

Finance 101
Monetary Economics & the Global Economy
Professor Lukasz A. Drozd
Fall 2009

Finance 101 is an intermediate-level course in macroeconomics, with particular attention to monetary and international economics. The goal of the course is to provide coherent frameworks for analyzing macroeconomic events (e.g. recessions and booms) and macroeconomic policy, and thus the environment in which firms, consumers, governments and financial intermediaries operate. Throughout the course, the analysis will be applied to current events, both in the US and abroad.

The course is divided into two major parts. After reviewing basic national income accounts, the first part of the course focuses on the analysis of efficiently operating labor markets, goods markets, and asset markets. By combining these markets into a single general equilibrium framework, this part of the course examines the long-run determination of key macroeconomic aggregates, such as employment, output, interest rates, investment, national saving, and international flows of goods, services and assets. The material from this part of the course is used to study the sources of long-run economic growth, and the long-run effects of fiscal and monetary policy.

The second part of the course focuses on short-run business cycle analysis. In particular, this part of the course extends the framework introduced in the first part to additionally include imperfections in the short-run adjustment of prices and wages to changing economic conditions. This framework is used to understand the transmission mechanism of aggregate demand and aggregate supply shocks, and study the role of fiscal and monetary policy.

COURSE MATERIALS AND INFORMATION

Course website

You can access most of the information about this course by using the webCafé room at <https://webcafe.wharton.upenn.edu>. To do this you will need to have a Wharton account. If you do not have a Wharton account you can apply online at <http://accounts.wharton.upenn.edu>. You are expected to consult the course website regularly.

Textbook

The required textbook for the course is *Macroeconomics* by Abel, Bernanke, and Croushore [ABC] (Addison-Wesley, 6th edition, 2008). It is available in the Bookstore.

The textbook covers most, but not all of the material presented in class. It is thus essential that you attend the lectures regularly, and keep current with other mandatory readings posted on the course website.

Lecture notes

Lecture notes (slides)¹ and other course materials will be available for download from webCafé. (Please keep in mind that lecture notes are *not* designed to be a substitute for textbook reading or regular lecture attendance.)

Economic News

You are expected to keep current with economic news. A subscription to *The Financial Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Economist*, or a close substitute is highly recommended. Occasionally, selected articles from these sources may be added to the list of required readings and/or discussed in class. All of these sources are accessible through the Penn library.

GRADES

The final grade for this course will be based on three exams (two midterms and one final), 4 partially graded homework assignments, and one analysis project. The weights are as follows: (i) exams 70%, (ii) homework assignments 15%, and (iii) a global analysis project 15%. In borderline cases, attendance may be taken into account in grading. Please make sure you attend regularly the section you are enrolled in.

Exams

There will be two midterm examinations and a final examination. **The midterm examinations are scheduled for the evenings of Thursday 10/15 and Tuesday 11/17 (room assignment TBA). The final exam will be given during the official final examination period as scheduled by the registrar office.**

The final exam will be given twice the weight of the midterm exams, yielding effectively four exams grades for the course. The lowest grade among these four grades will be dropped, which is meant to provide students with a cushion against extenuating circumstances, such as scheduling conflicts or an anomalous exam performance. However, as a result of this policy, **no request to reschedule or retake a midterm exam will be entertained**, unless specifically required by the University policy.

The final exam can be rescheduled only if required by the University policy, and only during the official make-up period during the first week of the following semester. **To be eligible for a make-up final exam, or official disability accommodations, you must receive an approval at least two weeks before the exam is administered.** In case of serious illness on final exam day,

¹Final version of the slides for each lecture will be made available for download in the afternoon on the day before the lecture.

you must notify the professor *before* the exam begins, and provide documentation from a doctor soon afterwards.

The exams will be closed-book. **You will need an ID to be admitted to the exam room. Calculators are allowed and required.** However, **only simple calculators can be used** (no cell phones, computers, or calculators with large screens and/or memory capability are allowed). **Please show up at least 5 minutes early to the exam room to help your proctors start the exam on time.**

Homework assignments

There will be 4-5 graded homework assignments. The lowest homework grade will be dropped from your final score to accommodate extenuating circumstances. Assignments will be graded as check plus (outstanding, counts as 100%), check (excellent, counts as 90%), check minus (inadequate, counts as 0%). The homework may be graded entirely or only partially (the answer key will list the parts actually included in grading). You may discuss your homework with other students, but you need to write your answers in your own words. Similar assignments will result in zero score for both parties involved in the incident. In addition, on the course website you will also find suggested problem sets arranged by textbook chapter. These problem sets will not be graded, but it is highly recommended that you work through all them during the semester.

Please note that the TAs are responsible to grade your assignments, but they are not responsible for correcting mistakes. After the homework is returned to you, please review the answer key posted on the course website. No late assignments will be accepted after the deadline. Any grading complaints must be filed no later than the following week after the graded assignment has been returned to the class (refer also to the section on grading complaints below). Please hold on to all graded assignments until the end of the semester as the proof of your submission.

Global analysis project

This is a group assignment designed to promote team work. Each group of students will give an in-class presentation applying the course material to analyze the macroeconomic situation of a foreign country. All members will receive the same grade, independent of individual performance. Detailed guidelines will be posted on the course website later during the semester.

Final letter grade

To make grades for all exams comparable, all the raw scores will be standardized (i.e. adjusted so that the mean and dispersion measured by standard deviation of all non-zero scores is the same across all exams). This will ensure that even if the exams turn out to be not exactly comparable in terms of difficulty level, they will be comparable in terms of grades.

The final letter grade for the course will be based on the ranking implied by the final scores in the class you are enrolled in according to the following guidelines: (i) not more than 25-30% of top scores in the class are assigned A, 67-70% of top scores in the class are assigned at least B. (Cutoffs for lower grades will be established later.)

Grading complaints

Any requests for regrading of exams or homework assignments must be submitted in writing within a week after the graded exam or assignments has been returned to the class². Exam regrading requests must be accompanied by an official Regrade Request form and Statement of Honesty in Regrade Request form. Both forms are available for download from the course website. Note that we retain the right to regrade the entire exam/homework assignment, which may sometimes result in a lower overall score. Also, do not mark or make notes on your exams, and do not alter in any way the answers to the questions. Such alterations may be construed as violations of the Code of Academic Integrity and may be referred for disciplinary action.

Academic integrity

All relevant University policies regarding Academic Integrity must be followed strictly. Please review the Code of Academic Integrity at: <http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/osl/acadint.html>.

OFFICE HOURS

My office is Steinberg Hall - Dietrich Hall 2342. In addition, you can reach me by e-mail at ldrozd@wharton.upenn.edu. Regular office hours for me and my TAs will be announced during the semester and posted on the course website.

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

Tentative Course Outline

We will cover the following topics and chapters. The list is tentative and subject to change:

1. Introduction (ABC: chapter 1, selected topics from chapter 6 and 8)
2. Measurement and structure of the national economy (ABC: chapter 2)
3. The classical model; applications to growth, business cycles and policy analysis; international capital markets and international capital flows (ABC: chapters 3-7, selected parts from chapter 10 and 15)

²In the case of the final exam, within the first week of the following semester.

4. The Keynesian model; applications to business cycles and policy analysis; exchange rates and macroeconomic policy in the open economy (ABC: chapters 8-9, 13,14)
5. Dynamic aspects of policy design; Lucas critique; time inconsistency problem (additional course materials)