

School of Economics and Finance

ECON 305 ADVANCED MACROECONOMICS

Trimester 1, 2014

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

Course Coordinator and lecturer (weeks 1 – 7):

Professor Viv Hall, room RH 212 in Rutherford House, 23 Lambton Quay
Telephone (04) 463 5081, email viv.hall@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Wednesdays 12.30 – 1.30pm, or by email appointment

Lecturer (weeks 8 – 12):

Dr Nathaniel Robson, room RH 210
Telephone (04) 463 5233 extension 7515, email nathaniel.robson@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Fridays 2 – 3 pm, or by email appointment

Course Administrator:

Alice Fong, room RH 318, telephone 463 5353, email alice.fong@vuw.ac.nz

Trimester Dates

Teaching Period: Monday 3rd March – Friday 6th June
Study Period: Monday 9th June – Thursday 12th June
Examination Period: Friday 13th June – Wednesday 2nd July (inclusive)

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 14th March 2014.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 16th May. After this date, students forced to withdraw by circumstances beyond their control must apply for permission on an 'Application for Associate Dean's Permission to Withdraw Late' including supporting documentation. The application form is available from either of the Faculty's Student Customer Service Desks.

Class Times and Room Numbers

Lectures: Wednesdays and Fridays: 3.40 – 4.30pm in RH LT2

To get an initial understanding of key subject matter, you should attend all lectures.

Tutorials:

All students are expected to attend one tutorial per week. There will be 8 tutorials, to be held in weeks 3-6 and weeks 9-12. You must sign up for a tutorial via S-CUBED, URL <https://signups.victoria.ac.nz>. S-CUBED will open for sign up from 5pm, 5 March until 5pm, 13 March. In the event of any difficulty with tutorial allocations, please contact Alice Fong (alice.fong@vuw.ac.nz), RH 318.

Tutorial assignment questions will be available from Blackboard.

Tutors: To be advised

Group Work

Students are required to contribute to group presentations in tutorials.

Expected Workload

Students should expect a workload of 150 hours for this 15-point course. The workload would of course vary for individual students, depending on the student's previous knowledge and understanding, and the final grade to which the student aspires.

Prescription

The course explores the properties of short-run and medium-run macroeconomic equilibria in a small open economy with monopolistically competitive firms, strategic bargaining behaviour in factor markets, and other potential sources of price stickiness and adjustment lags.

Course Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. present and discuss at an advanced level developments in modern macroeconomic theory
2. analyse the short run dynamics of macroeconomic aggregates in the presence of nominal rigidities
3. explain the theoretical basis for central bank inflation-targeting and use of monetary rules, and the consequences of alternative monetary policies
4. explain the trade-offs faced by fiscal authorities between output and debt stabilisation
5. articulate and discuss sources of economic growth and transitional dynamics in dynamic macroeconomic models

Course Content

In 2014, the course prescription will be interpreted and presented as follows:

This is an advanced course in macroeconomics, analysing the roles of monetary and fiscal policy in the shaping of macroeconomic outcomes, as well as the dynamic behaviour of consumption and investment in economies where prices and wages are assumed to adjust gradually. This course also offers a more formal treatment of the factors that determine economic growth

Readings

The prescribed text for this course is:

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

Additional reading material will be referenced in lecture material and available from Blackboard.

Materials and Equipment

No additional materials or equipment is required for this course. Only silent non-programmable calculators or silent programmable calculators with their memories cleared are permitted in tests or the final examination.

Assessment

From Trimester 1, 2014, a revised Assessment Handbook will apply to all VUW courses: see <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf>.

In particular, there will be a new grade scheme, in which the A+ range will be 90-100% and 50-54% will be a C-.

60% of the course grade is determined by a 3-hour final exam, and 40% of the course grade is determined by two class tests, to be held during the following lecture hours:

Friday 11 April (Week 6)

Friday 30 May (Week 11)

Students are also required to submit written answers to all but one set of tutorial assignments. The proportion of satisfactory (diligently prepared and presented) assignments (i.e. 7/7 or 6/7) will be used as a scaling factor for the class test grades.

Completing all the tutorial assignments, preparing for and sitting the two class tests, and preparing for and sitting the Final Exam will assist the student to achieve Course Learning Objectives 1 to 5.

Penalties

Tutorial assignments submitted late will not be recorded as diligently prepared and presented, unless a prior arrangement has been made with the course coordinator.

Use of Turnitin

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 compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and submitted to Turnitin. A copy of submitted materials will be retained 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.

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 following period:

Friday 13th June – Wednesday 2nd July (inclusive)

Mandatory Course Requirements

There is no mandatory course requirement, other than obtaining an overall course mark of 50% or better.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat

Class Representative

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

Communication of Additional Information

Additional information regarding the course or any material changes will be announced at lectures and via a Blackboard announcement.

Student feedback

Student feedback on University courses may be found at

www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php

Link to general information

For general information about course-related matters, go to

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/vbs/studenthelp/general-course-information>

Note to Students

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 academic audit. The findings may be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of VBS programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.
