

**COURSE DATA****DATA SUBJECT**

Code: 36121
Name: Macroeconomics II
Cycle: Undergraduate Studies
ECTS Credits: 6
Academic year: 2025-26

STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1316 - Degree in Economics	Facultat d'Economia	2	Second quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1316 - Degree in Economics	Macroeconomics	COMPULSORY

COORDINATION

CUTANDA TARIN ANTONIO

SUMMARY

Macroeconomics II is a one semester compulsory course, with a total workload of 6 credits (3 theoretical and 3 practical), in the Degree of Economics. It is a natural extension of the subject Macroeconomics I, taught in the previous semester. Together these courses constitute a full year course of Intermediate Macroeconomics that is offered to students who already have basic knowledge of economic theory. Students will later on complete their training in this field with a more advanced course on Dynamic Macroeconomics.

The main objective of the course is to provide students a general overview of Macroeconomics, presenting the basic concepts, models and policy issues that students should be familiar with to properly develop their professional activities once graduated.

The course begins with a detailed analysis of the labour market, including the study of the determination of wages and prices in non-competitive markets, unemployment persistence (hysteresis) and policies to reduce structural unemployment.

The two following topics study in depth two key economic decisions made by households and firms: consumption (saving) and investment. Special attention is paid to the role of financial frictions and of agents' expectations, as key determinants of these important intertemporal decisions.



Topics 4 and 5 present the modern approach to the objectives, design and effects of monetary and fiscal policies. As regards to monetary policy, topic 4 studies the problems associated with the control of monetary aggregates and the analysis of interest rate management by central banks. The Taylor rule is introduced into the analysis of monetary policy. We also deal with the constraints imposed on monetary policy by the zero lower bound of the interest rate, and present the new developments in central banking, like quantitative easing and other non-conventional monetary policies. Topic 5 covers classical as well as recent issues regarding the design of fiscal policies. The Ricardian equivalence, problems associated with the financing of the government deficit and the size of the public debt, the size of fiscal multipliers in different macroeconomic environments and the role of fiscal rules, are analyzed in detail.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

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Apply the principles of economic analysis (rational decision) to the diagnosis and resolution of problems.

Be able to learn autonomously.

Be able to use English in a professional environment.

Have appropriate knowledge of the determinants of aggregate consumption, savings and investment.

Have decision-making skills and be able to apply knowledge to practice.

Know and understand the determinants of the long-term sustainable growth of an economy.

Know and understand the functioning of labour markets and the determinants of unemployment and wages.

Know and understand the nature of international trade and of the financial framework in which it takes place.

Recognise strategic conflicts and know how to use basic strategic principles to obtain cooperation and coordination in incentive problems.

Show critical thinking skills.

Understand and apply the scientific method, which involves formulating hypotheses, deducing verifiable results and contrasting them with empirical and experimental evidence.



Understand the effects of the existence of private information in relation to quality and productivity on the functioning and performance of markets and enterprises, as well as their possible private and public solutions.

Understand the functioning of the economy at the aggregate level and the effect of different economic policies.

Understand the possible causes of economic cycles and the effects of stabilisation policies.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1. The labor market and unemployment

- 1.- Determination of wages and prices in non competitive markets.
 - 2.- The natural rate of unemployment and hysteresis.
 - 3.- Unemployment and structural policies.
 - 4.- Technical progress and unemployment.
- Blanchard chs. 7, 8 & 13; Mankiw ch 7 & 14.2

2. Consumption and saving

- 1.- The intertemporal decision of the consumer.
 - 2.- Life cycle and the theory of permanent income.
 - 3.- Imperfect capital markets, liquidity constraints and uncertainty.
- Blanchard ch. 15; Mankiw ch. 19

3. Investment

- 1.- Types of investmetn and investment theories.
 - 2.- The demand for capital.
 - 3.- The demand for investment: Tobin q's theory.
- Blanchard ch 15; Mankiw ch 19

4. Money and monetary policy

- 1.- Instruments of monetaruy policy: interest rate rules.
 - 2.- Monetary policy design: Objectives and credibility.
 - 3.- Expectations and money: hiperinflation.
 - 4.- Deflation, the Zero Lower Bound of interest rate and non-conventional monetary policy.
- Blanchard ch 21 & 23; Mankiw ch. 14 & 16



5. Fiscal policy

- 1.- Public deficit and the size of public debt.
 - 2.- Ricardian equivalence.
 - 3.- High debt and fiscal space.
 - 4.- Fiscal policy rules.
- Blanchard chs. 21 & 22; Mankiw chs. 14 & 17

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theory	30,00
Classroom practices	30,00
Total hours	60,00

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	7,00
Independent study and work	50,00
Preparation of lessons	30,00
Preparation for assessment activities	3,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
Total hours	90,00

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The methods used in the lectures and the discussion sections will combine the capacity of individual work with some teamwork. Before lectures the students should read the textbook as well as the assigned readings as they become available. An active participation in class will be a requirement as part of the continuing evaluation process.

In the discussion sections students will be asked to solve the homework assignments in front of the classmates and will hand at the beginning of the class the written assignments. Some team work might be assigned to groups of 3 students or less. Students are asked to develop both his capacity for independent work, and their ability to defend ideas and their oral and written communication ability.

EVALUATION

The evaluation of the subject is based on a set of continuous assessment of activities and a final test (a written test at the end of the semester). The total grade is broken down as follows: 30% of the overall mark



is for the continuous assessment, including class participation and problem sets, and 70% of the overall mark comes from the final test. On a 10 point basis, 3 or less come from the continuous assessment and 7 or less from the final. The final passing grade is conditional on reaching at least 3,5 (out of 7) in the final test.

The final score will be the sum of the scores of the continuous assessment and the final test (graded for a maximum score of 7). In case of no reaching a passing grade in the final exam, that is to say not getting at least 5 out of 10 or 3,5 out of 7, the grade will be Fail, independently of the accumulated points from the continuous evaluation.

In the event that the student does not follow the continuous assessment system and gets 0 point from it, they will be required to obtain 5 points in the final test out of a maximum of 7 in order to pass the course.

Important notice: the continuous assessment activities have the character of **non-recoverable**. Thus, the qualification obtained in the first call (January) is maintained for the second call (June) and cannot be modified.

REFERENCES

Basic

- Blanchard, O. (2017). *Macroeconomics* (7th ed.). New York: Pearson.
- Blanchard, O., Amighini, A., & Giavazzi, F. (2017). *Macroeconomics: A European Perspective* (3rd ed.). New York: Pearson.
- Mankiw, N. G. (2019). *Macroeconomics* (10th ed.). Barcelona: Antoni Bosch.

Additional

- Abel, A. B., & Bernanke, B. S. (2003). *Macroeconomía* (4th ed.). Madrid: Pearson Education. [Spanish translation of *Macroeconomics*].
- DeLong, J. B., & Olney, M. L. (2007). *Macroeconomía* (2nd ed.). Madrid: McGraw-Hill. [Spanish translation of *Macroeconomics*].
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 - Layard, R., Nickell, S., & Jackman, R. (1994). *La crisis del paro*. Madrid: Alianza Editorial. [Spanish translation of *Unemployment: Macroeconomic Performance and the Labour Market*].
 - Sachs, J. D., & Larraín, F. (1994). *Macroeconomía en la economía global*. Mexico City: Prentice Hall Hispanoamericana. [Spanish translation of *Macroeconomics in the Global Economy*].
 - Argandoña, A., & García-Durán, J. A. (1991). *Ejercicios de macroeconomía*. Madrid: McGraw-Hill.
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