

**Macroeconomic Theory  
ECO 701  
Section 1**

**MW 5:30 to 6:45 PM  
CBC C114**

**Stephen M. Miller  
BEH 508 (Office)  
(702) 895-3969 (Office)  
(702) 895-1354 (Fax)**

**[stephen.miller@unlv.edu](mailto:stephen.miller@unlv.edu) (E-Mail)**

**<http://www.unlv.edu/faculty/smiller/> (Home Page)**

**<https://webcampus.nevada.edu/webct/entryPage.dowebct> (Web Campus)**

**Spring 2008**

**Text:** *Macroeconomics*, sixth edition, Andrew B. Abel and Ben S. Bernanke, Pearson/Addison-Wesley 2005.

**Teaching**

**Philosophy:** My philosophy flows from three assumptions about the teaching and learning process. First, the instructor must invest sufficient time to develop an up-to-date, comprehensive, challenging, and accessible course. To fulfill this obligation, the instructor must keep current in the developments in the field, both in research findings and teaching methods. Second, the student must invest sufficient time to learn and absorb the course content. To fulfill this obligation, the student must commit to attend class on a consistent basis, to finish all reading and ungraded homework in a timely manner, and to complete all graded course requirements on time. Third, university students must shoulder the burden for fulfilling their end of the bargain. That is, the instructor must assume that the students are adults, responsible for their own actions and behavior.

**Learning**

**Objectives:** Students who successfully complete this course will understand how to use basic macroeconomic models to consider monetary and fiscal policy questions. Those macroeconomic models rely on several aggregate markets -- labor, goods, and asset markets. The analyses will consider both long-run growth and short-run stabilization issues. Further, while much of the discussion focuses on a closed economy, considerable attention is also given to open economy macroeconomic analysis.

**Office Hours:** MW 1:30 to 3:00 PM and by appointment

**Evaluation:** The course grade will include four components – data analyses, problem sets, brief summaries of research articles, and exams. You will have four (4) data analyses and four (4) problem sets during the semester (25 points each). You will also have two (2) journal articles to write brief summaries and to rewrite and edit for a second submission (50 points each). Finally, you will have a mid-term and (non-cumulative) final (100 points each). Your final grade will be an average of all components (500 points total).

**WebCampus:** This course is a WebCampus course. I will post the course outline, homework assignments, other handouts, and so on at the WebCampus site. You can access this site 24/7, except for scheduled maintenance on the system and unexpected downtimes due to technical glitches.

**Academic**

**Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating and plagiarism) will not be tolerated. At the instructor's discretion, a student suspected of academic dishonesty may receive an F for the course and be expelled from the class. Additional penalties, up to expulsion from the University, are possible.

**Copyright and**

**Fair Use:** The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves with and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The University will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability as well as disciplinary action under University policies. To help familiarize yourself with copyright and fair use policies, the University encourages you to visit and familiarize yourself with its copyright web page at: <http://www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright>.

**Disabilities:** If you have a documented disability that may require assistance, you will need to contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) for coordination in your academic accommodations. Disabilities Services is located within Learning Enhancement Services (LES), in the Reynolds Student Services Complex, Suite 137. The phone number is 895-0866 or TDD 895-0652. The e-mail address is [drcssc@ccmail.nevada.edu](mailto:drcssc@ccmail.nevada.edu).

### **Course Outline and Readings:**

- I. Introduction (1½ weeks)
  - A. Method of Analysis
  - B. Measurement Issues
    - 1. Trends and Cycles
    - 2. National Income Accounting
    - 3. Saving and Investment
    - 4. Price Level and Interest Rates
    - 5. Employment and Unemployment

**Readings:**

1. Abel and Bernanke (AB), Chapters 1, 8, 2, 5 (pp. 173-185), and 3 (pp. 93-100).
2. Nelson and Plosser, "Trends and Random Walks in Macroeconomic Time Series: Some Evidence and Implications," *Journal of Monetary Economics*, September 1982.
3. Perron, "The Great Crash, the Oil Price Shock, and the Unit Root Hypothesis," *Econometrica*, November 1989.
4. Moore and Shiskin. "Indicators of Business Expansions and Contractions," National Bureau of Economic Research, 1967.
5. Dua and Miller, "Forecasting and Analyzing Economic Activity with Coincident and Leading Indexes: The Case of Connecticut," *Journal of Forecasting*, December 1996.
6. Fang and Miller, "The Great Moderation and the Relationship between Output Volatility and Growth," *Southern Economic Journal*, in press, 2008 (posted on my home page).

- II. Microeconomics of Macroeconomics (2½ weeks)

- A. Labor Market
  - 1. Demand for Labor
  - 2. Supply of Labor
  - 3. Market Equilibrium
- B. Goods Markets

1. Consumption Demand
2. Investment Demand
3. Saving Equals Investment
- C. Asset Markets
  1. Demand for Money
  2. Supply of Money
  3. Market Equilibrium

**Readings:**

1. AB, Chapters 3 (pp. 62-93), 4, 4A, 5 (pp. 185-204), 7, and 14 (pp. 529-540).
2. Friedman, *The Theory of the Consumption Function*, Princeton University Press, 1957.
3. Ando and Modigliani, "The 'Life-Cycle' Hypothesis of Saving: Aggregate Implication and Tests," *American Economic Review*, March 1963.
4. Hall, "Stochastic Implications of the Life Cycle--Permanent Income Hypothesis: Theory and Evidence," *Journal of Political Economy*, December 1978.
5. Witte, "The Micro-Foundations of the Social Investment Function," *Journal of Political Economy*, October 1963.
6. Jorgenson, "Capital Theory and Investment Behavior," *American Economic Review*, May 1963.
7. Tobin and Brainard, "Asset Markets and the Cost of Capital," in Balassa and Nelson, eds., *Economic Progress, Private Values and Public Policy: Essays in Honor of William Fellner*, New York: North Holland, 1977.
8. Baumol, "The Transactions Demand for Cash: An Inventory Theoretic Approach," *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, November 1952.
9. Tobin, "The Interest Elasticity of the Transactions Demand for Cash," *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, August 1956.
10. Tobin, "Liquidity Preference as Behavior Towards Risk," *Review of Economic Studies*, February 1958.
11. Friedman, "The Quantity Theory of Money: A Restatement," in Friedman, *Studies in the Quantity Theory of Money*, 1956.
12. Miller, "Financial Innovation, Depository-Institution Deregulation, and the Demand for Money," *Journal of Macroeconomics*, Summer 1986.
13. Miller, "Disequilibrium Macroeconomics, Money as a Buffer Stock, and the Estimation of Money Demand," *Journal of Macroeconomics*, Fall 1990.
14. Miller, "Monetary Dynamics: An Application of Co-Integration and Error-Correction Modeling," *Journal of Money, Credit and Banking*, May 1991.

III. Long-Run Growth (1 week)

- A. Determinants of Economic Growth
  1. Labor
  2. Capital
  3. Technology
- B. Potential GDP
- C. Neo-Classical Growth Models
  1. Solow Model
  2. Optimal Growth Model
  3. Overlapping Generations Model
- D. Endogenous Growth Models
- E. Convergence Hypothesis
  1. Absolute Convergence
  2. Conditional Convergence

**Readings:**

1. AB, Chapter 6.

2. Mankiw, "The Growth of Nations," *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity*, (1) 1995 and Comments by Phelps and Romer.
3. Barro and Sala-i-Martin, "Convergence" *Journal of Political Economy*, April 1992.
4. Miller and Upadhyay, "Total Factor Productivity and the Convergence Hypothesis," *Journal of Macroeconomics*, June 2002
5. Miller and Russek, "Fiscal Structures and Economic Growth: International Evidence," *Economic Inquiry*, July 1997.
6. Miller, "A Note on Cross-Country Growth Regressions," *Applied Economics*, August 1996;

IV. Generic Macroeconomic Model (2 weeks)

- A. Aggregate Demand (AD)
  1. Goods market Equilibrium (IS)
  2. Money Market Equilibrium (LM)
- B. Aggregate Supply (AS)
  1. Short-Run Aggregate Supply (SRAS)
  2. Long-Run Aggregate Supply (LRAS)
- C. Macroeconomic Equilibrium
  1. Long- and Short-Run Equilibrium

**Readings:**

1. AB, Chapter 9 and 9A.

V. Alternative Interpretations of Generic Macroeconomic Model (3 weeks)

- A. Classical Interpretation
  1. Misperceptions Model and SRAS
  2. Long- and Short-Run Equilibrium
- B. Keynesian Interpretation
  1. Sticky Wages and Prices
  2. Long- and Short-Run Equilibrium

**Readings:**

1. AB, Chapters, 10, 11, 11A, and 11B.

VI. Unemployment and Inflation (1 week)

- A. Expectations Augmented Phillips Curve
  1. Imperfect Information and Rational Expectations
    - a. Lucas Supply Curve
    - b. Friedman-Phelps Phillips Curve
  2. Policy Implications
    - a. Anticipated Versus Unanticipated Policy
- B. Dynamic IS-LM-AS Model without LM Curve
  1. Inflation replaces price level
  2. Monetary policy reaction curve replaces money market equilibrium (LM Curve)

**Readings:**

1. AB, Chapter 12.
2. Lucas, "Expectations and the Neutrality of Money," *Journal of Economic Theory*, April 1972.
3. Lucas, "Some International Evidence on Output-Inflation Tradeoffs," *American Economic Review*, June 1973.
4. Friedman, "The Role of Monetary Policy," *American Economic Review*, March 1968.
5. Phelps, "Money Wage Dynamics and Labor Market Equilibrium," *Journal of Political Economy*, July-August 1968.

6. Sargent and Wallace, "Rational Expectations, the Optimal Monetary Instrument, and the Optimal Money Supply Rule," *Journal of Political Economy*, April 1975.
7. Barro, "Rational Expectations and the Role of Monetary Policy," *Journal of Monetary Economics*, January 1976.
8. Barro, "Unanticipated Money, Output, and the Price Level in the United States," *Journal of Political Economy*, August 1978.
9. Romer, "Keynesian Macroeconomics without the LM Curve." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Spring 2000.
10. Romer, "Short-Run Fluctuations," text, <http://www.econ.berkeley.edu/~dromer/index.shtml>.
11. Romer, "Short-Run Fluctuations," figures, <http://www.econ.berkeley.edu/~dromer/index.shtml>.

VII. Open Economy Macroeconomic Model (1 week)

- A. Exchange Rate
  1. Purchasing Power Parity
  2. Interest Rate Parity
- B. Exchange Rate Determination
  1. Short-Run Equilibrium
  2. Long-Run Equilibrium
- C. Macroeconomic Policy
  1. Flexible Exchange Rates
  2. Fixed Exchange Rates

**Readings:**

1. AB, Chapter 13.

VIII. Macroeconomic Policy Analysis (2 weeks)

- A. Monetary Policy
  1. Central Bank Policy
  2. Rules Versus Discretion
- B. Fiscal Policy
  1. Government Budget Deficits and Debt
  2. Government Deficits and Inflation

**Readings:**

1. AB, Chapters 14 (541-568) and 15.
2. Poole, "The Optimal Choice of Monetary Policy in a Simple Stochastic Macro Model," *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, May 1970.
3. Kydland and Prescott, "Rules Rather than Discretion: The Inconsistency of Optimal Plans," *Journal of Political Economy*, June 1977.
4. Lucas, "Economic Policy Evaluation: A Critique," in Brunner and Meltzer, eds. *The Phillips Curve and Labor Markets*, *Carnegie-Rochester Conference Series*, 1, Amsterdam: North Holland, 1976.
5. Friedman, B., "Targets, Instruments, and Indicators of Monetary Policy," *Journal of Monetary Economics*, October 1975.
6. Demopolous, Katsimbris, and Miller, "Monetary Policy and Central-Bank Financing of Government Budget Deficits," *European Economic Review*, July 1987.
7. Taylor, "Discretion Versus Policy Rules in Practice," *Carnegie-Rochester Conference Series on Public Policy* 39, 1993.
8. McCallum, "Recent Developments in the Analysis of Monetary Policy Rules," *Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Review*, November/December 1999.