Aims and Nature of the Course

Welcome to ACCG849, Economic Analysis. This introductory course surveys the main ideas and concepts involved in modern economics, and provides students with an understanding of how our economy works, what type of problems economists attempt to solve, and how they set about trying to solve them. The first part of the course is primarily concerned with the analysis of individual decision making units, and the behaviour of firms and industries in the economy, that is, with microeconomics. The second part of the course is mainly concerned with macroeconomics or with the study of the economy as a whole or in the aggregate. It thus focuses on matters such as national income, unemployment, inflation, balance of payments, exchange rates, money, and economic growth.

Lectures

There are three hours of lectures per week.

Web Materials

There is no specific web site for ACCG849. However the Power Point Slides used as the basis for each lecture can be accessed by students via the ACCG849 folder in E-Reserve in the library. It is advised that students download these slides for each lecture and bring them to each lecture. A document containing solutions to the end of chapter questions for the first eight chapters in the textbook (the microeconomics part of the course) is available in the E-Reserve folder.

Teaching Staff

Dr Michael Dobbie, E4A416, (02)9850 8502,
Dr Wylie Bradford, E4A425, (02)98508467,
Pauline McAlary,
Karen Mills,
Mr Ron Reilly,

Workshops

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 set reading. These workshops will be held during normal lecture times. Further details concerning workshops will be provided in class.
Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this unit, you should be able to

- Understand the need to study the economy from both microeconomic and macroeconomic perspectives
- Understand how the approach taken in economics to the study of the economy differs in key ways to that taken by other subjects, such as accounting
- Follow media commentary on economic matters with much greater understanding
- Continue any future economic studies with increased confidence

All academic programs at Macquarie seek to develop students’ generic skills in a range of areas. One aim of this unit is to develop your capacity to engage in problem solving and critical thinking.

Assessment

Assessment in the course will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-semester test</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of course examination</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Satisfactory performance in all aspects of assessment is a requirement to pass ACCG849.

Exam Dates

The mid-semester test will be held in class, during the first hour of normal lecture times, in Week 7. It will cover all material (lectures, workshop, and textbook readings) dealt with up to and including week 6.

The end of course examination will be a three hour exam held sometime during the end of trimester examination period, April 14-19.

University policy on grading

Academic Senate has a set of guidelines on the distribution of grades across the range from fail to high distinction. Your final result will include one of these grades plus a standardised numerical grade (SNG).

On occasion, your raw mark for a unit (i.e., the total of your marks for each assessment item) may not be the same as the SNG which you receive. The process of scaling does not change the order of marks among students. A student who receives a higher mark than another will also receive a higher final scaled mark.

The policy does not require that a minimum number of students are to be failed in any unit.
For an explanation of the policy see
http://www.mq.edu.au/senate/MQUonly/Issues/detailedguidelines.doc

Macquarie University rules and regulations

All assessment is subject to the University's rules and information to students set out in the Handbook of Postgraduate Studies. You are particularly referred to rules of the various postgraduate awards; and with the Student Information regarding Plagiarism and Assessment.

Plagiarism

To cheat in the context of university assignments, tests and examinations is to attempt to gain an unfair advantage by violating the principles of intellectual and scholarly integrity. Cheating also encompasses plagiarism, which the University defines in its rules: “Plagiarism involves using the work of another person and presenting it as one’s own.” Plagiarism is a serious breach of the University’s rules and carries significant penalties. You must read the University’s practices and procedures on plagiarism. These can be found in the Handbook of Postgraduate Studies noted above, or on the web at:
http://www.student.mq.edu.au/plagiarism/

The policies and procedures explain what plagiarism is, how to avoid it, the procedures that will be taken in cases of suspected plagiarism, and the penalties if you are found guilty. Penalties may include a deduction of marks, failure in the unit, and/or referral to the University Discipline Committee.

Student support services

Academic: If you are having difficulty in understanding any of your courses or what is required of you, then contact the lecturer in charge of that course. When lecturers are not in their rooms, it is best to leave a note with your name and telephone number under the door so that the lecturer can ring you back at a convenient time.

Personal: If, for whatever reason, you find yourself in difficulties in relation to your university studies, you are strongly encouraged to inform your lecturer of your situation and how it is affecting you. You don’t have to go into personal details if that is not your wish, just outline the facts of the case so that the lecturer is aware of your problem. It is better to do this while the difficulties are occurring rather than afterwards.

Some of you may face personal crises of one sort or another during your university studies. If you desire professional assistance of any kind with your personal problems, you are strongly encouraged to consult one of the very helpful people at the Student Counselling Service, all of whom have experience with a very wide range of situations.

Macquarie University provides a range of Academic Student Support Services. Details can be accessed at: http://www.student.mq.edu.au
Further, NCELTR provides Study Skills workshops for MAcc students. For the timetable, see [http://www.accg.mq.edu.au/mace](http://www.accg.mq.edu.au/mace).

**Textbooks**

The set text for this course is:


The textbook will be supplemented by two booklets of course readings, one on microeconomics and the other on macroeconomics. Both these booklets of readings can be purchased from the University Co-operative Bookshop. Further details concerning these booklets of readings will be provided in class.

**Course Outline**

The topics included in ACCG849 are:

**A. Microeconomics**

4. Pricing in Different Market Structures: Perfect Competition and Monopoly

**B. Macroeconomics**

1. Basic Macroeconomic Concepts; An Overview of Keynesian Theory.
2. The Income-Expenditure Model; Inflationary and Deflationary Gaps; Multipliers.
3. Investment and the Rate of Interest: The Demand for and the Supply of Money.
4. IS-LM Analysis.
5. Fiscal Policy.
6. Monetary Policy.
7. Inflation and Unemployment.

**Reading Guide for Lectures on Microeconomics**

As indicated earlier, the first part of the course will be concerned with microeconomics. There are many texts which cover this subject material, and for alternative explanations you may at some stage wish to consult some of the following references.

(a) **Supplementary Reading**

The following books cover much the same ground as the set text and at approximately the same level of difficulty.


(b) More Advanced References

Other useful references which cover the course material but at a more advanced level are listed below.


Specific references for the various topics are as follows:

**The Economic Problem, An Overview of the Price Mechanism, Reasons for Government Intervention**

Layton, Robinson, Tucker - Chapters 1 and 2.

Begg - Chapters 1, 2 and 4.

Sloman – Chapter 1.

McEachern - Chapters 1-4.

Collins *et al.* - pp. 2-17.

Dolan - Chapters 1 and 2.

McConnell and Jackson - Chapters 2-6.

Heyne - Chapters 2-4.

**The Demand and Supply Functions, Applications of Supply and Demand Analysis, Price Elasticity, Income Elasticity and Cross Elasticity of Demand**

Layton, Robinson, Tucker - Chapters 3, 4 and 5.

Begg - Chapters 3 and 5.

Sloman – Chapters 2 and 3.

McEachern - Chapters 3 and 18.

Culyer - Chapters 2-4, 8.

Dolan - Chapters 3 and 19.

Hirshleifer - Chapters 2, 5 and 6.

Allen - Chapters 2-4.
Theory of Production: The Production Function and the Individual Firm; Theory of Costs of Production: The Short-Run Situation; Theory of Costs of Production: The Long-Run Situation

Layton, Robinson, Tucker - Chapter 6.

Begg - Chapter 8.

Sloman – Chapter 5.

McEachern - Chapter 20.

Dolan - Chapter 21.

Awh - Chapters 7-10.

Bilas, Chapters 6 and 7.

Market Structures and the Firm's Revenue Conditions

Leftwich - Chapter 7.

Awh - Chapter 11.

Short-Run Equilibrium of the Firm and Industry in Perfect Competition; Long-Run Equilibrium of the Firm and Industry in Perfect Competition

Layton, Robinson, Tucker - Chapter 7.

Begg - Chapters 7 and 9.

Sloman – Chapter 6.

McEachern - Chapter 21.

Culyer - Chapters 12 and 13.

Dolan - Chapter 22 and Chapter 24.

Jackson and McConnell - Chapter 26.

Awh - Chapters 12 and 13.

Pure Monopoly: Applications of the Monopoly Model

Layton, Robinson, Tucker - Chapter 8.
Begg - Chapters 7 and 9.

Sloman – Chapter 6.

McEachern - Chapter 22.

Culyer - Chapter 14.

Dolan - Chapter 23.

Jackson and McConnell - Chapter 27.

Awh - Chapter 14.
Reading Guide for Lectures on Macroeconomics

1. Basic Macroeconomic Concepts: An Overview of Keynesian Theory


2. The Income Expenditure Model; Inflationary and Deflationary Gaps; Multipliers

Collins et al., chapter 4.
Begg, chapters 21 and 22.
McEachern, chapters 10 and 11.
Dolan, chapters 8, 9 and 10.
Gwartney, chapters 8 and 9.
Jackson and McConnell, chapter 12.

3. Investment and the Rate of Interest: The Demand for and Supply of Money

Begg, chapters 23, 24 and 25.
McEachern, chapters 13 and 15.
Dolan, chapter 12.
4. **IS/LM Analysis**

   Begg, chapter 25.
   Sloman, chapter 20.
   O'Donnell, chapters 8-10.
   Gwartney, chapter 21, Appendix C.

5. **Fiscal Policy**

   Layton, Robinson, Tucker - Chapter 17.
   Begg, chapter 25.
   Sloman, chapter 17.
   McEachern, chapter 17.
   O'Donnell, chapters 11 and 12.
   Collins *et al.*, chapter 8.
   Gwartney, chapter 10.
   Jackson and McConnell, chapter 13.

6. **Monetary Policy**

   Begg, chapter 25.
   Sloman, chapter 19.
   McEachern, chapter 16.
   O'Donnell, chapter 12.
   Collins *et al.*, chapters 5 and 8.
   Gwartney, chapters 11 and 12.
   Jackson and McConnell, chapters 14 - 16.

7. **Inflation and Unemployment**

   Layton, Robinson, Tucker - Chapter 13.
   Begg - chapters 27 and 28.
   Sloman – chapter 13 and 21.
   McEachern - chapters 7 and 16.
   Collins *et al.* - chapter 7.
   Dolan - chapters 14-16.
   Gwartney - chapter 15.
   Jackson and McConnell - chapter 18.