



ECON8013

Applied Topics in Macroeconomics

Session 2, Online-scheduled-weekday 2022

Department of Economics

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Jeffrey Sheen

jeffrey.sheen@mq.edu.au

Contact via x7287

E4A 430

Lecturer

David Orsmond

david.orsmond@mq.edu.au

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

ECON633 or ECON6033 or ECON6049 or ECON6050

Corequisites

Co-badged status

ECON713

Unit description

This unit provides the necessary tools to engage with current macroeconomic issues. It will apply rigorous economic analysis to real-world problems, developing an understanding of the relationships between key macroeconomic indicators e.g. inflation, output growth, unemployment, interest rates, wages and profits, stock market indices, exchange rates. The unit will help students to think creatively about the design and constraints of monetary, fiscal and macroprudential policy in normal times and during a crisis.

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:

ULO1: Source and interpret macroeconomic data and coherently use key concepts in macroeconomics.

ULO2: Apply advanced macroeconomic models to understand the behaviour of key macroeconomic variables.

ULO3: Identify and interpret topical macroeconomic issues, and use advanced macroeconomic models to understand how policy should respond to the issues.

ULO4: Co-operate with peers in groups to prepare and present the results of collaboration on current topical issues.

ULO5: Write and discuss advanced macroeconomic analysis in a creative, logical and professional way.

General Assessment Information

Essay topics, mid-session test question paper and final exam question paper will be available on iLearn.

Late Assessment Submission Penalty

Unless an application for [Special Consideration](#) has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a grade of '0' will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical concern.

For any late submissions of time-sensitive tasks, such as scheduled tests, exams, performance assessments, and/or scheduled practical assessments/labs, students need to submit an application for [Special Consideration](#).

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Mid-session test	20%	No	Week 7
Group Research and Presentation	15%	No	Week 13
Essay	25%	No	Week 12
Final examination	40%	No	In final exam period

Mid-session test

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **Week 7**

Weighting: **20%**

There will be a mid-session test based on material covered in the relevant lectures.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Source and interpret macroeconomic data and coherently use key concepts in macroeconomics.
- 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.

Group Research and Presentation

Assessment Type **1**: Presentation

Indicative Time on Task **2**: 15 hours

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **15%**

Each group will be allocated a current report by a major agency, such as the Reserve Bank, to be analysed and presented as a seminar towards the end of the session. Students are required to present a summary of the key points in the report. The group must meet regularly throughout the session to complete the necessary research on the allocated report, and to prepare the presentation. The presentation can be designed to include possible discussion points for the class.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Source and interpret macroeconomic data and coherently use key concepts in macroeconomics.
- 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.

- Co-operate with peers in groups to prepare and present the results of collaboration on current topical issues.
- Write and discuss advanced macroeconomic analysis in a creative, logical and professional way.

Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **Week 12**

Weighting: **25%**

The 1,500-word essay is due before the beginning of the seminar in Week 12. Students choose any one of the topics on contemporary issues provided by the lecturer, research it widely in journals, books, professional magazines, etc, and write a reasoned essay about the issue and its implications for macroeconomic outcomes and policy.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Source and interpret macroeconomic data and coherently use key concepts in macroeconomics.
- 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.

Final examination

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **In final exam period**

Weighting: **40%**

A two-hour final exam will be held during the University Examination Period. The exam will consist of conceptual and problem solving short and long answer questions.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Source and interpret macroeconomic data and coherently use key concepts in macroeconomics.
- 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.

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 [Writing Centre](#) 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/SEMINARS (refer to <https://timetables.mq.edu.au> for class time)

This unit will be delivered entirely online.

We are assigned assigned a weekly time slot in the timetable - Thursdays 1-3pm. Pre-recorded lectures in Weeks 1-6 and 8-9 will be available through ECHO and in iLearn prior to the time slot, and should be watched before 2pm - these pre-recorded lectures will each be approximately 2 hours in length. At 2pm each Thursday, an interactive ZOOM session will be held that all students must attend and participate in.

In Weeks 10-13, the interactive ZOOM session will be for the entire assigned time slot (Thursdays 1-3pm).

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 O. Blanchard and J. Sheen, Macroeconomics, 2014, 4th edition, Pearson

A good (but only reference) text for this unit is:

S. Williamson, Macroeconomics , 2018, 6th global edition, Pearson

Useful readings for the topics are given in the Unit Schedule, and extra readings may be

recommended during the lectures.

Unit Web Page

You can access the ECON8013/7013 web site on iLearn from anywhere on the Internet. To login you need a Username and password. All lecture slides should be available on the iLearn site at least by midday of the lecture.

Unit Schedule

This is a planned schedule, and there may be minor variations and readings added as the session progresses.

WEEK 1 (JS) *Monetary policy frameworks – inflation targeting, and alternatives*

DeBelle, G. 2018 [Twenty-five Years of Inflation Targeting in Australia](#) RBA Conference Central Bank Frameworks: Evolution or Revolution? 2018

Rogoff, K. 2017. Dealing with monetary paralysis at the zero bound. Journal of Economic Perspectives, https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/rogoff/files/dealing_with_monetary_paralysis_at_the_zero_bound.pdf

RBA: Supporting the Economy and Financial System in Response to COVID-19, <https://www.rba.gov.au/covid-19/>

Williamson Ch15

WEEK 2 (JS) *Low inflation, the natural rate of unemployment, and rising inflation*

Cassidy, N., Rankin, E., Read, M. and Seibold, C. 2019 *Explaining Low Inflation Using Models*. <https://www.rba.gov.au/publications/bulletin/2019/jun/explaining-low-inflation-using-models.html>

Blanchard, O. 2018 *Should we reject the natural rate hypothesis?* Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol 32, 1 Winter 2018 <https://pubs.aeaweb.org/doi/pdf/10.1257/jep.32.1.97>

Deepa D. Datta, Laura Feiveson, Ekaterina Peneva, Gisela Rua, 2022 *Bottlenecks, Shortages, and Soaring Prices in the U.S. Economy*, Fed Notes, <https://www.federalreserve.gov/econres/notes/feds-notes/bottlenecks-shortages-and-soaring-prices-in-the-us-economy-20220624.htm>

Williamson Chs 14-15

WEEK 3 (JS) *Links between fiscal policy and monetary policy – the government budget constraint, the fiscal theory of prices, hyperinflation*

Blanchard and Sheen 2013 Chs 23-24

Blanchard, O. (2019) Public Debt and Low Interest Rates, American Economic Review, <http://www.piie.com/system/files/documents/wp19-4.pdf>

Cochrane, J. (2011): Understanding Policy in the Great Recession: Some Unpleasant Fiscal Arithmetic. European Economic Review January 2011 https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1619585

WEEK 4 (DO) *Experiences and lessons from four MP periods: the 1970s, Great Moderation, Secular Stagnation and the Recent Post-covid inflation Uplift*

Simon, J. (2015), 'Low interest rate environments and risks,' Speech to the Paul Woolley Centre, <https://www.rba.gov.au/speeches/2015/sp-so-2015-10-08.html>

Summers, L. (2014), 'Reflections on the new secular stagnation hypothesis', VoxEU, October, <https://voxeu.org/article/larry-summers-secular-stagnation>

WEEK 5 (DO) *The causes of financial crises and policy responses*

Reinhard, C. and K. Rogoff (2008), *This Time is Different: Eight Centuries of Financial Folly*, NBER Paper 13882, March <https://www.nber.org/papers/w13882.pdf>

RBA Explainer: *The Global Financial Crisis*, <https://rba.gov.au/education/resources/explainers/pdf/the-global-financial-crisis.pdf>

WEEK 6 (DO) *Financial regulation: Principles and practice*

Yuksel M. (2019), 'A decade of post-crisis G20 financial sector reforms,' *RBA Bulletin*, June <http://rba.gov.au/publications/bulletin/2019/jun/pdf/a-decade-of-post-crisis-g20-financial-sector-reforms.pdf>

Orsmond D. and F. Price (2016), 'Macroprudential policy frameworks and tools,' *RBA Bulletin*, December <https://www.rba.gov.au/publications/bulletin/2016/dec/pdf/rba-bulletin-2016-12-macroprudential-policy-frameworks-and-tools.pdf>

WEEK 7 **MID-SESSION TEST**

WEEK 8 (DO) *China's economic emergence: Past, present and future*

Orsmond, David (2019), *China's Economic Choices*, Lowy Institute Analysis, December <https://www.lowyinstitute.org/publications/china-s-economic-choices>

Garnaut, R., L. Song and C. Fang (2018), *Overview in 40 years of Chinese economic reform and development* (Australian National University Press), <http://press-files.anu.edu.au/downloads/press/n4267/pdf/ch02.pdf>

Edwards, J. (2018), 'Economic conflict between America and China,' Lowy Institute WP, December, https://www.lowyinstitute.org/sites/default/files/Edwards_Economic%20conflict%20between%20America%20and%20China_WEB_0.pdf

WEEK 9 (JS) *Digital money and the payments system; the future of cybercurrencies – eg Bitcoin, Libra*

Cameron, D, Emery, D, Ma, J. and Noone, C. 2019 *Cryptocurrency: Ten Years On*. *RBA Bulletin* <https://www.rba.gov.au/publications/bulletin/2019/jun/cryptocurrency-ten-years-on.html>

Kumar, A, Smith, C 2017 *Crypto-currencies – An introduction to not-so-funny moneys* <https://www.rbnz.govt.nz/-/media/ReserveBank/Files/Publications/Analytical%20notes/2017/an2017-07.pdf>

Richards, T., Thompson, C. and Dark, C., 2020, *Retail Central Bank Digital Currency: Design Considerations, Rationales and Implications*, RBA Bulletin

<https://www.rba.gov.au/publications/bulletin/2020/sep/retail-central-bank-digital-currency-design-considerations-rationales-and-implications.html>

Mr. Itai Agur, Jose Deodoro, Xavier Lavayssière, Soledad Martinez Peria, Mr. Damiano Sandri, Hervé Tourpe¹, and Mr. German Villegas Bauer, 2022 *Digital Currencies and Energy Consumption*, IMF e-Library, <https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/journals/063/2022/006/article-A001-en.xml>

WEEK 10 Group Seminar: *The RBA Statement on Monetary Policy, August 2022*

WEEK 11 Group Seminar: *IMF World Economic Outlook 2022*

WEEK 12 Group Seminar: *BIS Annual Report 2022*

WEEK 13 Group Seminar: RBA Financial Stability Review, October 2022

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>). 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](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>) and use the [search tool](#).

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

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

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

The Writing Centre

[The Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the 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 Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via [AskMQ](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

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 since First Published

Date	Description
16/07/2022	The times for the delivery of the unit have been made consistent with the University timetable.