

School of Economics and Finance

ECON 305 Macroeconomics: Growth, Cycles and Sustainability

Trimester One 2008

COURSE OUTLINE

Contact Details

Dr Geoff Bertram (course coordinator) geoff.bertram@vuw.ac.nz RH 423 (ext. 5814)

Dr Kun-Hong Kim kunhong.kim@vuw.ac.nz RH 425 (ext 5786)

Class Times and Room Numbers

Lectures:

Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, 10.30-11.20 am in Old Government Buildings GBLT4

Tutorials:

There will be four tutorial groups, meeting weekly on Monday and Tuesday at four of the following times and rooms, all in Railway West Wing. A survey will be carried out at the first class to allocate students into groups and to determine which times are finally used. Please come prepared to fill in your first, second and third preferences from the list, and to indicate any times for which you have unavoidable timetable clashes.

Monday 11.30-12.20 am in RWW 415

Monday 1.40-2.30 pm in RWW 129

Tuesday 9.30-10.20 am in RWW 128

Tuesday 1.40-2.30 pm in RWW 313

Tuesday 2.40-3.30 in RWW 313

Terms Tests:

Dates and times to be arranged. One just before mid-term break, and one in the second-to-last week of the trimester.

Note that you must sit – not pass - both tests to get Terms for the course.

Final Examination: in the period 2 – 25 June.

Course Objectives

The course aims to introduce students to modern developments in macroeconomic theory and to develop the ability to present and discuss this material professionally. Command of the material will be assessed primarily by means of two written one-hour tests during the course, and in the final three-hour examination.

The tutorial programme provides a supplementary assessment procedure, but its main aim is to develop students' understanding of the material, and ability to discuss and present their answers to questions and problems in a professional environment.

In each of the weekly tutorial sessions, with the exception of the first tutorial, the discussion will be led by class members, under the guidance of the tutor. A roster of dates for presentations will be drawn up at the first tutorial, and from time to time after that. All tutorial participants are expected to prepare for each tutorial and to be in a position to discuss the topic with the student presenters, but only the presenters will be required to submit their individual written answers for assessment.

Each student will have three tutorial assignments marked, at least one from each half of the course. In order for their assignment answers to be marked, students must have participated in the relevant oral presentation. Assignment answers will be covered in tutorials. So-called "model answers" will not be provided. Assignment topics will be posted on Blackboard.

Expected Workload

Lecture attendance three hours per week; tutorial preparation and participation six hours per week; reading textbook and other material, writing-up, and revising for tests etc, eleven hours per week. Total around 20 hours per week. These are guidelines only; you should expect your performance in the course to be positively related to the amount of time and effort you put in.

Group Work

Students are encouraged to discuss the tutorial assignments amongst themselves in advance of each session, and those scheduled to present are expected to work out within the group an agreed order of speaking, and allocation of presentation tasks. However each student's presentation, and the written answers submitted at the end of the session, must be their own work. Simply copying answers from others working on the assignment will be treated as plagiarism.

Readings

There are two prescribed texts for the course, both of which students are expected to purchase:

Williamson, Stephen D., *Macroeconomics* (third edition), Pearson Addison Wesley 2008.

Carlin, W and Soskice, D *Macroeconomics: Imperfections, Institutions and Policies*
Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Useful supplementary texts are:

Bénassy, Jean-Pascal, *The Macroeconomics of Imperfect Competition and Nonclearing Markets: a Dynamic General Equilibrium Approach*, MIT Press 2002 (challenging)

Blanchard, Olivier, *Macroeconomics* (third edition), Prentice-Hall 2003 (this was last year's ECON 202 textbook so many of you will have copies to which you are encouraged to refer back).

Heijdra, B. and Van der Ploeg, F., *Foundations of Modern Macroeconomics*, Oxford University Press 2002 (strongly recommended to students with good maths as an excellent treatment of the course material, which could be the textbook if it were a little less hard going)

Farmer, Roger, *Macroeconomics* (second edition), South-Western, 2002.

Additional reading will be prescribed for each topic from other books and from the journal literature.

Assessment Requirements

Students' final grades will taken as the greater of:

EITHER: tutorial assignments (20%)
 two one-hour tests (15% each)
 final examination (50%)

OR: final examination (100%)

Penalties

Work submitted late will not be marked unless a prior arrangement has been made with the Course Coordinator, Dr Bertram.

Mandatory Course Requirements

Terms ("mandatory course requirements") are satisfied by students completing in writing, and verbally presenting, three tutorial assignments to a satisfactory standard, and sitting both tests.

Communication of Additional Information

Additional information will be posted on Blackboard.

Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices

Railway West Wing (RWW) - FCA Student and Academic Services Office

The Faculty's Student and Academic Services Office is located on the ground and first floors of the Railway West Wing. The ground floor counter is the first point of contact for general enquiries and FCA forms. Student Administration Advisers are available to discuss course status and give further advice about FCA qualifications. To check for opening hours call the Student and Academic Services Office on (04) 463 5376.

Easterfield (EA) - FCA/Education/Law Kelburn Office

The Kelburn Campus Office for the Faculties of Commerce and Administration, Education and Law is situated in the Easterfield Building on the ground floor (EA005). This counter is the first point of contact for :

- Duty tutors for student contact and advice.
- Information concerning administrative and academic matters.
- Forms for FCA Student and Academic Services (e.g. application for academic transcripts, requests for degree audit, COP requests).
- Examinations-related information during the examination period.

To check for opening hours call the Student and Academic Services Office on (04) 463 5376.

Notice of Turnitin Use

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <<http://www.turnitin.com>>. Turnitin is an on-line plagiarism prevention tool which identifies material that may have been copied from other sources including the Internet, books, journals, periodicals or the work of other students. Turnitin is used to assist academic staff in detecting misreferencing, misquotation, and the inclusion of unattributed material, which may be forms of cheating or plagiarism. *At the discretion of the School, handwritten work may be copy typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin.* You are strongly advised to check with your tutor or the course coordinator if you are uncertain about how to use and cite material from other sources. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted materials on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions will not be made available to any other party.

General University Policies and Statutes

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar or go to www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy/students.aspx

For information on the following topics, go to the Faculty's website www.victoria.ac.nz/fca under Important Information for Students:

- Academic Grievances
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments

- Student Support

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html

Manaaki Pihipihinga Programme

Manaaki Pihipihinga is an academic mentoring programme for undergraduate Māori and Pacific students in the Faculties of Commerce and Administration, and Humanities and Social Sciences. Sessions are held at the Kelburn and Pipitea Campuses in the Mentoring Rooms, 14 Kelburn Parade (back courtyard), Room 109D, and Room 210, Level 2, Railway West Wing. There is also a Pacific Support Coordinator who assists Pacific students by linking them to the services and support they need while studying at Victoria. Another feature of the programme is a support network for Postgraduate students with links to Postgraduate workshops and activities around Campus.

For further information, or to register with the programme, email manaaki-pihipihinga-programme@vuw.ac.nz or phone (04) 463 6015. To contact the Pacific Support Coordinator, email pacific-support-coord@vuw.ac.nz or phone (04) 463 5842.