Economics 210

Fall 2013

Pablo Kurlat
pkurlat@stanford.edu

Course Description

This course is an introduction to macroeconomic theory. We will emphasize tools that are used in many different problems in macroeconomics and indeed in other areas of economics too.

There will be problem sets every week, which will collectively account for 40% of the course grade and a final exam during exam week which will account for the other 60%. You are encouraged to discuss the problem sets with your study group and hand in one copy for the group BUT you must attempt to do each question individually before meeting with your group. Division of labour across questions or across different courses is NOT allowed.

Topics

1. Dynamic Exchange Economies
2. The Neoclassical Growth Model
3. Discrete-Time Dynamic Programing
4. Continuous-Time Dynamic Programing
5. Consumption-Savings Problems
6. General Equilibrium with Incomplete Markets
7. Dynamic Contracts
Materials

There are three main texts for the course:

  This is the main book for dynamic programing, which will occupy a large part of the course.

  This book has more emphasis on applications.

  This is a mathematics book on optimization. We might use it a little bit for technical points but is not so central to the class.

I will also distribute my own notes, hopefully before each class (but I can’t promise)

Note

Students with Documented Disabilities: Students who may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability must initiate the request with the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). Professional staff will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend reasonable accommodations, and prepare an Accommodation Letter for faculty dated in the current quarter in which the request is being made. Students should contact the OAE as soon as possible since timely notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. The OAE is located at 563 Salvatierra Walk (phone: 723-1066, URL: http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/oae).