

**ECONOMICS 210c / ECONOMICS 236a
MONETARY HISTORY**

COURSE INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

Course Description

This course provides an in-depth analysis of U.S. monetary history. The course examines both the effects of monetary developments and the role of monetary factors in U.S. macroeconomic fluctuations since the late 1800s. Particular emphasis is placed on research techniques in the field and the historical antecedents of current monetary 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 202b will be presumed.

Readings

A reader containing all of the assigned articles is available at Copy Central on Bancroft. Students should purchase a copy of *A Monetary History of the United States* by Friedman and Schwartz, which is available from Amazon and most local bookstores.

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 each student 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 12th.*

Instructors

Christina Romer, 681 Evans Hall, cromer@econ.berkeley.edu, office hours: M 11-12 and W 2-3.

David Romer, 679 Evans Hall, dromer@econ.berkeley.edu, office hours: M 1-2 and W 2-3.