

**ECONOMICS 210C/236A  
MACROECONOMIC HISTORY**

**COURSE INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course discusses research at the intersection of empirical macroeconomics and American economic history. It may be used to fulfill the course requirements for either the macroeconomics field exam or the economic history field exam (but not both). The course seeks to provide a firm grounding in the areas of monetary economics, fiscal policy, credit market disruptions and financial crises, and the history of American short-run fluctuations and macroeconomic policy. Its main focus is on innovative approaches to identifying causation, dealing with data limitations, and empirical estimation of macroeconomic relationships. Special emphasis is placed on helping students with the transition from coursework to original research.

**PREREQUISITES**

The course is designed for second- and third-year Ph.D. students in Economics. An understanding of the material in Economics 201A,B, 202A,B, and 240A,B will be presumed.

**READINGS**

Most of the readings on the syllabus are available to Berkeley students through the links given. A few readings are from books and are not available electronically. We will make copies available to the class.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

*Class participation.* The class will consist of a mixture of lecture and discussion. Students are expected to read the papers carefully and critically before class, and to come to class prepared to discuss them.

*Research paper.* A research paper intended as a genuine contribution to knowledge (not a summary of existing work) is due on Monday, December 10 (5 p.m.). Students are required to prepare a research proposal and discuss it with the instructors no later than Friday, October 12. More information about the paper requirement will be distributed a few weeks into the semester.

*Final exam.* Assuming that students come to class prepared and participate actively in class discussions, there will be no final examination. We, however, reserve the right to require a final exam for any student who does not keep up with the reading and participate in class.

**INSTRUCTORS**

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