, no. 2 (June 1993): 87–102. Link

Standard solution, The Economist, September 23rd 2010. Link

17 Fiscal Policy

Chapter 21-22, Macroeconomics, 7th Edition, Olivier Blanchard.

There is no significant budget deficit, Olivier Blanchard, Jeffrey Sachs, New York Times, March 6, 1981. Link

Why Are US Interest Rates High and Rising?, Martin Feldstein. Link

Government Spending Is No Free Lunch, Robert J. Barro, Wall Street Journal, January 22, 2009. Link

Blanchard, Olivier; Cottarelli, Carlo (24 June 2010). "Ten Commandments for Fiscal Adjustment in Advanced Economies". Link

The Fiscal Stimulus, Flawed but Valuable, Christina D. Romer, New York Times, October 20, 2012. Link

How the Case for Austerity Has Crumbled, Paul Krugman, *The New York Review of Books*, June 6, 2013. Link

The Austerity Delusion, Paul Krugman, *The Guardian*, April 29, 2015. Link Ignored for Years, a Radical Economic Theory Is Gaining Converts, *Bloomberg*, March 13, 2016. Link

"Bigger Deficits Don't Always Mean Disaster", Justin Fox, Bloomberg View, April 10, 2018. Link

18 Twin Deficits

US urges IMF to reduce trade imbalances, *Financial Times*, April 21, 2018. Link Mnuchin Urges IMF to 'Step Up to the Plate' in Fair Trade Debate, Bloomberg, April 20, 2018. Link

Autor, David H., David Dorn, and Gordon H. Hanson. "The China Syndrome: Local Labor Market Effects of Import Competition in the United States." American Economic Review 103, no. 6 (October 2013): 2121–68. Link