ECON381

Current Issues in Economics

S1 Day 2019

Dept of Economics

Contents

General Information 2

Learning Outcomes 3

Assessment Tasks 3

Delivery and Resources 6

Unit Schedule 6

Policies and Procedures 7

Graduate Capabilities 8

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General Information

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Credit points
3

Prerequisites
(39cp at 100 level or above) including (ECON203 and ECON204)

Corequisites
3cp from ECON303-ECON394

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit provides a platform for students to exercise the knowledge and skills they have learned in previous units and requires students to complete a major research project in business that deals with issues of economics, under the supervision of a faculty member. Students will actively engage with industry partners. The group work engages students in the challenges of interpersonal communication, task allocation, co-ordination and control. By the end of the unit, students will have gained a sound understanding of how to research and analyse a business from an economics perspective, as well as be able to contextualise their graduate capabilities into the final industry report.

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:

Create solutions that can be applied to problems faced by key economic decision makers using knowledge of economic theories.

Critically analyse economic issues and integrate learning to make recommendations based on economic theories and techniques.

Develop effective oral and written communication skills and the ability to communicate knowledge and ideas to specialist and non-specialist audiences and peers.

Demonstrate the ability to identify and critically examine sustainability aspects of a professional situation and to recommend appropriate responses.

Collaborate with a team to contribute to the development of a group economic research project for industry partners.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Research Project Pitch	15%	No	Week 5
Essay	25%	No	Week 9
Team Research Project	60%	No	Ongoing

Research Project Pitch

Due: **Week 5**
Weighting: **15%**

At the beginning of the session, students will be placed into teams of 5. Each team is then expected to complete a research project pitch. In order to facilitate this assessment task a research project pitch template will be posted on iLearn in a clearly labelled folder. Completed research project pitches must be uploaded to Turnitin before the due date.

The research project pitch aims to help students develop a clear sense of direction early on in their project and to support teams in organising, planning and monitoring their progress as they move forward during the session. Each research project pitch will contain information pertaining to both the individual research goals of the student and the overall research goals of each team.

No extensions will be granted. There will be a deduction of 10% of the total available marks

made from the total awarded mark for each 24 hour period or part thereof that the submission is late (for example, 25 hours late in submission – 20% penalty). This penalty does not apply to cases in which an application for special considerations is made and approved.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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Essay

Due: **Week 9**
Weighting: **25%**

Students will be given a set of essay questions worth 25% of their final grade. The essay questions will focus on issues of economic sustainability in the context of the session's industry partner.

Completed essays are to be submitted to Turnitin via the unit iLearn page. Essay submission instructions will be posted on iLearn in a clearly labelled folder.

It is intended that students will work on the essay independently. Students who have plagiarised will be awarded a mark of zero, will not be permitted to resubmit, and may be reported to the University Disciplinary Committee for further action.

No extensions will be granted. There will be a deduction of 10% of the total available marks made from the total awarded mark for each 24 hour period or part thereof that the submission is late (for example, 25 hours late in submission – 20% penalty). This penalty does not apply to cases in which an application for special considerations is made and approved.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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Team Research Project

Due: **Ongoing**
Weighting: **60%**

The team research project consists of **three** parts:

1. Presentation I - Week 8 - 10%

During the week 8 lecture each team will be asked to present a **summary of the progress** made on their research project to the class. Each student will be marked on both their individual presentation and their performance as part the overall team. Full details of the required timing and structure of the presentation will be posted on iLearn in a clearly labelled folder.

This presentation is designed to provide opportunities for constructive feedback from peers and academic staff that can be used to inform the remainder of your research project.

Students failing to present during their allotted time will receive a mark of zero. This penalty does not apply to cases in which an application for special considerations is made and approved.

2. Presentation II & Industry Partner Presentations - Weeks 11, 12 and 13 - 10%

During the week 11,12 and 13 lectures each team will be asked to present their **final research findings** to the industry partner along with their peers, academic staff and a selection of faculty PACE/program coordinators. Each student will be marked on both their individual presentation and their performance as part the overall team. Full details of the required timing and structure of the presentation will be posted on iLearn in a clearly labeled folder.

Students failing to present during their allotted time will receive a mark of zero. This penalty does not apply to cases in which an application for special considerations is made and approved.

3. Team research paper - Week 14 - 40%

Each team is required to submit to Turnitin a 5000-word economic research paper based on the topics presented by the industry partner at the beginning of the session. The required structure of the paper will be discussed in detail as we progress through the session and each teams research will be developed by a series of project consultation seminars with members of academic staff.

No extensions will be granted. There will be a deduction of 10% of the total available marks made from the total awarded mark for each 24 hour period or part thereof that the submission is late (for example, 25 hours late in submission – 20% penalty). This penalty does not apply to cases in which an application for special considerations is made and approved.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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project for industry partners.

Delivery and Resources

Learning and teaching strategy

The learning and teaching strategy in ECON381 recognises that students learn from contact with academic staff and their peers. It also recognises that students must take responsibility for their learning process, which includes independent study and reflection.

Lectures and consultation seminars

The timetabled three-hour lectures for ECON381 are in a mixed format, comprising of a variety of formal lectures, industry partner presentations, student presentations and consultation seminars. As ECON381 is a participation and capstone unit, you are strongly encouraged to attend each and every lecture in order to gain vital hands-on experience and exposure to the ideas of peers, academic staff and the industry partner.

Required and Recommended Texts

There is no set textbook for the course. Recommended reading material will be posted to the unit iLearn during the session.

Unit Schedule

	Lecture Topic	Assessment Task Due
Week 1	Introduction to ECON381	
Week 2	Industry Partner Lecture	
Week 3	Writing an Economics Research Paper I	
Week 4	Writing an Economics Research Paper II	
Week 5	Writing an Economics Research Paper III	Research Project Pitch (15%)
Week 6	Writing an Economics Research Paper IV	
Week 7	Project Consultation Seminar	
Week 8	Research Presentation I	Presentation I (10%)
Week 9	Project Consultation Seminar	Essay (25%)
Week 10	Project Consultation Seminar	
Week 11 & 12	Research Presentation II	Presentation II (10%)
Week 13	Presentations to Industry Partner	
Week 14		Team research paper (40%)

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- Academic Appeals Policy
- Academic Integrity Policy
- Academic Progression Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Fitness to Practice Procedure
- Grade Appeal Policy
- Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public
- Special Consideration Policy *(**Note:** The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.)*

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the Student Policy Gateway (https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/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/study/getting-started/student-conduct

Results

Results published on platform other than eStudent, (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

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

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

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- Critically analyse economic issues and integrate learning to make recommendations based on economic theories and techniques.
- Develop effective oral and written communication skills and the ability to communicate knowledge and ideas to specialist and non-specialist audiences and peers.
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- Collaborate with a team to contribute to the development of a group economic research project for industry partners.

Assessment tasks

- Research Project Pitch
- Essay
- Team Research Project

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Create solutions that can be applied to problems faced by key economic decision makers using knowledge of economic theories.
- Critically analyse economic issues and integrate learning to make recommendations based on economic theories and techniques.
- Develop effective oral and written communication skills and the ability to communicate knowledge and ideas to specialist and non-specialist audiences and peers.
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Assessment tasks

- Research Project Pitch
- Essay
- Team Research Project

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

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Assessment tasks

- Research Project Pitch
- Essay
- Team Research Project

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Create solutions that can be applied to problems faced by key economic decision makers using knowledge of economic theories.
- Critically analyse economic issues and integrate learning to make recommendations based on economic theories and techniques.
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Assessment tasks

- Research Project Pitch
- Essay
- Team Research Project

Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Create solutions that can be applied to problems faced by key economic decision makers using knowledge of economic theories.
- Critically analyse economic issues and integrate learning to make recommendations based on economic theories and techniques.
- Develop effective oral and written communication skills and the ability to communicate knowledge and ideas to specialist and non-specialist audiences and peers.
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Assessment tasks

- Research Project Pitch
- Essay
- Team Research Project