Syllabus

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1 Course Information

Term

2nd Quarter 2017. Mondays (8:50–10:20) and Thursdays (10:40–12:10).

Instructor

Associate Professor Kenji Sato, Graduate School of Economics.
    Office: 208 Dainikenkyushitsu (Faculty Offices).[1]
    Email: mail@kenjisato.jp

Office Hours and Slack Chatroom

Tuesdays (12:30–14:30) or upon request, at the instructor's office.

    You are invited to the Slack team, rokkoecon, and to one of its private channels, ma17q2. Visit this link: `kjst.jp/slack`. If you have any questions, you can ask others there. You can also answer another student's question. You learn a lot by teaching (and you earn active participation points).

Textbook

David Romer, *Advanced Macroeconomics*, 4th edition. McGraw-Hill. 2012.

    The course will cover Chapters 1 and 2, and either 3 or 5 of the textbook. I recommend Charles Jones and Dietrich Vollrath, *Introduction to Economic Growth*, 3rd edition (2013, Norton) as a companion. Other related materials will be announced in class.

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[1]Building 28 on the map: `kjst.jp/ku-map`

Schedule

	Date	Topic	Textbook Sections Covered
1	June 12	Introduction to economic growth	Preface and 1.1
2	June 15	Solow model	1.2–1.7
3	June 19	Solow model	1.2–1.7
4	June 22	Romer, Mankiw and Weil	—
5	June 26	Romer, Mankiw and Weil	—
6	June 29	Optimal growth	2.1–2.7
7	July 3	Optimal growth	2.1–2.7
8	July 6	Ramsey model	2.1–2.7
9	July 10	Ramsey model	2.1–2.7
10	July 13	Models in discrete time	—
–	July 17	No class.	
11	July 20	Diamond OLG model	2.8–2.12
12	July 24	Diamond OLG model	2.8–2.12
13	July 27	Model of knowledge accumulation	3.1–3.5
14	July 31	Model of knowledge accumulation	3.1–3.5
15	Aug. 3	Final exam	

Grading

Grading will be based on the results of homework assignments given several times, a mid-term (take-home) exam and a final, which will be an **open-book** exam.

	Weight	
Attendance	P/F	fail if number of absences > 3
Homework	20%	assigned up to 5 times
Mid-term report	40%	On the Solow model
Final exam (open-book)	40%	Aug. 3
Active participation		Bonus up to 20%

Course Websites

The main website is `kjst.jp/ma17q2`. You can find some of the course materials and their updates there.

Homework assignments and optional exercises

Homework assignments and supplementary exercises will be distributed at `kjst.jp/ma17q2hw`

Click on "Get Invitation" link to start an assignment. Assignments starting with "hw" are homework, the result of which amounts to 20% of the total score, while those starting with "ex" are optional exercises that are helpful for deepening your understanding of what you've learned. Only students who submit their solutions will get the suggested solutions from the lecturer or teaching assistant.

2 Course objectives

This is an introduction to advanced-level study on macroeconomics. It is aimed at first-year graduate students (especially, of GMAP) and advanced undergraduate students (especially, of the IFEEK program). The course will introduce the standard machinery of modern macroeconomic analysis and apply it to the study of economic growth. Students should be able to achieve the following course objectives:

- Become familiar with the standard framework for macroeconomic analysis,

- Understand the behaviors of important macroeconomic variables, and

- Analyze the impact of changes in major economic variables on output, wages, investment etc.

An important goal of any course work in graduate study is to acquire knowledge and skills to read and understand research papers, which is a prerequisite for writing your own thesis. Since modern economics uses a lot of mathematics and authors usually omit any routine technical manipulations (because they assume that every reader knows them), you as a reader should learn the technical stuff to fully appreciate contents of research papers. After taking this course seriously, you will be able to read such papers yourself.

In macroeconomics, the current trend of research methods emphasizes the importance of simulation and/or empirical tests. As you study macroeconomic theory, you are advised to learn how to perform a simulation and do an empirical exercise; the latter is in the scope of econometrics. This course will guide you through the process of writing simulation codes for some toy examples. Any serious work is just some effort away.