

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

**COURSE INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS**

**Course Description**

This course provides an in-depth analysis of U.S. macroeconomic history from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to today. The course examines the effects of monetary and fiscal developments, and the role of these and other factors in U.S. macroeconomic fluctuations. Particular emphasis is placed on research techniques in the field and the historical antecedents of current macro policy issues.

**Prerequisites**

The course is designed for second-year Ph.D. students in Economics. An understanding of the material in Economics 210a, 202a and b, and 240a and b will be presumed.

**Readings**

A reader containing all of the assigned articles and book chapters is available at Copy Central on Bancroft.

**Preparation for Field Exams**

This course can serve as preparation for the field exam in *either* Economic History or Macroeconomics. Students wishing to take *both* the history and macro fields will need to take an additional course in one of the fields. For example, a student wishing to use this course and 210a as the basis for the history field would need to take 236b and 236c as a basis for the macro field. A student wishing to use this course and one of 236b or 236c as a basis for the macro field would need to take 210b or an independent reading course to prepare for the history field.

**Course Requirements**

The class will consist of a mixture of lecture and discussion. Therefore, it is essential that students read the papers assigned before class. For students who do the reading and participate in discussion, there will be no final examination. However, we reserve the right to require a final exam of any student whom we feel is not keeping up with the reading and contributing to class discussion.

The other requirement for the course is to write a substantial research paper. The paper should be aimed to be a genuine contribution to knowledge, not a summary of existing work. Students will be required to discuss their research ideas with the instructors and to make a class presentation in early November. ***The paper is due on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.***

**Instructors**

Christina Romer, 681 Evans Hall, cromer@econ.berkeley.edu, office hours: W 1-3.

David Romer, 679 Evans Hall, dromer@econ.berkeley.edu, office hours: M 1-2 and W 1-2.