



ECON846

International Monetary Policy

S1 Evening 2014

Economics

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General Information

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Unit Convenor

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Credit points

4

Prerequisites

ECON633 or admission to MActPrac or MCom or MEc or MIntBus prior to 2011

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

The objective of this unit is to examine selected issues in international monetary economics. We will look at models of money and inflation and analyse the role of monetary and fiscal policies. We will also consider theories of exchange rate determination and models of currency crises. In addition, we will look at the issues of external debt and optimal currency areas. Finally, we will discuss selected macroeconomic puzzles.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Understand the continuous flow of information on the state of the world economy.

Make sense of the data on the world economy.

Participate with confidence in the debates about international economic policy.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
1. Class Test	20%	Week 6, in class
2. Essay	20%	Week 8, Monday, 5th May
3. Final Examination	60%	Examination period

1. Class Test

Due: **Week 6, in class**

Weighting: **20%**

Class test:

Your class test is 50 minutes plus 10 minutes reading time. It will be based primarily on questions along the lines of the numeric/short answer tutorial questions on lectures presented from weeks 1 to 5.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand the continuous flow of information on the state of the world economy.
- Make sense of the data on the world economy.

2. Essay

Due: **Week 8, Monday, 5th May**

Weighting: **20%**

Review essay

Write an 1800 word summary and evaluation of any single one of the 4 instant classics on international monetary policy (listed below.) By “review essay” we mean a summary in your own words of the article you have chosen to review, together with an appraisal of it. Choose your own preferred proportions of summary and appraisal. You will receive a slightly higher mark if, other things equal, the article you choose to review is comparatively difficult. Your bibliography need not be extensive. Keep a copy of your essay.

Choose ONE of the following articles as your review essay topic:

1. Harris Dellas and George S. Tavlás, The Gold Standard, the Euro, and the Origins of the Greek Sovereign Debt Crisis, *Cato Journal*, Vol. 33, No. 3, Fall 2013.

Argues that joining the Euro brought short-term gains to Greece but shut off necessary adjustment mechanisms that used to impose necessary disciplines under, for example, the international gold standard (which collapsed during the 1930s). Level of difficulty: moderate--no econometrics.

2. Oscar Jorda, Moritz Schularick and Alan Taylor, Financial Crises, Credit Booms, & External Imbalances: 140 Years of Lessons, *IMF Economic Review*, Vol.59, No. 2.

Checks out causes & consequences of financial crises, with external balances being one possible cause. Level of difficulty: medium—some econometrics.

3. Maurice Obstfeld, Financial Flows, Financial Crises. & Global Imbalances, *Journal of International Money & Finance*, Vol. 31, 2012, 469-480.

Argues that current account imbalances “remain an essential target for policy scrutiny”. Level of difficulty: moderate. Some knowledge of balance-of-payments terminology is required, but there’s no econometrics, & the article is short

4. John B Taylor, International Policy Coordination: Past, Present & Future, Bank for International Settlements, Working Paper 437, 2013.

Investigates notions such as the idea that recent departures by the US from its normal policy responses have pushed other countries off course as well. Level of difficulty: moderate to medium. Some conceptual sophistication is assumed, but there’s no econometrics.

The review essay is due on the Monday, 5th of May by 4pm.

YOU NEED TO SUBMIT YOUR ASSIGNMENT TO THE POSTGRADUATE CENTER LOCATED ON LEVEL 2, E4A. FAIL TO SUBMIT ON TIME WILL RECEIVE A 20% REDUCTION ON THEIR MARK PER DAY.

THERE WILL BE FOUR BOXES FOR YOU TO SUBMIT YOUR ASSIGNMENT, EACH FOR A PARTICULAR ARTICLE. PUT YOUR ESSAY INTO THE BOX LABELLED WITH YOUR ARTICLE OF CHOICE. FAIL TO DO SO MAY RESULT IN A DELAY, OR POSSIBLE LOSS OF YOUR ASSIGNMENT.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Make sense of the data on the world economy.
- Participate with confidence in the debates about international economic policy.

3. Final Examination

Due: **Examination period**

Weighting: **60%**

Final examination

The final examination will be held during the official examination period from 11 June to 28 June. The examination will be based on lectures and tutorials from weeks 1 to 13, with an emphasis on material presented after the mid-session class test.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand the continuous flow of information on the state of the world economy.
- Make sense of the data on the world economy.
- Participate with confidence in the debates about international economic policy.

Delivery and Resources

Required and Recommended Texts and/or Materials

Textbook

The prescribed text for the unit is: Paul Krugman, Maurice Obstfeld and Marc Melitz, International Economics: Theory and Policy, 9th edition, Pearson/Addison-Wesley. We will only be using Parts 3 & 4 of this text, ie, we will not use Parts 1 & 2.

Unit Web Page

Students will be able to access the unit web page by using their normal university Student ID Number and Password on <http://learn.mq.edu.au>. Further help may also be provided by the Learning and teaching Centre: <http://www.mq.edu.au/learningandteachingcentre>.

Unit Schedule

Week 1 Chapters 13 NATIONAL INCOME ACCOUNTING & THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

Note: Today's lecture will be short. There is no tutorial this week.

Week 2 Chapter 14 EXCHANGE RATES & THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET: AN ASSET APPROACH

Week 3 Chapter 15 MONEY, INTEREST RATES, AND EXCHANGE RATES

Week 4 Chapter 16 PRICE LEVELS & THE EXCHANGE RATE IN THE LONG RUN

Week 5 Chapter 17 OUTPUT & THE EXCHANGE RATE IN THE SHORT RUN

Week 6 CLASS TEST In place of lectures and tutorials. Class test value: 20%.

MIDSESSION BREAK 14 April—Friday 25 April

Week 7 Chapter 18 FIXED EXCHANGE RATES & FOREIGN EXCHANGE INTERVENTION

Week 8 Chapter 19 INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEMS: AN HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Week 9 Chapter 20 OPTIMUM CURRENCY AREAS & THE EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE

Week 10 Chapter 21 FINANCIAL GLOBALIZATION: OPPORTUNITY & CRISIS

Week 11 Chapter 22 DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: GROWTH, CRISIS, & REFORM

Week 12 REVIEW Note: tutorials in Week 13 will be brief.

Week 13 HOLIDAY (Queen's Birthday Weekend)

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)

- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand the continuous flow of information on the state of the world economy.
- Make sense of the data on the world economy.

Assessment tasks

- 1. Class Test
- 3. Final Examination

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Make sense of the data on the world economy.
- Participate with confidence in the debates about international economic policy.

Assessment tasks

- 1. Class Test
- 2. Essay
- 3. Final Examination

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand the continuous flow of information on the state of the world economy.
- Make sense of the data on the world economy.
- Participate with confidence in the debates about international economic policy.

Assessment tasks

- 1. Class Test
- 2. Essay
- 3. Final Examination