

**Burhanettin (Burhan) Kuruscu**  
**Spring 2010**  
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## **ECO 325 – Advanced Economic Theory: Macro**

### **SYLLABUS**

#### **Objectives**

This course is designed for majors and specialists in economics who wish to prepare for graduate work in economics and/or expand their understanding of modern macroeconomic theory. During this course students will develop analytical skills in solving and constructing macroeconomic models. The advanced topics covered will include topics such as: theories of consumption and savings, overlapping generations models, and optimal fiscal policy.

#### **Lectures and Tutorials:**

Wednesdays 6pm-9pm in UC163

The first 2 hours will be used for Lecture and the following hour will occasionally be used for a tutorial or TA office hours. Details on when tutorials will be held will be announced in class.

#### **Office Hours:**

My office hours are Wednesdays 4:00pm to 5:00pm in my office. Outside my office hours you can contact me via e-mail at [burhan.kuruscu@utoronto.ca](mailto:burhan.kuruscu@utoronto.ca), *although* at busy times you will get a prompter response if you stop by during the office hours.

#### **Teaching Assistant: Elton Dusha**

**Email:** [e.dusha@utoronto.ca](mailto:e.dusha@utoronto.ca)

**Office:** GE 273

**Office Hours:** In GE 213 Mondays 12:00pm to 1:00pm.

#### **Textbook and Reading**

I will not follow a textbook. But I will post the following notes on Blackboard.

- Notes by Dirk Krueger on Fiscal Policy (**DK**)
- Kuruscu's notes on optimal taxation.

**E-mail list:** You are automatically added to the class email list if you are registered for this course. This email list will be the main way I will make announcements and communicate with the class.

**Blackboard:** Please check the blackboard frequently for course materials and announcements.

### Course Requirements and Grading

**1. Two midterms:** Each **30%** of the total grade. However, I will drop your lowest midterm grade and assign the maximum midterm grade as your midterm grades for both midterms. Here are the midterm information:

Dy-Mon-Yr	Bld/Room	Start	End	Building Name
08-FEB-2012	GB 405	18:00	20:00	Galbraith Building
14-MAR-2012	GB 405	18:00	20:00	Galbraith Building

**2. Final: 40%** of the final grade.

**Appeal Process:** Students should talk to the teaching assistant if they have any questions about their exams. If they cannot resolve the issue with the teaching assistant, they can appeal to their exam grades within a week after the exams are handed back in class. Any appeals after one week will not be accepted. Appeals have to be made in writing. Students who do not receive their exams due to absence and as a result miss the appeal deadline will not receive any extension to appeal.

**Class Participation:** I strongly encourage students for participating in class. You should feel comfortable to ask any questions if you cannot follow my lectures or you do not understand something. To be able to assess whether you can follow my lectures or whether you have learned a particular topic before, I will also select students randomly and ask them questions.

**Make-up Exams:** There are **no** make-ups for **midterms**. However, remember that I will drop the lowest midterm grade. This means that if you miss a midterm for some reason such as being sick, then the other midterm grade will be your make-up grade. If you have to miss two midterms because of a legitimate reason (that is accepted by the university as an acceptable reason for make-up), your final exam will be your make-up. For such case, students are required to provide supporting documentation for their excuses to be eligible for make-up work. If a student misses an examination for medical or other unavoidable reasons, the new University policy *\*requires\** students to declare their absence on ROSI. Here is the policy:

<http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/undergraduate/absence>

Students are required to provide me with printed confirmation of the Absence Declaration, in addition to any sick note.

Second, a student who misses the test must provide me with a copy of a University of Toronto Medical certificate **within one week** of the missed exam, stating the nature of the illness and the fact that the individual was too ill to write an examination. A copy of this certificate is available from your college registrars, health services or on the following website:

<http://www.healthservice.utoronto.ca/pdfs/medcert.htm>

**Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity is an essential part of education. Students should not conduct any scholastic dishonesty that will violate academic integrity. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student, or the attempt to commit such an act.

**Students with Disabilities:** I will provide necessary accommodation to students with disabilities subject to university guidelines.

**Tentative Schedule:**

- **(DK) Chapter 1: Empirical facts on government economic activity (Recommended reading)**
- **(DK) Chapter 2: A simple two-period model and intertemporal tradeoffs**
- **(DK) Chapter 3: Life cycle model**
- **(DK) Chapter 4: Dynamic Theory of Taxation**
- **Kuruscu' notes: Optimal Taxation**
- **(DK) Chapter 5: Social Security**
- **(DK) Chapter 6: Social Insurance**