EF8078: TOPICS IN MACROECONOMICS

Effective Term
Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title
Topics in Macroeconomics

Subject Code
EF - Economics and Finance

Course Number
8078

Academic Unit
Economics and Finance (EF)

College/School
College of Business (CB)

Course Duration
One Semester

Credit Units
3

Level
R8 - Research Degree

Medium of Instruction
English

Medium of Assessment
English

Prerequisites
EF8072 Advanced Macroeconomics

Precursors
Nil

Equivalent Courses
EF5411 Topics in Macroeconomics

Exclusive Courses
Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract
This course provides students with in-depth study on some current topics in the field of macroeconomic theory. In particular, the course will cover a variety of macroeconomic topics that includes consumption theory, investment theory,

imperfect markets (goods market, labor market, and credit market), monetary theory, banking theory, fiscal and monetary theory, learning and its aggregate implications, research and development, intellectual property rights and its aggregate implications, time-consistency issues in macroeconomic contexts. While the extent of coverage on each of the topics may vary somewhat, this course will help students discover and appreciate the diversity in the scope of core macroeconomic issues, and in the approaches to analyzing them.

Objectives:

- Study classical consumption and investment models; and the relation to macroeconomic fluctuations.

- Study classical imperfect markets models (goods market, labor market, credit market); and the relation to macroeconomic fluctuations.

- Study classical models of money and banking; and the relation to macroeconomic fluctuations.

- Study models of fiscal and monetary policy; and how policies may stabilize and de-stabilize the aggregate economy.

- Study models of research and development; how new goods are introduced in the market and be priced, intellectual property right protections and their aggregate implications.

- Study the time-consistency issues of agents, firms and the government and their policy implications.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

	CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Demonstrate their understanding of basic consumption and investment models.	10		x	
2	Demonstrate their understanding of variants of the imperfect market models.	10		x	
3	Demonstrate their understanding of variants of the money and banking models.	10		x	
4	Demonstrate their understanding of variants of the endogenous research and development model.	10		x	
5	Demonstrate their understanding of variants of the monetary and fiscal policy model (including those with time-inconsistency problems).	10		x	
6	Apply their theoretical knowledge in some real-world macroeconomic issues.	50	x	x	x

A1: Attitude
Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability
Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments
Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

	LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures	Students will engage in lecture and to think critically and logically by responding to questions and solving the problems.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	3 hours lecture per week
2	In-class discussions	Students will engage in class discussions to enhance communication skills, critical thinking and develop creative and innovative abilities.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	3 hours lecture per week

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("-" for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Coursework	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	100	-	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Minimum Continuous Assessment Passing Requirement (%)

0

Minimum Examination Passing Requirement (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

Coursework (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Student who is profiting from the university experience; understanding of the subject; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.

Marginal

(D) Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course.

Failure

(F) Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited, or irrelevant use of literature.

Assessment Task

Coursework (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.

Good

(B+, B) Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course.

Failure

(F) Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited, or irrelevant use of literature.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Consumption and investment model, irreversibility, bounded rationality, imperfect markets, monetary and fiscal policy, research and development, patent, intellectual property right protection, time-consistency, etc.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

	Title
1	Blanchard, O. J. and S. Fischer, 1989, Lectures on Macroeconomics, Cambridge: MIT Press.
2	Dixit, A. and R. Pindyck, 1994, Investment under Uncertainty, Princeton: Princeton University Press.
3	Grossman, G. and E. Helpman, 1991, Innovation and Growth in the Global Economy, Cambridge: MIT Press.
4	Ljungqvist, L. and T. Sargent, 2004, Recursive Macroeconomic Theory, 2nd ed., Cambridge: MIT Press.
5	Taylor, J. B. and M. Woodford, 1999, Handbook of Macroeconomics, vol 1A, 1B, 1C, Amsterdam: North-Holland.
6	Walsh, C., 2003, Monetary Theory and Policy, 2nd ed., Cambridge: MIT Press.
7	Woodford, M., 2003, Interest and Prices: Foundations of a theory of Monetary Policy, Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Additional Readings

	Title
1	Nil