

FNCE 613
MACROECONOMICS AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT
THE WHARTON SCHOOL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

PROFESSOR ANTHONY LANDRY
SPRING 2017

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Macroeconomics and the Global Economic Environment is a course in macroeconomic analysis, with an emphasis on current events and policy applications. The goal of this course is to provide the foundation needed to recognize and understand broad economic and financial movements in the global economy. Key topics include national income accounting, production and economic growth, employment, consumption, investment, business cycles, monetary policy, and international trade and finance. By the end of this course, students will be able to evaluate and discuss the global economic environment in which business and financial decisions are made.

COURSE MATERIAL

Canvas

The Canvas website contains the syllabus, lecture notes, quizzes, teaching assistants' office hours and locations, regrade request forms, and other useful information. Canvas is also a useful hub to start and participate in course-related discussions. You need to have a Wharton account to access the website. You can apply for a Wharton account [online](#) if you do not have one.

Reading Material

The bulk of the course material comes from the lecture notes and course readings. The lecture notes are available on Canvas. Most course readings come from *The Economist* newspaper and from Federal Reserve Banks' publications. They are hyperlinked to web sources from within the syllabus.

There is no required textbook for this course. However, you will see references to sections of *Macroeconomics* (ninth edition) from Andrew B. Abel, Ben S. Bernanke and Dean Croushore, Addison-Wesley, 2017 (referred to as **ABC**) and *Macroeconomics* (third edition) from Charles I. Jones, Norton, 2014 (referred to as **Jones**) in the course outline section below. These are supplemental, but strongly recommended, readings that supplement our class discussions. These textbooks are available at the Bookstore and at the Lippincott library reserve. Moreover, the study guides that supplement these textbooks are useful in aiding students who would benefit from additional explanations and practice with the material.

Throughout the semester, you should keep current with economic news. A subscription to *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Financial Times*, or a close substitute is recommended. Selected articles from these sources may be added to the list of required readings later during the semester.

GRADING

Grades are based on two examinations (70%), six quizzes (10%), and class participation (20%). Class participation includes attendance, but primarily depends on coming to class prepared to discuss the assigned material, and on your respectful and meaningful participation in class discussions and case studies.

Examinations

The midterm examination is on TBD. **The final examination is on Monday, May 8, from 6:00 to 8:00pm.** The midterm and the final examinations are comprehensive and closed book. However, you may have one single handwritten 8.5" x 11" double-sided sheet of notes for the midterm and two sheets for the final. These handwritten sheets can only contain your own notes in your own handwriting. In particular, they may not contain large portions of reproduced notes or any other course materials such as slides, solution manuals or answer keys. Calculators are permitted. The final examination is cumulative over the material from the entire course.

The midterm examination counts as one grade and the final examination counts as two grades. The total examination grade is computed as the average of the best two out of three grades. In other words, the lowest grade among these three grades is dropped. This policy of dropping the lowest examination grade provides you insurance against scheduling conflicts (inability to attend the midterm examination) and anomalous performances (a bad day). Because this insurance is being provided to you, **no requests to reschedule or retake the midterm examination will be entertained** unless specifically mandated by university policy. If you miss the midterm examination for any reason, you can simply use your insurance policy and drop that exam. **The final examination can be rescheduled only if required by university policy and only during the official make-up period.**

Scheduling conflicts

Scheduling conflicts should be resolved according to the [MBA Resource Guide](#). If you find yourself with a conflict due to your career search or recruiting activity, you should work with the MBA Career Management Office to find a resolution. You should never approach your instructor with requests to reschedule exams or to make special accommodations.

Regrade requests

Regrade requests must be submitted using the **regrade request form** and the **statement of honesty** posted on Canvas and must be accompanied by your exam. Requests must be submitted within one week from the date the examination is returned (whether or not you actually pick up the exam on that date). Regrade requests must be very specific. For any request, the entire exam will be automatically regraded; meaning, the grade may stay the same, go up or go down after regrading. Any alteration of the exam is therefore strictly forbidden and will be considered as a violation to the [Code of Academic Integrity](#).

Quizzes

There will be six quizzes available on Canvas. The quizzes are designed to reinforce key concepts from the classes and to help you prepare for the examinations. Your final quiz grade will be the average of your best five quizzes. Due dates are indicated in the table below and under the course outline section of this syllabus. The quizzes must be submitted by 9:00am on the due date. **Quizzes will not be accepted late and no regrade requests will be entertained.** Answers to quizzes will be posted on Canvas shortly after the due date.

QUIZ #	TOPIC	AVAILABLE ON	DUE BY 9:00am ON
1	National income accounting	Wednesday, January 11	Wednesday, January 18
2	Production, employment, and growth	Wednesday, February 8	Monday, February 13
3	Consumption, Saving, and Investment	Wednesday, February 15	Monday, February 20
4	The business cycle	Wednesday, March 15	Monday, March 20
5	Monetary policy	Wednesday, March 29	Monday, April 3
6	The global economy	Wednesday, April 12	Monday, April 17

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All relevant University policies regarding Academic Integrity must be followed. Please consult the [Code of Academic Integrity](#) for details.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: alandry@wharton.upenn.edu

Office hours: Tuesdays, 11:00am - 12:00pm

Office: SHDH 2432

Most information about the course is posted on Canvas. **All questions related to the course material should be posted on Canvas. I will be happy to answer short and concise questions that are posted on Canvas.** This is an efficient way to clarify concepts and to disseminate information.

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Name	Email address	Office hours	Location
TBD		TBD	TBD

COURSE SCHEDULE

CLASS #	DATE	TOPIC
1	Monday, January 9	National income accounting
2	Wednesday, January 11	Measuring economic changes over time
	Monday, January 16	No class, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
3	Wednesday, January 18	Production and economic growth
	Monday, January 23	No class, Focused Recruiting Period
	Wednesday, January 25	No class, Focused Recruiting Period
4	Monday, January 30	Drivers of productivity and global competitiveness
5	Wednesday, February 1	CASE STUDY: The Solow growth model unleashed
6	Monday, February 6	The labor market
7	Wednesday, February 8	Consumption and saving decisions
8	Monday, February 13	Investment and goods market equilibrium
9	Wednesday, February 15	The asset market, money, and prices
10	Monday, February 20	The business cycle and the IS/LM model
	Wednesday, February 22	Review session
	Monday, February 27	Midterm examination
	Wednesday, March 1	No class, Core classes do not meet
	Monday, March 6	No class, Spring break
	Wednesday, March 8	No class, Spring break
11	Monday, March 13	Firms pricing behavior and the Phillips curve
12	Wednesday, March 15	Aggregate demand and aggregate supply
13	Monday, March 20	The Federal Reserve System
14	Wednesday, March 22	Monetary policy
15	Monday, March 27	CASE STUDY: The labor market and U.S. monetary policy
16	Wednesday, March 29	CASE STUDY: The term structure of interest rates
17	Monday, April 3	International trade
18	Wednesday, April 5	Exchange rates and international finance 1
19	Monday, April 10	Exchange rates and international finance 2
20	Wednesday, April 12	The government and the macroeconomy
21	Monday, April 17	The world today and global growth prospect
	Wednesday, April 19	Review session
	Monday, May 8	Final Examination from 6:00pm to 8:00pm

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING LIST

Topic 1: Introduction to Macroeconomic Data

Monday, January 9: National Accounting

Topics: origin of national income accounting, definitions and measurements of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), GDP components, production, income, and expenditure approach of measuring GDP, saving and wealth

Readings: **ABC** Ch. 2.1-2.3

Jones Ch. 2.1 and 2.2

[Boundary problems](#), *The Economist*, August 2013

Wednesday, January 11: Measuring Economic Changes over Time

Topics: nominal and real GDP, GDP across countries, growth rates, the rule of 70, price indices and inflation, nominal and real interest rates, the Fisher equation

Readings: **ABC** Ch. 2.4 and 2.5

Jones Ch. 2.3 and 2.4

[2016 in charts](#), *The Economist*, December 2016

[Why do measures of inflation disagree?](#) *Economic Letter*, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, December 2013

Quiz #1 due on Wednesday, January 18 by 9:00am

Topic 2: Production and Economic Growth

Wednesday, January 18: Production and Economic Growth

Topics: production function, return to scale, Cobb-Douglas production function, capital and labor inputs, Total Factor Productivity, marginal product of capital and labor, diminishing marginal products, capital and labor inputs allocation, production and shocks to labor, capital or TFP, sources of economic growth, income differences across countries, growth accounting

Readings: **ABC** Ch. 3.1 and 6.1

Jones Ch. 4

[Is China growth miracle over?](#) *Economic Letter*, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, August 2015

Monday, January 30: Drivers of Productivity and Global Competitiveness

Topics: the Solow growth model, innovation and economic growth, determinants of long-run living standards, international convergence, government policies and long-run growth

Readings: **ABC** Ch. 6.2-6.4

Jones Ch. 5

[What is the new normal for US growth?](#) *Economic Letter*, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, October 2016

Wednesday, February 1: The Solow Growth Model Unleashed

Case study: "The Solow Growth Model Unleashed," by Nicolas Vincent and Pierre Yared
Columbia Business School ID#130304 on Study.Net

Topic 3: Economic Markets

Monday, February 6: The Labor Market

Topics: the U.S. labor market, labor demand, labor supply, income and substitution effects, labor market equilibrium, full-employment output, wages and inequality, labor market measurements, frictional vs. structural unemployment, natural rate of unemployment, Okun's law

Readings: **ABC** Ch. 3.2-3.6

Jones Ch. 7

[Consequences of rising income inequality](#), *Economic Letter*, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, October 2016

Wednesday, February 8: Consumption and Saving Decisions

Topics: consumption and saving decisions, the intertemporal budget constraint, income and wealth, income and substitution effects, permanent-income hypothesis, Ricardian equivalence, borrowing constraints, empirical evidence on consumption

Readings: **ABC** Ch. 4.1 and appendix 4.A

Jones Ch. 16

[Increased credit availability, rising asset prices help boost consumer spending](#), *Economic Letter*, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, April 2016

Quiz #2 due on Monday, February 13 by 9:00am

Monday, February 13: Investment and Goods Market Equilibrium

Topics: firms' investment decisions, the user cost of capital, desired capital stock and investment, components of physical investment, saving and investment equilibrium, the real interest rate

Readings: **ABC** Ch. 4.2-4.3

Jones Ch. 17

[Why are interest rates so low?](#), by Ben Bernanke, March 2015

[Why are interest rates so low, part 2: Secular stagnation](#), by Ben Bernanke, March 2015

[Why are interest rates so low, part 3: The Global Savings Glut](#), by Ben Bernanke, April 2015

Wednesday, February 15: The Asset Market, Money, and Prices

Topics: monetary aggregates, portfolio allocation and the demand for assets, money demand, money supply creation, the quantity theory of money, asset market equilibrium, money growth and inflation, the costs of inflation

Readings: **ABC** Ch. 7

Jones Ch. 8

[Health care services depress recent PCE inflation readings](#). *Economic Letter*, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, August 2016

Quiz #3 due on Monday, February 20 by 9:00am

Monday, February 20: The Business Cycle and the IS/LM Model

Topics: business cycle trends and fluctuations, actual and potential output, overview of the short-run model, equilibrium in the labor, goods, and asset markets, macroeconomic shocks and the IS/LM model

Readings: **ABC** Ch. 8 and 9.1-9.4

[The New IS-LM Model: Language, Logic, and Limits](#), *Economic Quarterly*, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Summer 2000 Read Sections 1 and 2, pp 45-54.

[Will the Economic Recovery Die of Old Age?](#) *Economic Letter*, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, February 2016

Wednesday, February 22: Review session

Midterm Examination (Preliminary date): Monday, February 27, from 6:00-8:00pm

Topic 4: Business Cycle Models

Monday, March 13: Firms' Pricing Behavior and the Phillips Curve

Topics: firms' pricing behavior, unemployment and inflation, the Phillips curve, the role of inflation expectations

Readings: **ABC** Ch. 11.2 and 12
Jones Ch. 12

Wednesday, March 15: Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply

Topics: aggregate demand curve, aggregate supply curve, the AS/AD framework, the liquidity trap, the dangers of deflation, expectations and economic activity

Readings: **ABC** Ch. 9.5-9.6
Jones Ch. 13
[The high cost of falling prices](#), *The Economist*, February 2015

Quiz #4 due on Monday, March 20 by 9:00am

Topic 5: Monetary Policy

Monday, March 20: The Federal Reserve System

Topics: the Federal Reserve System, central banking around the world, the Federal Open Market Committee, conventional monetary policy, open market operations, the federal funds market

Readings: **ABC** Ch. 14.1-14.3

"Central Banks and the Federal Reserve System," by Frederic Mishkin on Study.Net

"Tools of Monetary Policy," by Frederic Mishkin on Study.Net

[Monetary policy, money, and inflation](#), *Economic Letter*, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, July 2012

Wednesday, March 22: Monetary Policy

Topics: monetary policy rules, the Taylor rule, the limits of conventional monetary policy, the Great Recession, unconventional monetary policy, financial stability

Readings: **ABC** Ch. 14.4-14.5

[What tools does the Fed have left? Part 1: Negative interest rates](#), by Ben Bernanke, March 2016

[What tools does the Fed have left? Part 2: Targeting longer-term interest rates](#), by Ben Bernanke, March 2016

Monday, March 27: The Labor Market and U.S. Monetary Policy

Case study: "What should Janet Yellen do?" by Anthony Landry on Canvas

Wednesday, March 29: The Term Structure of Interest Rates and Monetary Policy

Reading: "Term Structure of Interest Rates," by Frederic Mishkin on Study.Net

Case study: "The Yield Curve and Growth Forecasts," by Francis Warnock Harvard Business School #UV5689 on Study.Net

Quiz #5 due on Monday, April 3 by 9:00am

Topic 6: The Global Economy

Monday, April 3: International Trade

Topics: facts about international trade, reasons for trade, risk sharing, absolute and comparative advantage, costs and benefits of international trade, trade and capital flows, twin deficits

Readings: Jones Ch. 19

[Impact of Chinese slowdown on US no longer negligible](#), *Economic Letter*, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, May 2016

Wednesday, April 5: Exchange Rates and International Finance 1

Topics: open-economy goods-market equilibrium, open-economy saving and investment, fiscal policy and the current account, the nominal and real exchange rates, exchange rate movements and trade flow

Reading: ABC Ch. 5

Monday, April 10: Exchange Rates and International Finance 2

Topics: open-economy IS/LM, open-economy AS/AD, interest rates and exchange rate movements, international transmission of monetary policy, fixed exchange rates

Readings: ABC Ch. 13

Jones Ch. 20

Topic 7: Fiscal Policy

Wednesday, April 12: The Government and the Macroeconomy

Topics: U.S. government spending and revenue, fiscal policy and aggregate demand, government debt and deficits, sustainability of public debt, the European debt crisis, problems of the 21st century

Readings: **ABC** Ch. 15.1-15.3

[Global Demographic Trends shapes policy environment](#), *Economic Letter*, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, July 2016

Quiz #6 due on Monday, April 17 by 9:00am

Monday, April 17: The World Today and Global Growth Prospects

Readings: [World Economic Outlook](#), Chapter 1 and 2, April 2017
International Monetary Fund

Wednesday, April 19: Review session

Final examination: Wednesday, May 8, from 6:00 to 8:00pm