ECON991
Economics for Actuaries
S1 Evening 2016

Dept of Economics

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

### Learning Outcomes

1. Understand the key economic concepts, models and theories of introductory microeconomics and macroeconomics
2. Explain, compare, contrast and analyse these concepts, models and theories logically and coherently
3. Apply, analyse, evaluate, and suggest solutions using these concepts, models and theories to real world economic problems or practical situations
4. Identify and then use relevant economic diagrams to assist with explanations and applications
5. Understand the behaviour of individuals and firms and the operation of markets in the economy
6. Understand the role of the government and the central bank in the economy and the instruments available to them to manage the economy
## Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online Quiz</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Week 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Week 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 2</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Week 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>University Examination Period</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Online Quiz

**Due:** Week 4  
**Weighting:** 10%

The purpose of this quiz is to examine your understanding of the concepts and models covered in the first 3 weeks. This task’s aim is also to provide you with some early feedback about your progress in the course. The quiz will consist of a series of multiple choice style questions.

The quiz will be completed online during week 4 and more details will be made available by the end of week 2.

**Penalties**

If you do not complete the quiz you will be awarded a mark of zero (0). The only exception is due to illness and/or unavoidable disruption. In these circumstances you may wish to consult the University’s Disruption to Studies policy.  


If a student satisfies the Disruption to Studies policy they will be required to complete a supplementary assessment task and this could take the form of an oral task.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Understand the key economic concepts, models and theories of introductory microeconomics and macroeconomics
- Apply, analyse, evaluate, and suggest solutions using these concepts, models and theories to real world economic problems or practical situations

### Assignment 1

**Due:** Week 9  
**Weighting:** 15%

The purpose of the assignment is to examine your ability to understand and apply (i) microeconomic concepts learned in the first seven weeks of the course and (ii) macroeconomic
concepts that will require you to do some independent reading. The assignment will consist of a number of calculation based problem solving questions. The assignment will be available to students in week 4 on the unit web page.

**Submission**

The assignment is due in week 9 of semester – May 9 to 13 – and must be handed in during your class that week. **Note: You must hand in your assignment in the class in which you are enrolled.**

We will return your marked assignment with comments in Week 13.

**Extension and Penalties**

No late assignments will be accepted. If an assignment is submitted late it will receive a mark of zero (0).

The only exception is if you cannot submit your assignment on time because of documented illness or unavoidable disruption, in such circumstances, please consult the University’s Disruption to Studies policy.


If a student satisfies the Disruption to Studies policy they will be required to complete a supplementary assessment task and this could take the form of an oral task.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

• Understand the key economic concepts, models and theories of introductory microeconomics and macroeconomics
• Apply, analyse, evaluate, and suggest solutions using these concepts, models and theories to real world economic problems or practical situations
• Identify and then use relevant economic diagrams to assist with explanations and applications
• Understand the behaviour of individuals and firms and the operation of markets in the economy

**Assignment 2**

**Due:** **Week 11**

**Weighting:** **15%**

The purpose of the assignment is to examine your ability to understand and apply concepts learned through independent study on a variety of topics - imperfect competition, international trade, international macroeconomics and globalization. The assignment will consist of a number of calculation based problem solving questions. The assignment will be available to students in week 4 on the unit web page.
Submission

The assignment is due by 4.00pm on the 27th of May and must be handed in at the front desk on Level 2 of E4A.

Marked assignments can be collected from front desk on Level 2 of E4A from the 10th of June.

Extension and Penalties

No late assignments will be accepted. If an assignment is submitted late it will receive a mark of zero(0).

The only exception is if you cannot submit your assignment on time because of documented illness or unavoidable disruption, in such circumstances please consult the University’s Disruption to Studies policy.


If a student satisfies the Disruption to Studies policy they will be required to complete a supplementary assessment task and this could take the form of an oral task.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

• Understand the key economic concepts, models and theories of introductory microeconomics and macroeconomics
• Explain, compare, contrast and analyse these concepts, models and theories logically and coherently
• Apply, analyse, evaluate, and suggest solutions using these concepts, models and theories to real world economic problems or practical situations
• Identify and then use relevant economic diagrams to assist with explanations and applications
• Understand the behaviour of individuals and firms and the operation of markets in the economy
• Understand the role of the government and the central bank in the economy and the instruments available to them to manage the economy

Final Examination

Due: University Examination Period

Weighting: 60%

A 2 hour final examination for this unit will be held during the Macquarie University final examination period.

All topics studied during the semester, except those covered by the second assignment, are examinable. The exam will consist of multiple choice questions and questions requiring written
answers which may also involve making calculations - more detail about the structure will be
provided towards the end of the session. The final exam will give you an opportunity to
demonstrate the depth and breadth of your knowledge of basic economic concepts, the
economic way of thinking and in using your knowledge to solve economic problems.

The Macquarie University examination policy details the principles and conduct of examinations
at the University. The policy is available at:

http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/examination/policy.html

Penalties

Failure to sit the final exam at the designated day and time will result in a mark of zero(0) being
awarded. The only exception is if a student has experienced illness and/or unavoidable
disruption. In such circumstances students should consult the University's Disruption to Studies
policy using the following link:


In the event of meeting the criteria outlined in the policy students will be awarded a
supplementary exam to undertake.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
• Understand the key economic concepts, models and theories of introductory
  microeconomics and macroeconomics
• Explain, compare, contrast and analyse these concepts, models and theories logically
  and coherently
• Apply, analyse, evaluate, and suggest solutions using these concepts, models and
  theories to real world economic problems or practical situations
• Identify and then use relevant economic diagrams to assist with explanations and
  applications
• Understand the behaviour of individuals and firms and the operation of markets in the
  economy
• Understand the role of the government and the central bank in the economy and the
  instruments available to them to manage the economy

Delivery and Resources

Classes
• There is one 3 hour lecture per week that you must attend.
• You are expected to attend the lecture group you are formally enrolled in. Changes are
  not permitted. If you have any questions or issues regarding your timetable please see
  the staff at the Business and Economics Graduate Centre on Level 2, E4A for
The timetable for classes can be found on the University web site at: http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au/

There will be three workshops held during the semester. These workshops are designed to review and reinforce the material covered in lectures and in the required reading.

These workshops will be held during normal lecture times during weeks 5, 7 and 13.

Details concerning the questions to be covered during the workshops can be downloaded from the unit web page.

Required and Recommended Texts and/or Materials

Textbook

- The textbooks for this course are:


The textbooks can be purchased from the Co-op bookstore located on campus.

- The textbooks are available to borrow from the Macquarie University library.

- The publisher provides access to the online learning resource Aplia through the iLearn website for this course.

Technology Used and Required

- Students will require a non-programmable calculator for completion of all assessment tasks. A calculator is non-programmable if it does not have any memory, or if it is capable of storing only numerical data within its memory.

- Students will also require access to a computer to view the unit website, view the publisher’s website for the set text, and for email communication with staff. The University provides students access to computers on campus – for more information please enquire at Business and Economics Student Services centre (BESS).

Unit Web Page

- Course material is available on the learning management system (iLearn)

- The web page for this unit can be found at: https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/login/MQ/

Teaching and Learning Activities
This unit will be taught using a combination of both lectures and workshops.

It is expected that students will:

- Attend all lectures and workshops
- Read the set chapters from their textbook and any supplementary readings – preferably in advance of lecture attendance
- Prepare for workshops in advance
- A comprehensive calendar of topics to be covered on a week by week basis can be found in the Unit Schedule.

### Unit Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Microeconomics</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Required Reading</th>
<th>Reminders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Feb 29 – Mar 4</td>
<td>Introduction, the Economic Way of Thinking and the Production Possibility Frontier</td>
<td>Frost et al., Chs 1 (including appendix), &amp; 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mar 7 – 11</td>
<td>The Supply and Demand Model</td>
<td>Frost et al., Ch 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mar 14 – 18</td>
<td>The Demand Curve and The Supply Curve</td>
<td>Frost et al., Chs 4 &amp; 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mar 21 – 24</td>
<td>Elasticity and the Costs of Production (Part 1)</td>
<td>Frost et al., Chs 6 &amp; 7</td>
<td>Online Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Mar 29 – Apr 1</td>
<td>Costs of Production (Part 2)</td>
<td>Frost et al., Ch 7</td>
<td>Workshop 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Apr 4 – 8</td>
<td>A Competitive Market and Monopoly (Part 1)</td>
<td>Frost et al., Chs 8 &amp; 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Apr 11 – 25</td>
<td>Mid Semester Break</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Apr 26 – 29</td>
<td>Monopoly (Part 2)</td>
<td>Frost et al., Ch 9</td>
<td>Workshop 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Macroeconomics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Textbook</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>2–6</td>
<td>Introduction to Macroeconomics: GDP, Business Cycles and Inflation</td>
<td>Littleboy et al., Chs 1,2,3 &amp; 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>9–13</td>
<td>Introduction to Macroeconomics: Labour and Money and Banking</td>
<td>Littleboy et al., Chs 5 &amp; 6</td>
<td>Assignment 1 Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>16–20</td>
<td>Aggregate Expenditure Line Model and the Multiplier</td>
<td>Littleboy et al., Chs 7 &amp; 8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>23–27</td>
<td>Monetary Policy and the Economic Fluctuations Model (Part 1)</td>
<td>Littleboy et al., Chs 9 &amp; 10</td>
<td>Assignment 2 Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>30–Jun 3</td>
<td>Monetary Policy and the Economic Fluctuations Model (Part 2)</td>
<td>Littleboy et al., Chs 11 &amp; 12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Jun 6–10</td>
<td>Fiscal Policy (Part 2)</td>
<td>Littleboy et al., Ch 13</td>
<td>Workshop 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Jun 14–Jul 1</td>
<td>Final Exam Period</td>
<td></td>
<td>Assignment 1 &amp; 2 Returned</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

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/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

**Results**

Results shown in iLearn, 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](http://ask.mq.edu.au).

**Student Support**

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit [http://students.mq.edu.au/support/](http://students.mq.edu.au/support/)

**Learning Skills**

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://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 Enquiry Service**

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.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/](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**

**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 key economic concepts, models and theories of introductory microeconomics and macroeconomics
- Explain, compare, contrast and analyse these concepts, models and theories logically and coherently
- Apply, analyse, evaluate, and suggest solutions using these concepts, models and theories to real world economic problems or practical situations
- Identify and then use relevant economic diagrams to assist with explanations and applications
- Understand the behaviour of individuals and firms and the operation of markets in the economy
- Understand the role of the government and the central bank in the economy and the instruments available to them to manage the economy

**Assessment tasks**

- Online Quiz
- Assignment 1
- Assignment 2
- 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**

- Understand the key economic concepts, models and theories of introductory microeconomics and macroeconomics
- Explain, compare, contrast and analyse these concepts, models and theories logically and coherently
- Apply, analyse, evaluate, and suggest solutions using these concepts, models and theories to real world economic problems or practical situations
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theories to real world economic problems or practical situations

- Identify and then use relevant economic diagrams to assist with explanations and applications
- Understand the behaviour of individuals and firms and the operation of markets in the economy
- Understand the role of the government and the central bank in the economy and the instruments available to them to manage the economy

**Assessment tasks**

- Online Quiz
- Assignment 1
- Assignment 2
- 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 key economic concepts, models and theories of introductory microeconomics and macroeconomics
- Understand the behaviour of individuals and firms and the operation of markets in the economy

**Assessment tasks**

- Online Quiz
- Assignment 1
- Assignment 2
- Final Examination

**Research and Practice**

This unit uses research from external sources (references) to illustrate theories and concepts.

This unit gives you practice in applying theory to economic problems and questions encountered in the real world in your assignments.