



Undergraduate Teaching Assistant for ECON305

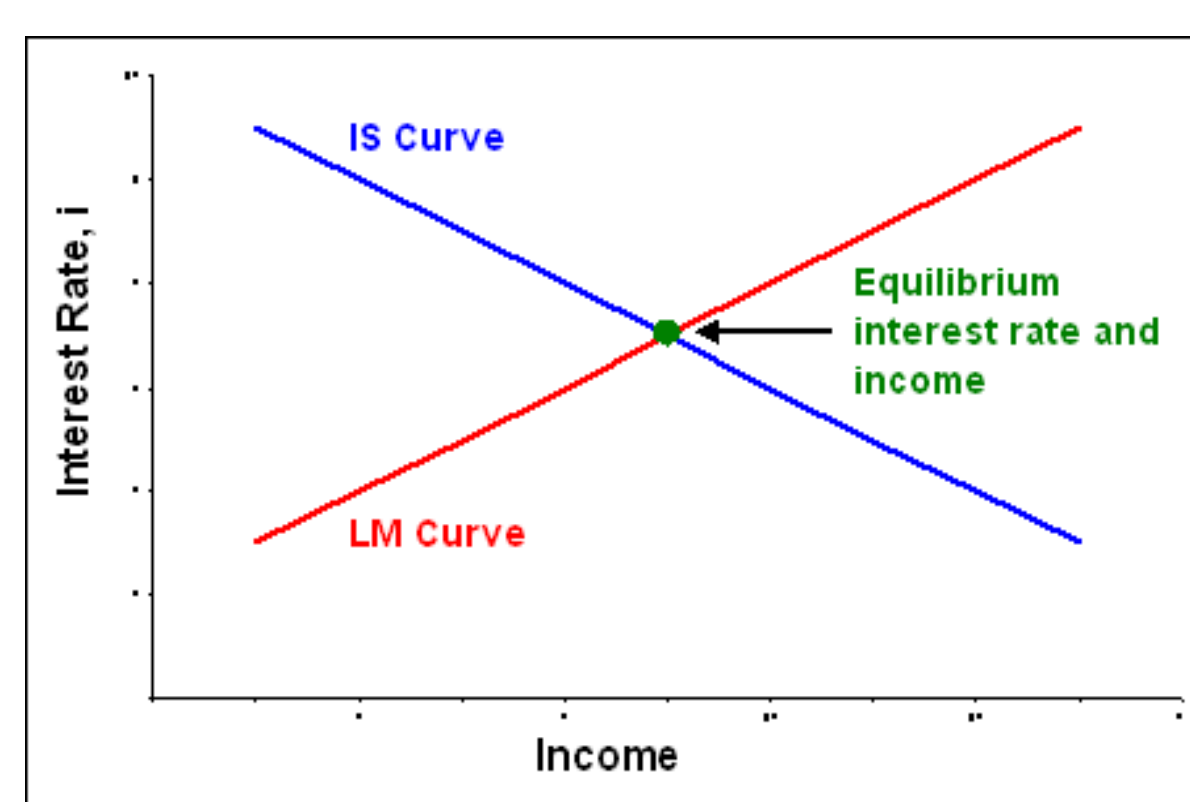
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Science, Discovery, and the Universe | Mathematics & Economics



ECON305

ECON305 at the University of Maryland is a course on intermediate macroeconomic theory and policy. The course includes analysis of the determination of national income, employment, and price levels, as well as discussion of consumption, inflation, and government fiscal and monetary policy.



IS-LM relation, showing a short-run equilibrium interest rate and output level

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

The economics department at UMD has designed a course titled ECON399 to guide Undergraduate TAs through the position. The professor for this course was coincidentally the same professor I personally worked with, Dr. Martina Copelman. The other Undergraduate TAs, Dr. Copelman, and I met every couple of weeks to discuss teaching-related topics such as uneven math skills, strong first impressions, and diversity in the classroom.

Responsibilities

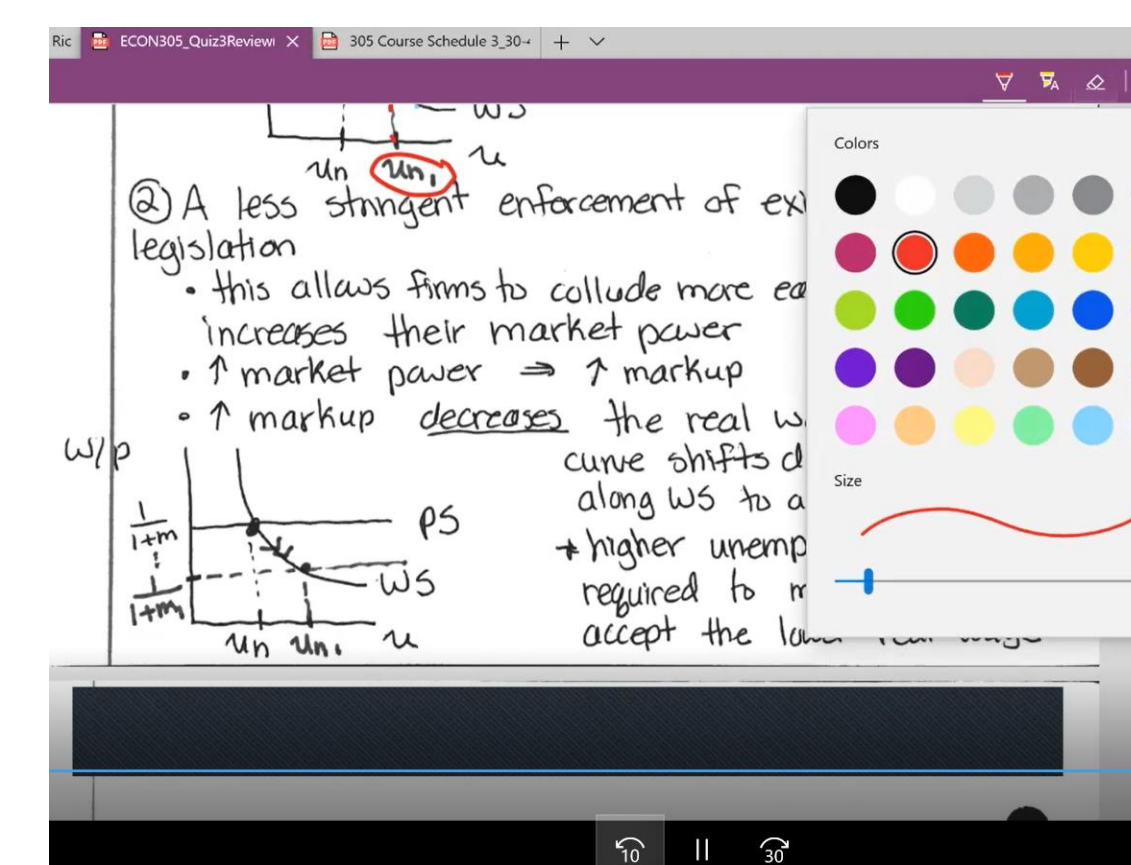
I worked alongside Dr. Copelman, one other undergraduate TA, and two graduate TAs. My individual responsibilities included attending the lectures for the course and designing and leading weekly review sessions for the students. I set up a Doodle Poll for the students to choose which times worked best for review sessions. I helped to monitor the class GroupMe and was available to students by GroupMe message and by email.



I wrote lesson plans prior to each review session that covered the main ideas and most important concepts from the course. Depending on the quiz/exam schedule of the class, I would adjust which day I held my reviews to best help the students prepare. Prior to the midterm, I worked with the other undergraduate TA to design and run a joint review session.

Zoom Transition

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, all courses were moved online for the second half of the semester. Before spring break, I spent some time with Dr. Copelman and the Grad TAs to transfer the course material onto online platforms. I adjusted to the shift to online learning by holding my weekly review sessions over Zoom and recording the meetings to post on ELMS afterwards. I shared a PDF on my screen and filled in notes as I taught.



Snapshot of my Zoom screen during an online review session

Educational Impact

This has been my first semester as an Economics major, and I am grateful I had an opportunity to get involved within the department. Through learning how to teach economics to others, I have strengthened my own economic knowledge. I learned how to balance my own coursework with being available for the students in 305.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my mentor, Dr. Martina Copelman, for offering me this opportunity and for guiding me through the completion of my project. I would also like to thank Dr. Alan Peel, Ms. Erin Thomson, and Jennifer Lee for supporting me throughout my two years in SDU.