More Information about Econ 135:

Suggestions on Readings and Class Preparation

Do the required readings before class—this is expected, and it is essential to benefit fully from the class. Start with the textbook chapter or lecture note (as much as you understand) and skim the introduction/short readings on the class page. Then come to class, best with questions. If something remains unclear, please ask. I do like questions—and I tend to move more quickly if there are none. After class, review the required readings in detail and do the practice problems. You are generally responsible for the required readings even if not everything was covered in class. (Exceptions would be announced in class.) And don’t fall behind—most classes will build on previous ones.

The recommended and optional readings are not required—some are useful to reinforce class material (often labeled recommended), some as guide to further reading in case a topic catches your interest (often labeled optional). The reason I provided these readings is that for some important issues, there is simply no good reference—either it’s not covered in the book, or there is way too much, or it’s presented in a way that would raise too many distracting questions. In such cases, I tend to present the topic in class without requiring that you read all my sources. You may disregard the recommended and optional readings if you had no trouble following the class presentation. And there is no need to look at recommended or optional items before class—in contrast to the required readings that you are supposed to inspect in advance.

Throughout the quarter, you should be informed about macroeconomic and financial market news. My default information source is the Wall Street Journal (WSJ). You may ask me about anything reported in the WSJ, and I am prepared to help you interpret the financial data in the WSJ. I also consult bloomberg.com, though less frequently. You may use other newspapers or web sites, but then you are more on your own. In any case, if you find an interesting story that seems relevant to monetary economics, feel free to mention it in class or tell me.