

MACQUARIE
UNIVERSITY



FACULTY OF
BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

ECON214/BBA 214

Applied Macroeconomics

Session 1, 2012

Department of Economics

**MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS
UNIT GUIDE**

Year and Semester:	2012, Session 1
Unit convenor:	Alex Blair
Prerequisites	15 cp and (ECON110 or BBA103)
Credit points:	3

Students in this unit should read this unit guide carefully at the start of semester. It contains important information about the unit. If anything in it is unclear, please consult one of the teaching staff in the unit.

ABOUT THIS UNIT

This Unit draws upon current macroeconomic theory and applies it to problems experienced by economies past and present. A particular focus is on the economic problems facing most economies in the Great Recession since 2008, both the causes of these problems, and the potential in practice for economic theory to offer a remedy. Students will become familiar with the contending schools of economic thought on these issues, their underlying assumptions, and the efficacy of their prescriptions when these are applied to a modern economy. ECON214 complements ECON204 *Macroeconomic Analysis* in its study of these issues and can be attempted along with the latter, but can also be taken as a stand-alone Unit.

TEACHING STAFF

Alex Blair (Unit coordinator), Room: E4A418
Phone: 9850 7897, email: alexander.blair@mq.edu.au

All administrative enquiries should be directed to the lecturer-in-charge in person during consultation hours. Consultation times will be released on the Unit website. Questions on the content of the Unit should be posted online in the Discussions section of the Black Board, where the questions and resulting discussion can be of benefit to other students in the Unit.

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CONTACTING STAFF

Consultation times Wednesday 2-4, 6-7 (any changes in these times will be advised on the ilearn website)

You are encouraged to seek help at a time that is convenient to you from a staff member teaching on this unit during their regular consultation hours. In special circumstances, an appointment may be made outside regular consultation hours. You may, however, phone staff during their consultation hours. You can also contact the lecturer via email, though extensive consultation by email on academic content will not be possible. Students experiencing significant difficulties with any topic in the unit must seek assistance immediately.

CLASSES

- This unit provides 3 hours face-to-face teaching per week consisting of 1 x 2 hour lecture and 1 x 1 hour tutorial
- The timetable for lectures and tutorials can be found on the University web site at: <http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au/> Consult this website for times and locations of tutorials.

Lectures: Wednesday 4-6pm W5A T2

TECHNOLOGY USED AND REQUIRED

- Much of the unit's material will be available at its ilearn website.
- Access to Powerpoint software would also be an advantage.

UNIT WEB PAGE

Lecture and tutorial material as well as up to date information concerning any aspect of the unit, including any changes to the schedule, will be available to students by logging on to Blackboard at <http://learn.mq.edu.au>.

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED TEXTS

As an applied unit, we will be looking at specific models used in practice rather than drawing upon a theoretical text. Access to the textbook for ECON204:

Olivier Blanchard & Jeffrey Sheen, *Macroeconomics*, Pearson, 3rd Australasian edition, 2009

would be useful but not mandatory. Other readings will be supplied online or by the lecturer. Often when we want you to read a certain article, you will need to find it through the Library. A particularly valuable source for this Unit is the EconLit database, available from the Library online. Go to the Library homepage from the Macquarie University website (it is best to do this from an on-campus computer, to ensure access) and you'll see the following:

MultiSearch

one-stop search across Library resources [\[Search\]](#)

[Catalogue](#) [Databases](#) [e-Reserve](#) [Journal Finder](#)

Click the second option “Databases” and enter the name Econlit. This will lead you to the Econlit hyperlink; click on it and you will enter the Econlit search page. You can commence a search using the three search boxes in the top left corner (you can add additional rows as necessary). As an example, enter the words “Great”, “Depression” and “Keynes” (one word in each row; no need at this stage to specify the field).

It is likely that at the top of the list you will find:

De Antoni, Elisabetta. “Minsky, Keynes, and Financial Instability: The Recent Subprime Crisis” *International Journal of Political Economy*, Summer 2010, Vol. 39 Issue 2, p10-25, 16p.

This is a typical, refereed academic journal article, of the type upon which you will rely when studying this unit and others like it.

Note that below the title you will find a hyperlink to a pdf file of the full text of the article. If you find the article listed in Econlit, but without the link to the pdf file, then make note of the Date, Volume, and Issue of the article you want, in this case Summer 2010, Vol. 39 Issue 2, p10-25. Then go back to the Library homepage and copy the name of the journal, in this case *International Journal of Political Economy*, into the “Journal Finder”. Follow the links; for most journals you will be able to find a pdf file of the article you want from the journal itself.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

Subject specific learning outcomes:

- An introduction to models of macroeconomics at an intermediate level
- An application of those models to real world situations
- An introduction to computer software to assist with use of macro models

GRADUATE CAPABILITIES

In addition to the discipline-based learning objectives, all academic programs at Macquarie seek to develop the capabilities the University's graduates will need to develop to address the challenges, and to be effective, engaged participants in their world.

This unit contributes to this by developing the following graduate capabilities:

1. a grounding in macroeconomic models at an intermediate level, and their application to current economic and political issues.
2. abilities in critical, analytical and integrative thinking, problem solving and research capability.
3. written and verbal communication skills, and written comprehension skills.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ASSESSMENT AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

	Assessment 1	Assessment 2	Assessment 3	Assessment 4
Title/Name	Introductory Class Test	Class Test	Assignment	Final Exam
Description	Written short answer test, 40 minutes in tutorial	1.5 hours (90 minutes) short answer and essay format	Powerpoint modelling exercise	Short answer and essay questions
Due date	Week beginning March 12 th	April 4 th	10am May 7 th	Examination period
% Weighting	10%	30%	20%	40%
Grading method	Students will be judged on their retention of material in the early lectures – written communication and other learning skills will be observed	Assessment of student's grasp of relevant economic theory and its application, and provides experience for Final Exam	Graded on the student's grasp of the core model presented in the unit.	Assessment of student's grasp of relevant economic theory and its application
Submission method	Written exam in class	Written exam in class	By email, as Powerpoint document in attachment	Formal examination
Feedback	Exam script will be returned with comments	Exam script will be returned with comments	Assignment will be returned with comments	Available for Post-Exam viewing
Estimated student workload (hours)	5 hours	30 hours	10 hours	30 hours
Learning outcomes assessed				
1		✓	✓	✓
2		✓	✓	✓
3			✓	
Graduate capabilities assessed				
1		✓	✓	✓
2	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	✓	✓		✓

A final examination is included as an assessment task for this unit to provide assurance that:

- i) the product belongs to the student and
- ii) the student has attained the knowledge and skills tested in the exam.

A 2.5 hour final examination for this unit will be held during the University Examination period.

You are expected to present yourself for examination at the time and place designated in the University Examination Timetable. The timetable will be available in Draft form approximately eight weeks before the commencement of the examinations and in Final form approximately four weeks before the commencement of the examinations.

[http:// exams.mq.edu.au/](http://exams.mq.edu.au/)

The only exception to not sitting an examination at the designated time is because of documented illness or unavoidable disruption. In these circumstances you may wish to consider applying for Special Consideration. The University's policy on special consideration process is available at

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

If a Supplementary Examination is granted as a result of the Special Consideration process the examination will be scheduled after the conclusion of the official examination period. (Individual Faculties may wish to signal when the Faculties' Supplementary Exams are normally scheduled.)

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.htm>

LEARNING AND TEACHING ACTIVITIES

The core of the teaching of ECON214 is the lecture program. It is vital that students maintain consistent attendance at lectures. Students unable to meet this requirement should consult the lecturer at the beginning of semester. Consistent attendance at tutorials is similarly vital to success in the unit. The lectures will be supplemented by a discrete set of journal articles reflecting the major themes of the Unit. Assimilation of the material in these articles and in the lectures and tutorials will form an excellent basis for success in the Unit.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The nature of scholarly endeavour, dependent as it is on the work of others, binds all members of the University community to abide by the principles of academic honesty. Its fundamental principle is that all staff and students act with integrity in the creation, development, application and use of ideas and information. This means that:

- all academic work claimed as original is the work of the author making the claim
- all academic collaborations are acknowledged
- academic work is not falsified in any way
- when the ideas of others are used, these ideas are acknowledged appropriately.

Further information on the academic honesty can be found in the Macquarie University Academic Honesty Policy at http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

GRADES

Macquarie University uses the following grades in coursework units of study:

HD - High Distinction
D - Distinction
CR - Credit
P - Pass
F - Fail

Grade descriptors and other information concerning grading are contained in the Macquarie University Grading Policy which is available at:

<http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

GRADING APPEALS AND FINAL EXAMINATION SCRIPT VIEWING

If, at the conclusion of the unit, you have performed below expectations, and are considering lodging an appeal of grade and/or viewing your final exam script please refer to the following website which provides information about these processes and the cut off dates in the first instance. Please read the instructions provided concerning what constitutes a valid grounds for appeal before appealing your grade.

http://www.businessandconomics.mq.edu.au/new_and_current_students/undergraduate_current_students/how_do_i/grade_appeals

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

The University is committed to equity and fairness in all aspects of its learning and teaching. In stating this commitment, the University recognises that there may be circumstances where a student is prevented by unavoidable disruption from performing in accordance with their ability. A special consideration policy exists to support students who experience serious and unavoidable disruption such that they do not reach their usual demonstrated performance level. The policy is available at:

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

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Macquarie University provides a range of Academic Support Services. Details of these and other services for students can be accessed at <http://www.student.mq.edu.au>.

IT CONDITIONS OF USE

Access to all student computing facilities within the Faculty of Business and Economics is restricted to authorised coursework for approved units. Student ID cards must be displayed in the locations provided at all times.

Students are expected to act responsibly when using University IT facilities. The following regulations apply to the use of computing facilities and online services:

- Accessing inappropriate web sites or downloading inappropriate material is not permitted. Material that is not related to coursework for approved units is deemed inappropriate.
- Downloading copyright material without permission from the copyright owner is illegal, and strictly prohibited. Students detected undertaking such activities will face disciplinary action, which may result in criminal proceedings.

Non-compliance with these conditions may result in disciplinary action without further notice.

Students must use their Macquarie University email addresses to communicate with staff as it is University policy that the University issued email account is used for official University communication.

PLAGIARISM

The University defines plagiarism 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 Undergraduate Studies* 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.

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