Frequently Asked Questions for Business 33403: Advanced Macroeconomics

What is the difference between this class and the regular macro class?

There are 3 main differences. First, this class presumes you have familiarity with basic macro. B33040 is intended to be an introductory class that does not require any prior experience with macro. You should not take this class as a substitute for 33040 if you are new macro. It is appropriate to take this class as a follow-on to 33040 if you liked that class.

Second, this class uses models and frameworks more eclectically than 33040. We will use many different models to think different topics over the course of the class. Third, the topics in this class are meant to cover big issues (including some international ones) that will be relevant for the next decade. After you finish this class you will have a way to think about a range of issues that are not covered in detail in 33040.

How has the class changed since it was last offered?

There are two big changes. First, I re-oriented from emphasizing issues raised by the pandemic. The emphasis is being shifted to study post-pandemic challenges for the global economy. Second, I am cutting back on the number of guest speakers. I was using guests to give different perspectives on the impact of the pandemic, with the shift in emphasis I think this time can be better used for deeper dives on many of the topics that we will cover.

Who are the guest speakers?

Jan Hatzius is the head of the Global Investment Research Division for Goldman Sachs and the firm's chief economist. He will be speaking to us about the current outlook for the US and global economy and about the pitfalls of forecasting.

Eric Rosengren was the President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston from 2007 to 2021. He was the point person for the Federal Reserve on the Main Street Lending program and a number of other Fed initiatives. He will be speaking to us about the various support programs undertaken by the US authorities during the pandemic and the outlook for monetary policy.

Can I attend the other section of the class?

If either section is not fully subscribed, then you can choose to attend the one that has open seats. It is better to attend class even in a different section than to miss altogether.
Is there a hybrid option for this class?

No, this class is offered in person only. I will tape the morning section and if you have a verified excuse about why cannot make it to class that week, I will send a link to the video tape. A verified excuse is either proof that you are sick (via a doctor’s note or a positive rapid test for Covid) or proof that your travel was disrupted in a way that you could not control. You are not allowed to skip class for convenience.

If you have other questions that are not addressed email them to me.