

Course Outline and Reading List*

Items marked "W" are available on the web. If viewed on screen with an up to date viewer, this file will show links to the bibliography at the end and to URL's where the paper can be downloaded (in cases where they exist). The outline and reading list are a bit overstuffed. The topics will be pruned as we go along, if necessary.

Topic 1: *Transversality and Stochastic Lagrange Multipliers*

Pitfalls of conventional TVC's. Sufficiency for concave problems. The linear-quadratic permanent income model revisited. Setting up a DSGE for solution.

References:

Notes: "Random Lagrange Multipliers and Transversality" (Sims, 2000) W

Notes: "Stochastic Lagrange Multipliers for Problems with Lagged Expectations"
W

Topic 2: *Unclever Solutions for Linear RE Models*

Getting the computer to do the hard work for bigger models. Continuous and discrete time.

References:

"Solving Linear Rational Expectations Models" (Sims, to appear)

W

Topic 3: *Real Business Cycle Models*

As substantive claims; as a modeling style; compatibility with observed price stickiness.

References:

"Resuscitating Real Business Cycles" (King and Rebelo, 2000)

"Measures of Fit for Calibrated Models" (Watson, 1993)

"A Unified Econometric Framework for the Evaluation of DSGE Models" (Schorfheide, 1998)

"Stickiness" (Sims, 1998b) W (Only the models of "neutral stickiness", in the first part of the paper, are relevant here.)

Topic 4: *Intertemporal Aspects of Fiscal Policy*

Identification problems in estimating effects; tax smoothing; optimal capital taxation; optimal inflation taxes; the burden of public debt; natural resource exhaustion

References:

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- “Optimal Fiscal Policy in a Business Cycle Model” (Chari, Christiano, and Kehoe, 1994)
- “Optimal Fiscal and Monetary Policy in an Economy without Capital” (Lucas and Stokey, 1983)
- “Federal Deficit Policy and the Effects of Public Debt Shocks” (Barro, 1980)
- “Fiscal Consequences for Mexico of Adopting the Dollar” (Sims, 1999)
- “Econometric Implications of the Government Budget Constraint”(Sims, 1998a)
- “Optimal Taxation of Capital Income in General Equilibrium with Infinite Lives” (Chamley, 1986)
- “Optimal Taxation Without State-Contingent Debt” (Marcet, Sargent, and Seppälä, 2000)
- “National Debt in a Neoclassical Growth Model” (Diamond, 1965)
- “Debt, Deficits, and Finite Horizons” (Blanchard, 1985)

Topic 5: *International Risk Sharing and Transmission of Business Cycles*

References:

- “Domestic Savings and International Capital Flows” (Feldstein and Horioka, 1991)
- “Commodity Trade and International Risk Sharing: How Much Do Financial Markets Matter?” (Cole and Obstfeld, 1991)
- “Tastes and Technology in a Two-Country Model of the Business Cycle: Explaining International Comovements” (Stockman and Tesar, 1995)
- “Spurious Welfare Reversals in International Business Cycle Models” (Kim and Kim, 1999)W

Topic 6: *A Brief Survey of Solution Methods for Nonlinear Equilibrium Models*

Higher order expansions; Projection methods; parameterized expectations; fixed-point methods; checking accuracy.

References:

- Numerical Methods in Economics* (Judd, 1998)
- “Solving the Stochastic Growth Model by Parameterizing Expectations”, (Den Haan and Marcet, 1990)
- “Accuracy in Simulations”, (Den Haan and Marcet, 1994)

Topic 7: *Exchange Rates and Exchange Rate Crises*

First generation; second generation; fiscal.

References:

- Rogoff and Obstfeld (1996, Sections 8.1-8.4)
- “Fiscal Foundations of Price Stability in Open Economies”, (Sims, 1997)
- “On the Fundamentals of Self-Fulfilling Speculative Attacks”, (Burnside, Eichenbaum, and Rebelo, 2000)

Topic 8: Policy Games and Learning

References:

- “A Positive Theory of Monetary Policy in a Natural Rate Model” (Barro and Gordon, 1983)
- The Conquest of American Inflation* (Sargent, 1999)
- “Projecting Policy Effects with Statistical Models” (Sims, 1988)

Topic 9: Using Models to Formulate Policy

Comparing quantitative policy models to academic models; the role of quantitative models in the policy process — rules, commitment, targets; does the Lucas critique imply there is no such thing as real time policy analysis?

References:

- “Policy Rules for Inflation Targeting” (Rudebusch and Svensson, 1999)
- “Modest Policy Interventions” (Leeper and Zha, 2001)
- “Autoregressions, Expectations and Advice” (Sargent, 1984)
- “A Rational Expectations Framework for Short Run Policy Analysis” (Sims, 1987)

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- KING, R. G., AND S. T. REBELO (2000): "Resuscitating Real Business Cycles," Working Paper W7534, NBER.
- LEEPER, E., AND T. ZHA (2001): "Modest Policy Interventions," Discussion paper, Indiana University and Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, <http://php.indiana.edu/~eleeper/Papers/lz0101Rev.pdf>.
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