

Course Syllabus

ECO 6382: Economic Analysis II (Macroeconomics)
Southern Methodist University, Spring 2022

Instructor: Dr. Michael Sposi

Office hours: Wednesday 3:00-4:00pm; Thursday 5:30-6:30pm

Email: msposi@smu.edu

Schedule

Class will be held on Thursday from 6:30–9:20pm. Cancellations may occur due to university closure or other reasons. A tentative schedule for lectures, assignment due dates and exams will be available on Canvas.

Description

In this course we study the aggregate behavior of macroeconomic variables that are relevant for business and policy decisions. We discuss quantities (like capital, labor, consumption, investment, output, and money) and prices (like the average price level, wages, and interest rates). Students will build a foundation to think about these objects in a systematic way, and will learn how various policies influence them in both the short run and in the long run.

Learning Outcomes

To demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of macroeconomic theory as it pertains to the national economy. Be able to discuss real-world problems using the tools learned in the classroom. Explain potential causes and consequences of technological change, economic growth, and monetary and fiscal policy on economic activity.

Communication

Canvas will serve as the official means for all communication as well as repository for relevant materials. Students may contact me by using either Canvas or direct email. I will do my best to respond within 24 hours, except on weekends and holidays.

Course Materials

Textbooks: The primary textbook for the class is: Steven Williamson, “*Macroeconomics*”, Pearson, Sixth Edition, 2018. This text book covers most of the material for the course. I will provide notes for any material that is not included in the text.

Class notes: Lectures will include examples that are not necessarily covered in the textbook, so it is important that you come to class and take notes. I will also upload my own notes covering any material that cannot be found in the textbook.

Articles: Readings will be assigned to supplement the material covered in class. These articles, or links to

them, will be made available through Canvas. The articles are fairly non-technical and summarize more technical research by economists in academia and at policy institutions.

Newspapers: Students are encouraged to regularly read the economics section of a magazine – e.g., *The Economist* – or a major newspaper – e.g., *The Financial Times* or the *The Wall Street Journal* – to familiarize yourself with current economic events, which will be used in class as an application of what we learn.

Assessment

There are three components to your final grade: 3 exams (40%); 6 Problem sets (40%); Project (20%)

Exams: Exams must be taken in-person. During the exam you may not communicate with anyone else besides the instructor or teaching assistant. No books, notes, or devices may be used, unless permission is granted by the instructor. Your two best exam scores will be counted equally toward the “Exams” component of your final grade; the lowest will be dropped. Make-up exams will not be given except for officially excused absences (see Class attendance below). In the event that you miss an exam with no official excuse, the score from your other two exams will be used by default. Exams 1 and 2 are tentatively scheduled during regular class hours, while Exam 3 will take place during finals week. For updates check the [official SMU website](#).

Problem sets: The lowest grade among the problem sets will be dropped. The remaining scores will count equally toward the “Problem set” component of your grade.

Project: You will use the programming language, “R”, to empirically test the theories that we develop in class. I will allocate class time to introduce students to R.

Class attendance: Attendance will not be counted toward your grade. However, it will not be possible to participate if you are not present and it will be extremely difficult do well without attending.

Other rules: All submitted work must meet the following criteria in order to receive full credit: (i) be submitted through Canvas in .pdf format by 6:30pm on the due date (excluding exams), (ii) be legible to myself and the grader, and (iii) show all necessary steps. If you encounter submission issues on Canvas then you can email the assignment to me before the deadline. If you have no internet access, then save your file and email it to me when you have internet connection; I will verify the electronic time stamp on the document to ensure that it was completed and saved before the deadline. If you believe that you are not given appropriate credit for your work, you are encouraged to discuss it with me and I will reassess your work. Such challenges must be presented within two weeks from when the grade is posted.

University Rules

Disability Accommodations: Students who need academic accommodations for a disability must first register with Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS). Students can call 214-768-1470 or visit smu.edu/DASS to begin the process. Once they are registered and approved, students then submit a DASS Accommodation Letter through the electronic portal, *DASS Link*, and then communicate directly with each of their instructors to make appropriate arrangements. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, but rather require advance notice in order to implement.

Sexual Harassment: All forms of sexual harassment, including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking, are violations of SMU's Title IX Sexual Harassment Policy and may also violate Texas law. Students who wish to file a complaint or to receive more information about the grievance process may contact Samantha Thomas, SMU's Title IX Coordinator, at accessequity@smu.edu or 214-768-3601. Please note that faculty and staff are mandatory reporters. If students notify faculty or staff of sexual harassment, they must report it to the Title IX Coordinator. For more information about sexual harassment, including resources available to assist students, please visit smu.edu/sexualmisconduct.

Pregnant and parenting students: Under Title IX, students who are pregnant or parenting may request academic adjustments by contacting the Office of Student Advocacy and Support by calling 214-768-4564. Students seeking assistance must schedule an appointment with their professors as early as possible, present a letter from the Office of the Dean of Students, and make appropriate arrangements. Please note that academic adjustments are not retroactive and, when feasible, require advance notice to implement.

Religious Observance: Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their professors in writing at the beginning of the semester and should discuss with them, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence. [Click here for a list of holidays.](#)

Excused Absences for University Extracurricular Activities: Students participating in an officially sanctioned, scheduled University extracurricular activity should be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments missed as a result of their participation. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor prior to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work. (See [2020-2021 SMU Undergraduate Catalog](#) under "Enrollment and Academic Records/Excused Absences.")

Academic Dishonesty: Students are expected to embrace and uphold the [SMU Honor Code](#). Violations of the Honor Code will be acted upon in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in the [Mustang Student Handbook](#).