

MACROECONOMIC DATA ANALYSIS

ECON 112 - Spring 2018

University of California, San Diego

Instructor: Prof. Giacomo Rondina

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Office Hours: Thursdays 2:00pm-3:30pm, Economics 226

SYLLABUS

The course examines time series methods for data analysis with an emphasis on macroeconomic applications. The aim of the class is to provide students with a basic formal introduction to modern time series techniques, hands-on experience in applying them to real-world macroeconomic data, and understanding of how to bring data to bear on policy-relevant macroeconomic theories.

This syllabus covers all the important organizational details. Further information if not specified here, will be given in class at the appropriate time.

LOGISTICS AND IMPORTANT DATES

We meet twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 am to 10:50 am in Economics 200 (Engle Room). I will hold office hours on Thursdays from 2:00pm to 3:30pm, my office is in Economics 226. There will be three in-class quizzes and one final exam. Please mark your calendar as follows:

- **Quiz 1, Tuesday April 17th, class time;**
- **Quiz 2, Tuesday May 8th, class time;**
- **Quiz 3, Tuesday May 29th, class time;**
- **Final Exam, Tuesday June 12th, from 8:00am to 11:00am.**

TEXTBOOK

The textbook for the class is “*Applied Time Series for Macroeconomics*,” by Hilde Bjornland and Leif Thorsrud, Gyldendal Publisher (2015). The book is not available for purchase in the U.S., although it can be ordered directly by writing at kundeservice@gyldendal.no. The Department of Economics has purchased enough copies of the book for each of you to borrow one. I will bring copies of the book in class for you to check out. The book must be returned to me at the end of the quarter at the time when you turn in your final writing assignment.

STATISTICAL SOFTWARE

For our statistical computations we will be using R. R is a programming language and a free and open-source software environment that is widely used worldwide. The basic software can be downloaded at <http://cran.stat.ucla.edu/>. I recommend operating R using RStudio Desktop, a free and open-source integrated development environment for R, downloadable at <https://www.rstudio.com/>.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS AND PRACTICE PROBLEMS

I will assign 5 Homework Assignments that will be graded. The purpose of Homework Assignments is twofold: (i) practice on the theoretical concepts covered in class; (ii) get you working on real data with the tools that are presented in class. The dates when the Homework Assignments will be posted and due are listed in the Class Schedule at the end of this Syllabus.

I will also post 3 Practice Problem Sets, one before each of the three quizzes. The practice problem sets will not be graded, and solutions will be provided ahead of the Quiz. The purpose of the Practice Problem Sets is to have you practice on the material covered in class on which you will be tested during the in-class Quizzes.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

There will be two “Writing Assignments”, one due in Week 5 and one due in Finals Week. These assignments contain both a numerical component and a writing component. The purpose of the assignments is to help you develop the skills necessary to turn numerical results into well-articulated written explanations. To help you in this process, we will cooperate with the Writing + Critical Expression Hub at the Teaching + Learning Commons at UC San Diego. A writing tutor will be assigned to you and will be your point of reference for help with every stage in the writing process. More details about the writing assignments and the writing tutor will be provided in class.

DISCUSSION BOARD

We will be using Piazza for class discussion. The system is highly catered to getting you help fast and efficiently from classmates, and myself. Rather than emailing questions to me, I encourage you to post your questions on Piazza. Our class page is at: <https://piazza.com/ucsd/spring2018/econ112/home>

GRADING

Your final grade will be determined according to the following percentages

Quizzes	30%	(10% each)
Final Exam	15%	
Problem Sets	25%	(5% each)
Writing Assignments	30%	(15% each)

MISSED EXAMINATIONS

No make-up exams will be given in this class. You must take the final exam in order to receive a grade in this course. The date is written above, be sure to mark your calendar. If you miss a quiz without a university accepted excuse, you will receive a grade of zero (0) on that test. If you miss a quiz with a university accepted excuse, the weight of the final exam will be increased accordingly. Excuses for missed exams must be pre-approved by professor Rondina (except when this is not possible in an emergency situation). A student who misses an exam due to physical illness will be required to provide documentation from a health care professional indicating why the student was physically unable to take the exam. All documentation must be provided to professor Rondina within two working days of the student's return to campus. Failure to comply with any of the above in the specified manner will result in a grade of zero (0) for the exam.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

I have **ZERO TOLERANCE** for cheating. Students are expected to do their own work, as outlined in the UCSD policy on Academic Integrity. All students of UC San Diego are responsible for knowing and adhering to this institution's policy regarding academic integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, lying, bribery, threatening behavior and assistance to acts of academic dishonesty are examples of behaviors that violate this policy. Ordinarily, a student engaged in any act of academic dishonesty will receive a failing grade for the course. In addition, all incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Academic Integrity Office. Depending on its findings, students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to non-academic sanctions, including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion. The Academic Integrity Office can be contacted by email at aio@ucsd.edu or by telephone at 858-822-2163. Additional information regarding the University Academic Integrity policy is available at <https://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu/>.

ELECTRONICS IN CLASS

Cell phones must be turned off during lecture. Any sort of use of cell phones in class will not be tolerated and anyone violating such rule will be asked to leave the classroom.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Conduct Code. To foster the best possible working and learning environment, UC San Diego strives to maintain a climate of fairness, cooperation, and professionalism. UC San Diego's Principles of Community illustrate the expectations of all members of our community. Consistent with such principles, the Student Conduct Code underscores the pride and the values that define UCSD's community, while providing students with a framework to guide their actions and behaviors. I recommend reviewing the Student Conduct Code to make sure you are familiar with the behavior that is expected from you in class and on campus in general.

Disability Accommodations. Campus policy regarding disabilities requires that faculty adhere to the recommendations of the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Any student eligible for and needing academic adjustments or accommodations because of disability should submit to me a letter from OSD describing appropriate adjustments or accommodations and should arrange to meet with me as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made in a timely manner. University policies regarding disabilities are available at <http://disabilities.ucsd.edu/students/>. Appointments with OSD (phone or in-person) can be made by calling 858.534.4382 or by email at osd@ucsd.edu. More information can also be found here.

Religious Observance. Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly accommodate all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled examinations, assignments or required attendance. See full details of policies on examinations here [If you have scheduling conflict covered by this policy, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can reschedule the relevant assignment/examination.](#)

Harassment Policy. The University Policy on Discrimination and Harassment applies to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff member or faculty member who believes (s)he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based on race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation, or political philosophy, should contact the Office for the Prevention of Harassment and Discrimination (OPHD) at (858) 534-8298, ophd@ucsd.edu, or reportbias.ucsd.edu.

Data Privacy. The University adheres to the standards for student privacy rights and requirements as stipulated in the Federal Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974, see <http://ucsd.edu/catalog/front/ferpa.html>.

Counseling. Managing the many challenges of being a college student can be very stressful. Always remember that talking to somebody that is professionally trained to help is just an email, or short walk, away: <https://caps.ucsd.edu/>.

ECON 112 - TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE - SPRING 2018

Week	Date	Topic	Assignments
Week 1	Lec. 1 (Apr 3) Lec. 2 (Apr 5)	Intro + Stat Review OLS, Hypothesis Testing	HW 1 Post
Week 2	Lec. 3 (Apr 10) Lec. 4 (Apr 12)	Difference Equations AR and MA Models	HW 1 Due PPS 1 Post
Week 3	Mon Apr 16 Lec. 5 (Apr 17) Lec. 6 (Apr 19)	<i>Extra Office Hours</i> Quiz 1 + Estimating AR Models Estimating AR Models	HW 2 Post HW 2 Due, WA 1 Post
Week 4	During Week Lec. 7 (Apr 24) Lec. 8 (Apr 26)	Meet Writing Hub Tutor Forecasting Nonstationarity	TL Commons
Week 5	Lec. 9 (May 1) Lec. 10 (May 3)	Trends and Cycles Trends and Cycles	WA 1 Due, PPS 2 Post
Week 6	Mon May 7 Lec. 11 (May 8) Lec. 12 (May 10)	<i>Extra Office Hours</i> Quiz 2 + Linear Algebra Endogeneity Bias	HW 3 Post
Week 7	Lec. 13 (May 15) Lec. 14 (May 17)	Vector Autoregression (VAR) Vector Autoregression (VAR)	HW 3 Due, HW 4 Post
Week 8	Lec. 15 (May 22) Lec. 16 (May 24) Fri May 25	Structural VAR Structural VAR <i>Extra Office Hours</i>	HW 4 Due, PPS 3 Post
Week 9	Lec. 17 (May 29) Lec. 18 (May 31)	Quiz 3 + Spurious Regressions Cointegration	WA 2 Post HW 5 Post
Week 10	Lec. 19 (Jun 5) Lec. 20 (Jun 7)	Error Correction Model Error Correction Model	HW 5 Due
Final Exam	Jun 12	Time and Place TBD	
WA 2	Due on Thursday Jun 14		

HW = Homework Assignment

WA = Writing Assignment

PPS = Practice Problem Set