

FINANCE 615

Macroeconomics and the Global Economic Environment

Spring 2017

Professor Joao F. Gomes

Steinberg Hall-Dietrich Hall 2329

Email: gomesj@wharton.upenn.edu

OVERVIEW

Finance 615 is a brief course in macroeconomic analysis and policy in the context of globally integrated economies. Its purpose is to help students understand the global macro-economic environment within which business and financial decisions are made. The course emphasizes the use of macroeconomic theory to understand the workings of key markets and the impact of government policies. Specifically, we cover the determinants of national income, employment, investment, interest rates, and inflation as well as the formulation and operation of stabilization policies.

Note: This course is a half-semester compressed version of FNCE613 and **DOES NOT COUNT** towards the Finance major. Students majoring in Finance **MUST TAKE FNCE 613**.

MATERIALS AND INFORMATION

Canvas Site

To find the Canvas site for this course go to <https://canvas.upenn.edu>. This site contains all lecture notes and assigned readings, plus several useful links, and all relevant course information. There is also a detailed Calendar of all course activities and due dates. **Quizzes and Assignments must be submitted there.**

Textbook

There is **NO** required textbook for this course. However, should you wish to invest in one, *Macroeconomics*, 8th edition, by Abel, Bernanke and Croushore is the best choice.

Additional Readings

The Wall Street Journal (US), the *Financial Times (Global)*, and the *Economist (Analysis)* are the most reliable sources for economic and financial news. You should use the course as an opportunity to understand and get comfortable with one or all of them.

GRADES

Quizzes

There will be 6 online quizzes during the term. They can be accessed and submitted on Canvas. Due dates are also posted there. **You can work on the Quizzes with your classmates but everyone must submit individually.**

Case Discussions

There are two case discussions. Students will be asked to prepare and submit a brief summary for possible in class presentation. You can work on this in groups of 2 or 3 students, but anyone can be randomly selected to present. NOTE: **You must come to class to get credit for a discussion.**

Exam Information

The final exam is on **March 2, 6-8PM**. You can bring a calculator. Questions are multiple choice and often similar to those in the quizzes.

Grade Composition

Ideally the final grade breakdown for this course is as follows:

- Quizzes 30% (5% each Quiz)
- Case Discussions 30% (15% each Discussion)
- Final Exam 40%

If you miss a Quiz or Case Discussion its weight transfers to the Final Exam. Thus, if you wish, you can have the entire grade be based on you final exam score.

Scheduling Conflicts

Any scheduling additional conflicts will be resolved according to the MBA Resource Guide. Specifically:

- If you find yourself with a conflict due to your career search or recruiting activity, you should ***work with the MBA Career Management Office*** to find a resolution.
- It is Wharton policy that you ***should not approach instructors with requests to reschedule exams or to make special accommodations.***

Exam Regrade

Any requests for a review of the exam must be submitted in writing within 7 days from the date that exams are made available and must be accompanied by the *Statement of Honesty in Regrade Request* form posted on Canvas.

Teaching Assistants, Office Hours and Online Discussions

Canvas includes a Discussion module. This will be used to deal with overflow, extra material that could not be covered in depth during class, and specific questions about assignments and the course in general. You are encouraged to contribute to these discussions.

If you wish to meet with me outside class my regular Office are on Tuesday 1:30-2:30pm. Please email at gomesj@wharton.upenn.edu to schedule an appointment at another time. My office is Steinberg Hall-Dietrich Hall 2329.