

# Macroeconomic Strategies

(Course 180.336, Spring 2024) Shriver 104

**Lecturer:** Robert J. Barbera

**Office Hours:** Tues, 1:30 to 2:30

**Location:** Wyman Building, room 557

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## Course Objectives:

1. To attain a rigorous understanding of U.S. macroeconomic barometers (Issues: theoretical concepts, real world representations, measurement errors/revisions and cyclical fluctuations/secular patterns).
2. To become familiar with the pattern of economic news and the shaping of the consensus view.
3. To come to appreciate the interplay between long-term trends, economic policies, financial market fluctuations, and exogenous shocks.
4. To learn techniques for *Separating Signal from Noise* and the Risks/Rewards Inherent in Thinking and Forecasting *Outside the Box*.

**Required Texts:** *The Cost of Capitalism*, Robert J. Barbera, McGraw-Hill.

## Periodicals:

*The Economist Magazine*, Weekly Publication

*Wall Street Journal*, Daily Publication

*New York Times*, Daily Publication

*Financial Times*, Daily Publication

## Websites:

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis: [www.bea.gov](http://www.bea.gov)

U.S. Department of Labor: [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)

U.S. Federal Reserve Board: [www.federalreserve.gov](http://www.federalreserve.gov)

National Bureau of Statistics of China: <http://www.stats.gov.cn/english/index.htm> The

People's Bank of China: <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/english/>

U.S. Congressional Budget Office: [www.cbo.gov](http://www.cbo.gov)

International Monetary Fund: [www.imf.com](http://www.imf.com)

European Central Bank: [www.ecb.int/](http://www.ecb.int/)

## Course Requirements:

1. Exam I (35%)
2. Mid-semester in class essay (15%)
3. Exam II (30%)
4. Class Participation (20%)

## “KEEP IT FAIR, KEEP IT FAIR”

“The strength of the university depends on academic and personal integrity. In this course, you must be honest and truthful. Ethical violations include cheating on exams, plagiarism, reuse of assignments, improper use of the Internet and electronic devices, unauthorized collaboration, alteration of graded assignments, forgery and falsification, lying, facilitating academic dishonesty, and unfair competition.” 1