



## Course Content

The course objective is to explain economic principles and their application to issues facing households, businesses and the government in the New Zealand economy in the context of the international economic environment. Special focus is placed on understanding the economics toolbox so that it can be used for general economic analysis.

**Lectures will be largely based on the Hubbard et al book.**

## Course Learning Objectives

Students who are successful in this course will be able to:

- define, explain and apply economic concepts and terms;
- identify and explain the economic implications of different economic systems;
- apply economic principles, including supply and demand concepts, to evaluate policy with respect to certain current economic issues;
- apply the economic theory of the firm (including marginal and transaction cost analysis) in different market settings;
- explain the importance of international trade to economic performance, and analyse domestic and international trade policy as it pertains to economic issues;
- analyse the determinants of economic growth and business cycles (changes in GDP);
- explain key features of economic aggregates (macroeconomics), the linkages between macroeconomic variables, the trade and capital account balances, and business cycles in the New Zealand economy;
- explain the determinants of government revenues and expenditure, and the effect of these and the government budget on the performance of the economy;
- define measures of money and the price level and analyse the basis of monetary policy; and
- explain the interaction between microeconomic policy and macroeconomic performance.

## Course Delivery

Lectures will comprise the delivery of the courses material plus discussion of theoretical and applied questions.

## Expected Workload

This course is a 15-point course. One point is equated to 10 hours of work, which means a total of 150 hours is expected for this course, spread over the 12 teaching weeks, mid-trimester break, study week and the examination period. This involves attending the lecturers and tutorials every week, assignments, and preparations for all exams.

## Group Work

None.

## Readings

- **Set reading:** Hubbard/Garnett/Lewis/O'Brien, *Essentials of Economics*. Pearson, Australia, 2010.
- **Optional reading, but highly recommended:** Myeconlab supplement to Essentials of Economics.

### **Materials and Equipment**

Students will be permitted to use electronic calculators during exams and assignments. These calculators must not contain memory capabilities and must be non-programmable.

Any additional notes will be posted on Blackboard.

### **Assessment Requirements**

- 2 Tests worth 22.5 percent each of the final grade
  - Test # 1 August 4 (covers material covered prior to the mid-term) (90 minutes)
  - Test # 2 September 22 (covers material covered from the first mid-term to this second mid-term) (90 minutes)
- An exam worth 55 percent of the final grade (covers all material covered in the lectures and tutorials—this is a comprehensive exam) (2 hours)

Your assessed work may also be used for quality assurance purposes, such as to assess the level of achievement of learning objectives as required for accreditation and audit purposes. The findings may be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of FCA programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.

### **Examinations**

Students who enrol in courses with examinations are obliged to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period.

The final examination for this course will be scheduled at some time during the period **Friday 22nd October – Saturday 13th November 2010 (inclusive)**

### **Mandatory Course Requirements**

None.

### **Class Representative**

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class via a Blackboard posting. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

### **Communication of Additional Information**

Additional information will be available on blackboard.

**For the following important information follow the links provided:**

**Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

**General University Policies and Statutes**

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

**AVC (Academic) Website: information including: Conduct, Academic Grievances, Students with Impairments, Student Support**

[http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx)

**Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices**

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fca/studenthelp/>

**Manaaki Pihipihinga Programme**

[http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/mentoring/](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/mentoring/)