

Econ. 8105
Prof. Jones
Fall 2008

Macroeconomic Theory Part I

The purpose of this course is to continue building your foundation knowledge in the area of Macroeconomics. Here, we will concentrate on using simple economic models to generate time series that can be compared with those that we observe. We will concentrate on several questions:

1. What properties do these models have?
2. What types of time series do they generate?
3. What are the effects of various types of policy in those models?
4. What do these models say about what policy 'should' be?

Course Requirements

There will be 4 graded homework assignments, a midterm exam and a final exam. The problem sets will count 40% of your grade, the midterm will count 25% and the final will be the remaining 35%.

Office Hours

My office hours are Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5 pm. My office is 4-159 Hanson Hall, 624-4553, lej@umn.edu. Or if you can't come at that time, email me and we can set up and appointment.

Teaching Assistant

The TA for the course is Manuel Macera Carnero. His email addresses is:

macer001@umn.edu.

He will hold a discussion session each week and he will also hold office hours once he consults with the class on what a good time would be.

Syllabus

Part I: Putting the Growth Model to Work: (approximately 4 weeks)

- A. The Neoclassical Growth Model: Aggregation and the Competitive Interpretation, the Time Series generated by the Solution
- B. The Effects of Taxes in the Model
- C. Optimal Taxation in the Exogenous Growth Model
- D. The Reasons for Spending and Optimal Spending (time permitting)
- E. Simple Versions of Monetary Policy and Optimal Monetary Policy (time permitting)

Readings:

A:

Solow, Robert, (1956), "A Contribution to the Theory of Economic Growth," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 70, 65-94.

Koopmans, Tjalling, (1965), "On the Concept of Optimal Economic Growth," in *The Economic Approach to Development Planning*, North Holland, Amsterdam.

Cass, David, (1965), "Optimum Growth in an Aggregative Model of Capital Accumulation," *Review of Economic Studies*, 32, 233-240.

Stokey, N. and R. E. Lucas, with E. Prescott, *Recursive Methods in Economic Dynamics*, Harvard University Press, 1989.

B and C:

Ramsey, F. P., "A Contribution to the Theory of Taxation," *Economic Journal*, Vol. 37, (1927), 47-61.

Chamley, C., "Efficient Taxation in a Stylized Model of Intertemporal General Equilibrium," *Int. Econ. Rev.*, Vol. 26, No. 2, (1985), 451-468.

Chamley, C., "Optimal Taxation of Capital Income in General Equilibrium with Infinite Lives," *Econometrica*, 54, No. 3, (1986), 607-622.

Judd, K. L., "Redistributive Taxation in a Simple Perfect Foresight Model," *Journal of Public Economics*, Vol. 28, (1985), 59-83.

Auerbach, A. J. and L. J. Kotlikoff, *Dynamic Fiscal Policy*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1987.

D:

Barro, R. and X. Sala-i-Martin, 1995, *Economic Growth*, McGraw-Hill, New York, Saint Louis.

Barro, R. J., "Government Spending in a Simple Model of Endogenous Growth," *Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 98, part 2, (1990), S103-S125.

E:

Lucas, R. and N. Stokey, (1987), "Money and Interest in a Cash-in-Advance Economy," *Econometrica*, 55, 491-513.

Cooley, T. and G. Hansen, (1989), "The Inflation Tax in a Real Business Cycle Model," *American Economic Review*, 79, 733-748.

Cooley, T. and G. Hansen, (1992), "Tax Distortions in a Neoclassical Monetary Economy," *Journal of Economic Theory*, Vol. 58, No. 2, December, 290-316.

Lucas, R. E., Jr. and N. L. Stokey, "Optimal Fiscal and Monetary Policy in an Economy Without Capital," *Journal of Monetary Economics*, Vol. 12, (1983), 55-93.

Part II: Modeling the Trend: Endogenizing the Growth Rate (approximately 3 weeks)

- A. Endogenous Growth and the Ak, and A(k,h) models
- B. Taxation and Its Effects, Optimal Taxation
- C. Monetary Policy and Its Effects, Optimal Monetary Policy (time permitting)

Readings

A:

- Romer, Paul M., (1986), "Increasing Returns and Long Run Growth," *Journal of Political Economy*, 94, 1002-1037.
- Romer, Paul M., (1987), "Growth Based on Increasing Returns Due to Specialization," *American Economic Review*, 77, 56-62.
- Lucas, Robert E., Jr., (1988), "On the Mechanics of Economic Development," *Journal of Monetary Economics*, 22, 3-42.
- Jones, Larry E. and Rodolfo E. Manuelli, (1992), "Finite Lifetimes and Growth," *Journal of Economic Theory*, Vol. 58, No. 2, 171-197.
- Barro, R. and X. Sala-i-Martin, 1995, *Economic Growth*, McGraw-Hill, New York, Saint Louis.

A and B:

- Jones, Larry E. and Rodolfo E. Manuelli, (1990), "A Convex Model of Equilibrium Growth: Theory and Policy Implications," *Journal of Political Economy*, 98, 1008-1038.
- Rebelo, Sergio, (1991), "Long Run Policy Analysis and Long Run Growth," *Journal of Political Economy*, 99, 500-521.
- Jones, L. E., R. E. Manuelli and P. E. Rossi, "Optimal Taxation in Models of Endogenous Growth," *Journal of Political Economy*, Vol. 101, No. 3, (1993), 485-517.
- Jones, L. E., R. E. Manuelli and P. E. Rossi, "On the Optimal Taxation of Capital Income," *Journal of Economic Theory*, Vol. 73, No.1, 1997, 93-117.

C:

- Jones, L. E. and R. E. Manuelli, "Growth and the Effects of Inflation," *Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control*, November 1995, Vol. 19, No. 8, 1405-1448.
- V. V. Chari, Jones, L. E., and R. E. Manuelli, "The Growth Effects of Monetary Policy," *The Quarterly Review of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis*, Fall 1995, 18-32.
- Gomme, P. J., 1993, "Money and Growth Revisited: Measuring the Costs of Inflation in an Endogenous Growth Model," *Journal of Monetary Economics*, 32, August, pp: 51-77.

Part III. Adding ‘Wiggles’ to the Time Series: Models with Uncertainty (approximately 2 weeks). We probably will not cover this section this year.

- A. Competitive Models with Uncertainty with or without time
- B. The Real Business Cycle Model: Exogenous and Endogenous Growth Versions

Readings:

B:

T. F. Cooley, Editor, *Frontiers of Business Cycle Research*, Princeton University Press, 1995.

Cooley, T.F and, E. C. Prescott, 1995, “Economic Growth and Business Cycles,” in Cooley, T.F. (ed), *Frontiers in Business Cycle Research*, Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey, pp: 1-38.

Eaton, J., 1981, “Fiscal Policy, Inflation and the Accumulation of Risky Capital,” *Review of Economic Studies*, XLVIII, 435-445.

Other Source Material for the Class:

Nowadays, as you probably know, many people post their class notes on the web. There are several places out there where you can find differing versions. Two years ago, Stan Cho typed up a version of my class notes for this module and as we go through the mini, I will be trying to clean up Stanley’s notes to post on the web for you. They will be made available on my website as I get done with them. So look for them there. The addresses of mine, and others who have a similar teaching style/philosophy are:

- 1) Larry’s Class notes: <http://www.econ.umn.edu/~lej/lejteaching.html>,
- 2) Rody Manuelli, University of Wisconsin, (U Mn Phd),
- 3) Dirk Krueger, University of Pennsylvania, (U Mn Phd),
- 4) Tom Sargent, NYU.
- 5) I’m sure you can find more....