



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2011/2012

SØK 3432 Macroeconomics

Programme

Bachelor in Arts and Management (1. year), Bachelor in International Marketing (1. year), Bachelor in Market Communication (1. year), Bachelor in Marketing (1. year), Bachelor in Media Management and Journalism (1. year), Bachelor in Public Relations (1. year), Bachelor in Retail Management (1. year), Bachelor in Tourism Management (1. year), Foundation Program in Marketeconomy

Responsible for the course

Terje Synnøstvedt

Department

Department of Economics

Term

According to study plan

ECTS Credits

7,5

Language of instruction

Norwegian

Introduction

Macroeconomics is the study of the economy as a whole. It deals with phenomena such as long-run economic growth, business cycles, unemployment, inflation, and deficits on the balance of payments. Analyses on how governments and central banks can influence the macroeconomy through fiscal and monetary policy are particularly important in macroeconomics.

Learning outcome

An important goal of this course is to familiarise students with important macroeconomic concepts, indicators, and relations, and to give students insights into macroeconomic theories (with corresponding empirical knowledge) of long-run economic growth processes, structural unemployment, inflation and other nominal variables, and business cycles. This will help you to understand how small, open economies are affected by the international economy, and important economic policy issues confronting governments and central banks. Another goal is to equip students with sufficient knowledge to understand theories and macroeconomic models that explain how fiscal and monetary policy, such as inflation targeting, can be used to influence the macroeconomy.

Acquired knowledge

After taking this course you should understand and be able to explain important macroeconomic concepts, indicators and the most common policy targets and instruments of fiscal and monetary policy in advanced economies. You are expected to understand the crucial distinction between real and nominal variables and concepts. You should also be able to distinguish wrong statements in macroeconomics from correct ones, as well as descriptive statements from normative ones. You should also have acquired a good overview of macroeconomic relations and empirical knowledge. Finally, you should understand the logical structure of basic macroeconomic growth models and elementary models of business cycles and inflation.

Acquired skills

After taking this course you should be able to find relevant economic data and indicators from respectable data sources in order to describe the macroeconomic situation and recent history of a particular country. You should also be able to decide which macroeconomic theory or model that is most relevant for a particular policy issue. Finally, you should be able to apply basic models of long-run growth, business cycles and inflation to draw logical conclusions about the effects of changes in crucial parameters and policy instruments.

Reflection

After taking this course you should be ethically conscious about the conflicts of interest and inherent goal conflicts and trade-offs in macroeconomic policy. You should be able to look at a macroeconomic policy issue from different perspectives in regard to the interests of different groups in society. You should also have developed a critical attitude making you conscious of the difference between political ambitions behind announcements of goals and the real effects of macroeconomic policies in practice.

Prerequisites

None.

Compulsory reading

Books:

Steigum, Erling. 2004. Moderne makroøkonomi. Gyldendal akademisk. Kap.1-3 og 5-14. Deler av enkelte kapitler er ikke pensum, dette blir mer spesifikt oppgitt ved kursstart.

Other:

Finansdepartementet. 2010. Nasjonalbudsjettet 2011

Norges Bank. 2010. Finansiell stabilitet 2/2010

Norges Bank. 2011. Pengepolitisk rapport 1/2011

Pensum blir i sin helhet oppgitt ved kursstart

Recommended reading

Course outline

1. National accounts and economic indicators
2. Economic growth and the wealth of nations
3. The labor market and structural unemployment
4. Money, prices and exchange rates in the long run
5. Consumption and investment
6. Aggregate demand, business cycles and the short-run effects of monetary and fiscal policy
7. Asset bubbles and financial instability
8. Nominal and real exchange rates
9. Long-run effects of fiscal policy.

Computer-based tools

No specified computer-based tools are required.

Learning process and workload

An important part of the learning process consists of lectures in class. Seven sets of coursework requirements will be posted. Five of these have to be passed in order for the student to be allowed to take the final exam. Answers to the work requirements should be posted electronically through It's learning. Feedback will be given in class.

Required work (mandatory mini-exercises)

The students must have passed five (5) out of seven (7) coursework requirements in order to take the exam.

Information about dead lines will be given at the start of the term.

Activity	Use of hours
Lectures	36
Feedback on work requirement in class	6
Reading of literature and preparation for lectures	131
Coursework requirements	24
Final exam	3
Total recommended use of hours	200

E-learning

The e-learning platform It's learning is used to administrate the mandatory exercises. Module sessions are carried out at the beginning of the semester and before exams. The e-learning students are also offered a study guide that is an educational guide to the syllabus.

Recommended workload in hours

Activity	Use of hours
Participation at lectures (weekend sessions)	8
Preparation for lectures	80
Assignments	24
Work on syllabus, study guide, assignments and exercises/activities on It's learning	85
Examination	3
Recommended total workload	200

Use of hours

Coursework requirements

The students must have passed five of the seven assignments in order to take the exam.

Examination

A three (3) hour individual multiple choice exam concludes the course.

Examination code(s)

SØK 34321 - Multiple choice, accounts for 100 % of the final grade in SØK 3432
Macroeconomics - 7.5 credits.

Examination support materials

BI-defined exam calculator is allowed. TEXAS INSTRUMENTS BA II Plus™

Examination support materials at written examinations are specified under exam information in our web-based Student Handbook. Please note the use of calculator and dictionary.

<http://www.bi.edu/studenthandbook/examaids>

Re-sit examination

A re-sit examination is offered every term.

Students that have not passed five of six assignments must retake the assignments at the next scheduled course. Students that have not passed the written exam or who wish to improve their grade can take the re-sit examination when the next scheduled exam is offered..

Additional information