

School of Economics and Finance

ECON305 ADVANCED MACROECONOMICS

Trimester 1, 2015

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

Robert Kirkby

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Course Administrator:

Alice Fong. Room RH 318. Telephone 463 5353. Email alice.fong@vuw.ac.nz

Trimester Dates

Teaching Period: Monday 2nd March – Friday 5th June

Study Period: Monday 8th June – Thursday 11th June

Examination Period: Friday 12th June – Wednesday 1st July (inclusive)

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 13th March 2015.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 15th 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 or [online](#).

Class Times and Room Numbers

Mondays, 9:30-10:20, Government Buildings GBLT4 [Pipitea Campus]

Wednesdays, 9:30-10:20, Government Buildings GBLT4 [Pipitea Campus]

Tutorials:

There will be 8 tutorials, with the first tutorial occurring during the second week, dates for the rest will be announced via Blackboard. You must sign up for a tutorial via S-CUBED (<https://signups.victoria.ac.nz>). S-CUBED will open for sign up from 5pm, 2 March until 5pm, 6 March. In the event of any difficulty with tutorial allocations, please contact Alice Fong (alice.fong@vuw.ac.nz), RH 318.

Assignment Submission Box: Box 85 on Mezzanine Floor of Rutherford House [Pipitea Campus]

Course Delivery

The course consists of two weekly lectures, with eight tutorials during the semester.

Group Work

A few hours of group work may be required.

Expected Workload

The course is 15 points and so should require about 150 hours. This averages out to roughly 12 hours per week. This includes the 2 hours of class time per week.

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 macroeconomic theory at an advanced level.
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 in dynamic macroeconomic models.

Course Content

This is an advanced course in macroeconomics, analysing the roles of monetary and fiscal policy in the shaping of macroeconomic outcomes. The course also offers a more formal treatment of the factors that determine economic growth and the differences in income between countries.

Readings

The main relevant textbooks are

Carlin & Soskice - Macroeconomics: Imperfections, Institutions and Policies.

OR

Carlin & Soskice - Macroeconomics: Institutions, Instability, and the Financial System

Either text will do. Neither text is required to be purchased. Further reading will be posted on Blackboard.

Materials and Equipment

Not applicable.

Assessment

The Assessment Handbook will apply to all VUW courses: see

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf>.

Assessment will consist of:

- 15% short assignments (1-2 pages, most weeks).
- 5% mini-quizzes (multiple choice, less than 5min each).
- 20% two in-class 30min tests.
- 60% 3hr Final exam.

Penalties

Late submission of work will not be accepted.

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 12th June – Wednesday 1st July (inclusive)

Mandatory Course Requirements

None.

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

Course material and information will be conveyed mostly via Blackboard.

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.
