

University of Utah
Department of Economics

ECON 6620 – MACROECONOMICS FOR MASTERS

Fall 2019
M 6:00-8:30; GC 2880

Cihan Bilginsoy
Office: 4032 GC
Office hours: W 10:00-11:15 or by appt.
Phone: (801) 581-7691
E-mail: bilginsoy@economics.utah.edu

Course objectives:

The course is a rigorous introduction to the mainstream macroeconomic theory. It will offer insights into key macroeconomic issues concerning unemployment, inflation, and stabilization in a closed economy, and assess current controversies on output fluctuations and the effectiveness of monetary and fiscal policies. The course will pay special attention to integrating the banking system into the neoclassical macroeconomic model and attempt to explain the sources and macroeconomic consequences of financial instability.

Course outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to have a solid knowledge of the analytics of the competing mainstream theories that are at the root of the current debates about the sources/mechanisms of business cycles and the appropriate policy responses.

Textbooks:

Wendy Carlin and David Soskice (CS), *Macroeconomics and the Financial System: Stability, Growth and the Role of Policy*, Oxford University Press (2015) (Required)
Brian Snowdon and Howard R. Vane (SV), *Modern Macroeconomics: Its Origins, Development and Current State*, Edward Elgar, 2005. (Suggested)
Additional readings may be assigned during the semester.

Canvas:

The syllabus, assignments, answers, economic data, grades (except final exam) and announcements will be posted on Canvas. It is the student's responsibility to check Canvas regularly. Also make sure that your mail is forwarded from Canvas to an address that you check frequently.

Course requirements:

Homework assignments	20%
Midterm Exam (Oct. 14, 75 minutes)	35%
Final exam (Dec. 9, 6:00–8:00 PM)	45%

Collusion and cheating:

Students are encouraged to cooperate with classmates in preparing for exams and solving assigned homework problems. But each student is required to turn in his/her own assignment. Cheating, plagiarism and other types of academic misconduct will be dealt with in accordance with the University regulations. For full details on procedures and penalties, see:

<http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html#SECTION%20V>.

The Americans with Disabilities Act:

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

University Safety Statement:

The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit safeu.utah.edu.

Addressing Sexual Misconduct:

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).

Course Outline and the Readings (tentative dates)

8/19-8/26	The standard classical, Keynesian, and Friedman models CS, Ch. 1. SV, pp. 36–69, 101–123.
9/9	The labor market and the Philips curve CS, Ch. 2.

	SV, pp. 174–187.
9/16	The 3-equation model and monetary policy CS, Ch. 3.
9/23	Expectations formation CS, Ch. 4.
9/30	The banking system CS, Ch. 5.
10/21	The macro-financial system and the 2008 crisis CS, Chs. 6, 7.
10/28	Economic growth CS, Ch. 8. SV, Ch. 11.
11/4	Monetary policy CS, Ch. 13.
11/11	Fiscal policy CS, Ch. 14.
11/18	The labor market and unemployment CS, Ch. 15.
11/25, 12/2	DSGE Models: Classical and “Keynesian” CS, Ch. 16 SV, Ch. 6.