

(Springterm 2016/2017)



厦门大学王亚南经济研究院
The Wang Yanan Institute for Studies in Economics, Xiamen University

Dr. Marcel BLUHM
Assistant Professor of Economics

Macroeconomics

Course Description:

This is a course in macroeconomics for the double degree program at WISE. The main objective of the course is to provide participants with a thorough understanding of macroeconomic theory. The course covers classical economic theory, economic growth theory, and business cycle theory. This framework provides the basis to analyze several current macroeconomic policy questions during the course.

Course Language:
English

Class Time and Location:

Lectures take place on Sundays (starting on 19 February) from 14:30 to 17:30 in Nanqiang II, room 503.

Course Requirements:

Grades for this course are based on tests (30%), one group presentation in class, participation and discussion (10%), a midterm exam (30%) as well as a final exam (30%). Following WISE regulations, class attendance is required and observed. Therefore, attending less than 2/3 of the lectures without medical justification and official documentation of it automatically leads to not passing the course requirement. Being absent without bringing notice to the teaching assistant within 24 hours and medical justification or official documentation within one week is counted as an unexcused absence.

Each student has to participate in a group presentation of small home assignments in class. Groups consist of up to 5 students which are assigned during the first class. Students who want to change their assigned group can only do so if they find another student willing to exchange place and have to notify the teaching assistant about the change.

Discussion sessions on current economic issues take place weekly and are based on the 'Financial Times' and 'The Economist'. Discussion questions are made available online before the class. Quizzes take place throughout the term every two weeks. A quiz always covers all the materials after the previous quiz and the actual economic discussion text announced online. Questions are closely aligned to end-of-chapter textbook questions as well as the questions posted online for the discussion text. Each test takes place when class starts, so students coming late to class lose valuable time.

Course Website:
www.marcelbluhm.com

Course Logistics:

Classes emphasizing problem solving skills are taught by Mr Zhifan Lin (lopez193@foxmail.com).

Contact and Office Hours:

E-Mail: marcel_bluhm@yahoo.com

Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:00 am to noon, or by appointment (Room A422)

Course Material:

The textbook is G. Mankiw (2016): *Macroeconomics*, 9. Edition, New York: Worth Publishers. All additional course materials are made available on the course website. The tentative course schedule following the textbook is given below:

Part I: Introduction

1. The Science of Macroeconomics
2. The Data of Macroeconomics

Part II: Classical Theory: The Economy in the Long Run

3. National Income: Where It Comes From and Where It Goes
4. The Monetary System: What It Is, and How It Works
5. Inflation: Its Causes, Effects, and Social Costs
6. The Open Economy
7. Unemployment and the Labor Market

Part III: Growth Theory: The Economy in the Very Long Run

8. Economic Growth I: Capital Accumulation and Population Growth
9. Economic Growth II: Technology, Empirics, and Policy

Part IV: Business Cycle Theory: The Economy in the Short Run

10. Introduction to Economic Fluctuations
11. Aggregate Demand I: Building the IS-LM Model
12. Aggregate Demand II: Applying the IS-LM Model
13. The Open Economy Revisited: The Mundell-Fleming Model and the Exchange-Rate Regime
14. Aggregate Supply and the Short-run Tradeoff Between Inflation and Unemployment