

Course Outline

Economics 724: Macroeconomic Theory II

This is the required second term Macro course for Ph.d. students. The course includes an introductory treatment of dynamic programming as well as some basic computational techniques using MATLAB. We will continue our study of theories that help explain business cycle fluctuations from last term. Some additional topics will also be covered that change from year to year. The course is divided into two 6 week sections taught by different instructors.

Course Information

Instructors: Alok Johri and Cesar Sosa-Padilla
Classes: Monday 12:00-3:00.
Office Hours: by appointment.
E-mail: johria@mcmaster.ca and cesarsp@mcmaster.ca
Extension: 23830 and 23816

Evaluation

There will be two midterm exams, the second one will be held during the final exam period but will not be cumulative. For Prof. Sosa-Padilla's section, the midterm exam will be worth 30% of your final grade, and the term project will be worth 20% of your final grade. For Prof. Johri's section, the midterm exam will be worth 20% of your final grade. A term project will be worth 15%. The remaining 15% will be based on your performance on in-class discussion. We want you to work in groups of two students (depending on class size) for both projects, which involve the use of MATLAB.

Course Structure

Profs. Johri and Sosa-Padilla will take turns in teaching the material to you (roughly 6 weeks each). Everyone is expected to read the assigned material before coming to class and have well defined questions to ask the others. Moreover you should expect that we will ask you questions about the material whether it is your turn to present or not. Your preparedness for class will be assessed continuously.

You should prepare a short note of a paragraph or two discussing the contribution of each paper and how it fits into the literature before the class in which the paper is discussed. This will help you during class discussions and provide a useful tool for the final exam and comprehensive exam in the future. You should expect to be called on to present your ideas on a regular basis. You should expect to be interrupted by me (or others) as we seek clarification and ensure that all the main issues in the paper get discussed in the time allotted to it.

Timeline

The first section taught by Prof. Sosa-Padilla will run from January 11th till February 22nd. The first midterm exam is on February 29th. There is no class on February 15th (winter break). The second section will run for the next 6 weeks and will be taught by Prof. Johri from March 7th to April 4th. The date of the second midterm exam will be announced along with final exam schedule.

Reading lists will be provided by both instructors separately and will be posted on the Avenue page for the course.