

## Introduction

The purpose of the course is to foster the habit of analyzing current economic issues within a rigorous framework.

In the absence of a sufficiently simple model which could readily be adapted to the real world, the course combines the simple national income and product accounts framework, which is the framework that is used to generate and organize most conventional economic information, with the use of tools that can be used to analyze specific economic issues such as business cycles, credit cycles, international trade, fiscal and monetary policy, unemployment, inflation, or inequality.

## Objectives

The main objective of this course is to develop the capability to assess critically any economic issue that affects the macroeconomic environment of your country, your sector, or your firm. You should be able to form a first business judgment of whatever macroeconomic issue concerns you or your firm, identify its more problematic points, and perhaps decide to complete assessment with expert opinion, if needed.

## Content

See session details.

## Competences

### General Competences

- Identifying and understanding and acting upon effectively with economic information that is relevant to your job.
- Recognizing the dangers and taking advantage of the opportunities that impact the competitiveness and effectiveness of your businesses.

### Specific Competences

- Becoming familiar with the situation of global economy and being able to analyze it within a simple macroeconomic framework.
- Understanding the dangers and opportunities that the macroeconomy creates for businesses.
- Evaluating the consequences of various economic policies on output, employment, inflation, and welfare.

- Acquiring a working knowledge of the main economic and financial institutions.

## Methodology

You are expected to understand the assigned readings, even though you may benefit from a second reading after the class. Every topic will be introduced by a class discussion of a newspaper or journal article relevant to the topic, and will be followed by a lecture. There is no main text recommended; the material for each session has been chosen based on its relevance. Each session has required readings, often technical notes or short articles.

The additional readings, usually short pieces, are just very good readings, perhaps for long, boring flights or quiet winter evenings. Short additional readings may be posted closer to the sessions when they are relevant for the discussion of current events.

The required readings should be discussed during the teamwork meetings. Unless otherwise specified, the preparation questions for the readings are always the same:

- (a) What are the author's main points?
- (b) Do you agree or disagree with some or all of them?
- (c) Please, justify your answers to question (b).

## Evaluation

The grade has three parts: a participation grade, a team grade, and an individual grade. The weights of these three grades are the following:

- Participation grade: 10%
- Team grade: 60%
- Individual grade: 30%

The participation grade is necessarily subjective. I will value your general attitude in class and the quality of your contributions, but not their quantity.

The team grade is the sum of the grades of Exercises 1 and 8. Exercise 1 is a pre-residential activity and it is worth 20 points and Exercise 8 is a post-residential activity and it is worth 40 points.

The individual grade is your score in a timed final exam that will be distributed on-line after the end of the residential sessions.

