ECON3011
Macroeconomic Policy
Session 1, Special circumstances 2021

Department of Economics

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Notice
As part of Phase 3 of our return to campus plan, most units will now run tutorials, seminars and other small group activities on campus, and most will keep an online version available to those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face activities for your unit, please go to timetable viewer. To check detailed information on unit assessments visit your unit's iLearn space or consult your unit convenor.
General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Professor
Jeffrey Sheen
jeffrey.sheen@mq.edu.au
Room 432, E4A Building
Thursdays 3-5pm

Professor
David Orsmond
david.orsmond@mq.edu.au

Credit points
10

Prerequisites
20cp at 2000 level including ECON204 or ECON2004

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit develops macroeconomic models with a focus on key contemporary issues such as persistent low inflation, interest rates, secular stagnation, alternative monetary policy frameworks, fiscal policy constraints, understanding financial crises, financial regulation and cryptocurrencies. Students will develop an understanding of the reasons for these problems, and how key policy institutions such as the RBA, APRA and Treasury are addressing them.

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates

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

ULO1: Analyse and explain macroeconomic policy in a general framework.
ULO2: Appraise how monetary and fiscal policies are determined in the context of the current economic environment.
ULO3: Critically evaluate the effectiveness of current macroeconomic policy in achieving...
General Assessment Information

Essay Assignment (20%)

• Due online in iLearn through TURNITIN before Friday midnight of Week 12, 28 May 2021
• Choose any one of the topics on contemporary issues (provided separately on iLearn).
• Research it widely in journal, books, professional magazines etc, and write a reasoned essay about the issue and its implications for macroeconomic outcomes and policy.
• Format: Maximum 1500 words. You may use any number of figures and diagrams and tables. Use 12 point font, 1.5 line spaces and A4 page size.
• It is essential to cite any writing that is not your own – remember the essays will be submitted online on iLearn through TURNITIN, which can detect copied material from anywhere at any time globally.
• NB Possible topics will be provided in iLearn.

This Assessment Task relates to the learning outcomes as follows:

- Source and interpret macroeconomic data, use coherently the key concepts in macroeconomics, and apply advanced macroeconomic models to understand the behaviour of key macroeconomic variables.

- Identify and interpret topical macroeconomic issues, and use advanced macroeconomic models to understand how policy should respond to the issues.

- Write and discuss advanced macroeconomic analysis in a creative, logical and professional way.

Mid-session Test (25%)

• Held online in-class in Week 6
• Weighting: 25%
• Details of the mid-semester test will be discussed in Week 5.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Source and interpret macroeconomic data, use coherently the key concepts in macroeconomics, and apply advanced macroeconomic models to understand the behaviour of key macroeconomic variables.

- Identify and interpret topical macroeconomic issues, and use advanced macroeconomic models to understand how policy should respond to the issues.

- Write advanced macroeconomic analysis in a creative, logical and professional way.

Final examination (50%)
Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zoom participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Each Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay assignment</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Friday midnight, 28 May 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-session class test</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Wednesday 31 March 2021, 6:00pm - 7:20pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final examination</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>In June exam period</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Zoom participation
Assessment Type: Participatory task
Indicative Time on Task: 0 hours
Due: Each Wednesday
Weighting: 5%

Students are expected to participate in live Zoom sessions and the online forum.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Analyse and explain macroeconomic policy in a general framework.
- Appraise how monetary and fiscal policies are determined in the context of the current economic environment.
**Essay assignment**

Assessment Type 1: Report  
Indicative Time on Task 2: 20 hours  
Due: **Friday midnight, 28 May 2021**  
Weighting: **20%**

Provide an answer to questions of an analytical nature and/or write a short essay/report which might require the use of Australian data.

On successful completion you will be able to:  
- Appraise how monetary and fiscal policies are determined in the context of the current economic environment.  
- Critically evaluate the effectiveness of current macroeconomic policy in achieving stated goals.

**Mid-session class test**

Assessment Type 1: Quiz/Test  
Indicative Time on Task 2: 15 hours  
Due: **Wednesday 31 March 2021, 6:00pm - 7:20pm**  
Weighting: **25%**

The 80 minute online class test will be based on the lecture material and exercises covered in weeks 1 to 6.

On successful completion you will be able to:  
- Analyse and explain macroeconomic policy in a general framework.  
- Appraise how monetary and fiscal policies are determined in the context of the current economic environment.

**Final examination**

Assessment Type 1: Examination  
Indicative Time on Task 2: 35 hours  
Due: **In June exam period**  
Weighting: **50%**
A two-hour open book examination will be held during the University Examination Period, and will be on based on material covered in lectures from weeks 1 to 13 (inclusive), with an emphasis on material presented after the class test.

On successful completion you will be able to:

• Appraise how monetary and fiscal policies are determined in the context of the current economic environment.
• Critically evaluate the effectiveness of current macroeconomic policy in achieving stated goals.

1 If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

• the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
• the Learning Skills Unit for academic skills support.

2 Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

**Delivery and Resources**

**Lectures**

Lectures are on Wednesdays 6-9pm online. The first 2 hours is a lecture, while the 3rd hour is an interactive ZOOM session in which you are expected to participate.

**Required and Recommended Texts and/or Materials**

There is no required textbook for this course.

It is assumed that you understand well an intermediate macroeconomics textbook eg


A good reference text for this unit is:


Useful readings for the topics are given in the Unit Schedule, and extra readings may be recommended during the lectures.
Unit Schedule

WEEKS 1-2 (24 February, 3 March). Refresher on ISLM, AS-AD; Malthusian growth model, Solow growth model, Endogenous growth models (JS)

Blanchard and Sheen 2013 Chs 5-12


Williamson Chs 1,-3, 7-8

WEEK 3 (10 March). Low inflation, the natural rate of unemployment (JS)


Williamson Chs 14-15

WEEK 4 (17 March). Secular stagnation, potential growth, technology and inequality (JS)


WEEK 5 (24 March). Monetary policy frameworks – inflation targeting and alternatives (JS)


WEEK 6 (31 March). Mid-session test - online 6pm.
..Mid-session break...

WEEK 7 (21 April). Links between fiscal policy and monetary policy – the government budget constraint, the fiscal theory of prices, hyperinflation (JS)

Blanchard and Sheen 2013 Chs 23-24


WEEK 8 (28 April). The causes of financial crises and policy responses (DO)


Williamson Ch. 18

WEEK 9 (5 May). Financial regulation: Principles and practice (DO)


WEEKS 10-11 (12 and 19 May). Official Australian and global economy reports (JS)

Latest RBA Statement on monetary policy, Commonwealth Budget statements, World Economic Outlook

WEEK 12 (26 May). Digital money and the payments system; the future of
cryptocurrencies – eg Bitcoin, Libra, central bank digital currencies (JS)


Williamson Chs 18

WEEK 13 (2 June). Summary and overview, Q and A, discussion of final exam

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.)

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/admin/other-resources/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 help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

• Getting help with your assignment
• Workshops
• StudyWise
• Academic Integrity Module

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

• Subject and Research Guides
• Ask a Librarian

Student Enquiry Service

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

Equity 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.

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.

Changes from Previous Offering

Unit has been changed to include much more on contemporary policy issues,