

HKUST Business School - Department of Economics

ECON 2123 - Macroeconomics (Fall 2013)

[Section: L1/L2]

Course Syllabus

Lecture Time:	L1: Tue & Thur 12:00 – 13:20 L2: Tue & Thur 16:30 – 17:50
Venue:	L1: Chiang Chen Lecture Theater / 蔣震演講廳 (LTJ) L2: Cheung On Tak Lecture Theater / 張安德講堂 (LTE)
Course Website:	http://imes.ust.hk
Instructor:	LI, Yao Amber (李瑤)
Office:	Room 6057, Lee Shau Kee Business Building (LSK Bldg)
Email / Phone:	yaoli@ust.hk / (852) 2358-7605
Office Hours:	Wed 14:00-15:00 or by appointment (starting from Week 2)
Teaching Assistant	Astor Pik Lin FOK (T1A, T1B, T2A, T2B)
Office:	Room 6066, LSK Bldg
Email / Phone:	ecastor@ust.hk / (852) 2358-7629
Office Hours:	Mon 16:00-17:00 or by appointment (starting from Week 2)
Tutorials:	(Note: tutorial sessions start from Week 2. See Part D for more details.) T1A: Wed 16:30-17:20, Rm 1010, LSK Bldg T1B: Mon 15:00-15:50, Rm 1011, LSK Bldg T2A: Mon 18:00-18:50, Rm 1007, LSK Bldg T2B: Tue 9:30-10:20, G007, LSK Bldg

A. Course Description

This course is an introduction to macroeconomic theory and policy analysis. We will start by introducing key macro variables that measure aggregate economic performance. The relationship among these variables, represented as “equilibrium” in different markets, will be studied in the short run, the medium run, and the long run. In the **short run**, we will apply the analysis first to the goods and money markets, which form the foundation for the **IS-LM** model. Then we will move to the labor market and put all the markets together to derive the **AS-AD** model in the **medium run**. Depending on time, we will examine the process of economic growth in the **long run**. Such a theoretical framework will allow us to study the impacts of fiscal and monetary policies on the economy. Lastly, **open macroeconomic** issues will be covered. The basic teaching materials closely follow the main textbook and lecture notes.

Further discussions on a variety of current macroeconomic issues might be undertaken. Topics may include the financial crisis, the quantitative easing, the revaluation of the Renminbi, and the topics applicable to Hong Kong and the Asia-Pacific regions etc., subject to our class content adjustments when we go along. Students are encouraged to read one of the following magazines regularly:

- Economist: <http://www.economist.com/>
- Financial Times: <http://www.ft.com/home>
- Wall Street Journal: <http://asia.wsj.com/home-page>

B. Required Textbook

Oliver Blanchard & David R. Johnson, Macroeconomics, 6th edition (Global Edition), 2013, Pearson Education Inc.

Supplementary readings will be posted on the Course Website.

C. Learning Outcomes – School Intended Learning Outcomes (“SILOs”):

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- 1) Identify important macroeconomic variables and understand their relationships; (SILO # 4.1)
 - 2) Gather and organize the relevant macroeconomic information for a given context; (SILO # 7.2)
 - 3) Apply tools learnt in class to analyze some historical and current macroeconomic events. (SILO # 4.2)
 - 4) Understand the operation of open economy and exchange rate related topics. (SILO #6.1)
- Hopefully, you can also
- 5) Discuss the consequences of a macroeconomic shock or a policy shock; (SILO # 4.3)
 - 6) Develop an appreciation for macroeconomics and a desire to continue further study. (SILO # 9)

For the details of SILOs, please refer to:

<http://www.bm.ust.hk/sbmlern/eng/thirdcat.php?sid=5&thirdid=3>

D. Course Format / Teaching Approach

This course is primarily delivered through lectures, tutorials, and class discussions.

Personal Response System (PRS) will be used during lectures to encourage class participation and sharing among students and with me (further information regarding PRS can be found in Part F). Please try to attend all lectures and participate actively in class discussions.

Tutorials will be arranged when needed. A typical tutorial session would be held when problem sets are submitted and exams are graded. TA will also hold Q/A session using tutorial time in other weeks. Detailed tutorial topics will be announced in advance by TA on Course Website each week. Please note that lectures and tutorials are not “substitutes” but “complements” to each other. Do attend both lectures and tutorials for your own benefit.

Teaching and Learning Activities	Roles in the Course	SILOs addressed
Lectures	Explain key concepts, models, and their applications; Cases and examples to build student’s critical and analytical ability	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
In-class Q&A through PRS	Encourage class participation, critical thinking and discussion	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Tutorials	Review basic math and concepts, practice problem-solving, presenting answers to homework and exams	1, 2, 3, 4
Homework assignments	Enhance understanding of course materials and their application through problem-solving practice	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

E. Course Website

Course materials and announcements will be posted on the Course Website (LMES, <http://lmes.ust.hk>). It is YOUR responsibility to check for the latest information.

F. Use of Personal Response System (PRS)

PRS will be used in lectures starting from 5 September 2013. In order to get a PRS handset, please visit the following website for information: <http://celt.ust.hk/teaching-resources/teaching-clickers/faq-students>. The use of PRS is to encourage classroom participation, discussion and sharing among students and with me. Questions will be asked in lectures and the PRS allows you to respond in real time. A summary of answers will be shown and shared. I will also share my answer with you.

G. Examinations and Grades:

Overall Grading for the Course:

Students in L1 and L2 will be evaluated together as a single class.

Your overall score for the course will be computed based on the weighting scheme below:

Homework	15%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam (CUMULATIVE)	55%

Homework: you will be given **four** problem sets during the semester.

- Group study is encouraged, but you have to submit your own answers via course website BEFORE the deadline. Suggested solutions will be posted on the Course Website after the deadline of each problem set. **In order to insure the timely posting of the solutions, NO late submissions will be accepted.** Faxed or emailed problem sets will NOT be accepted.
- If you have any questions about the problem sets, please seek help from me or TA.
- In case you have emergency and cannot submit the problem set in time, please email TA **BEFORE** the deadline to get her approval. In addition, the problem set, together with a valid medical or legal document, should be submitted to TA no later than a given date assigned by TA (before the release of problem set solutions). If you fail to do so, you will receive 0 for this problem set.

Midterm and Final Exam:

- There will be ONE midterm exam. The midterm exam will cover lecture materials, problem sets and assigned reading (if any). The midterm exam is scheduled at **10:00-12:00 on 19 October 2013 (Saturday)**. Please make sure your availability. It may contain multiple-choice, true & false questions and short-answer questions which require explanation in writing, graph and calculation.
- The final exam is **CUMULATIVE**. It may contain multiple-choice, true & false questions and essay-type questions which require explanation in writing, graph and calculation.

Absence from Midterm and Final Exams:

- Note that outside activities or more than one exam in a day are not acceptable excuses for missing an exam. (Please plan accordingly!)
- If for any reason you are unable to attend the midterm or final exam, you must seek approval of absence from me directly **BEFORE** the exam. Your request should be supported by valid documents, such as medical certificate issued by a registered medical practitioner. Absence from an exam without prior approval of absence would result in ZERO score.

- For students who are absent from the midterm exam with prior approval, the 30% will be reallocated to the final exam which will make the final exam account for 85% of the final grade. In other words, there will be no make-up mid-term exam.
- For students who are absent from the final exam with prior approval, a make-up exam will be arranged. Make-up exam will be scheduled as soon as possible and should be within one week after the official final exam date (to be announced). It is the responsibility for those who request for a make-up exam to ensure their availability. The make-up arrangement can be in the form of written-exam, oral exam or research paper, etc.
- Please NOTE that the instructor has the final discretion on all arrangements of the make-up exam. Students who request for the make-up final exam should comply all the requirements as communicated by the instructor. Failing to meet any requirement may result in a ZERO score.

Final Exam Schedule:

Final exam period for the Fall Semester 2013 will be December 9 to 20. If you intend to travel at the end of the semester, please be careful to arrange your travel plans to avoid any schedule clash. Request for a change of final examination date will not be accommodated.

Grading Disputes:

- Please check your grade of homework assignments and midterm as soon as grades are released. Any discrepancy should be reported to TA **within one week** from the date of releasing your score. Late complaints will not be accommodated. In the case of your appeal of reassessment (with the exception of arithmetic errors), not only the discrepancy part but that entire homework assignment or exam will be reassessed. This reassessment may result in either a higher or a lower grade than the original one. Requests for re-grading must be submitted in a written format to the instructor **within one week** from the date of releasing your score and re-grading will be conducted by the instructor.

Letter Grades of This Course:

- Your final score of this course will be the weighted average of your scores in all problem sets and two exams. The weighting scheme is the one specified above.
- The final scores of all students will be pooled together and your letter grade will be given according to a grading curve. Top 20% of the class will get grades of A category. The next 40% of the class will get grades of B category.

Remarks to Grading:

- I try my best to make the grading policy as clear as possible. When you have any questions or when you encounter any difficulties in studying, please do not hesitate to consult me either in or out of class throughout the semester. **I'd be delighted to help you succeed in the course!** Also please remember that ultimately it is you who EARN the grade and are responsible for building up your own academic records! So, if you know what grade you need to earn (or want to earn) for graduation, scholarship, exchange opportunities, honors, etc., you need to make the CORRESPONDING effort to achieve your objective.

H. Academic Honesty and Integrity:

Academic integrity and honesty are key values at HKUST. Please read the information on academic integrity carefully. It is your responsibility to be familiarized with the Academic Honor Code and the content on the Academic Integrity website. The website address is: <http://www.ust.hk/provost/integrity>

The Code will be STRICTLY enforced. Any student observed cheating on exams and problem sets, or plagiarizing material, will receive an "F" for the course. Any violation of the code will be reported to the University WITHOUT EXCEPTIONS.

I. How to Get Help:

The TA and I hold regular office hours to answer questions and help you with your study. You are also welcome to make appointments with TA and me if you cannot visit office hours due to time clash.

If you have any worries or are under pressure about the course, I urge you in the strongest possible terms, to get help immediately. I would be happy to talk with you and help you find appropriate solutions.

J. Classroom Etiquette:

The classroom is a special environment in which students and faculty come together to promote learning and communication. Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and the instructor. Neither instructor nor student should be subject to others' behavior that is rude, disruptive, intimidating, or demeaning.

My responsibilities:

- Start and end class on time.
- Treat all students equally and fairly, with caring and respect.
- Be open to constructive input from students in the course.
- Ensure that opportunities to participate are enjoyed equally by all students in the course.
- Contribute to a peaceful and inspiring learning environment.

You are expected to be punctual for both lectures and tutorials. You are welcome to bring your laptop or other devices to lectures for learning purposes. Respect the others in class and do not disturb others with side conversation, Internet surfing, emails-checking or instant-messaging during class time. Please visit the following site for general guidelines on proper classroom behavior:

http://www.ust.hk/provost/conduct/good_learning_experience.pps

K. Final Notes:*

Student feedback is essential for course improvement. I encourage continuous teaching evaluation. At any time during the semester you may verbally or anonymously (e.g., via campus mail, or slip a note under my office door) give me your feedback of my teaching. This evaluation could include the following headings: 1) Things that I like; 2) Things that I dislike; and 3) Suggestions for improvements.

* The instructor reserves the right to final interpretation of the syllabus and the right to amend the syllabus, if necessary.