



蘇州大學  
Soochow University

# ECO 371 Selected Topics in Economics

Summer 2023

**Course Credits:** 4

**Contact Hours:** 55 hours

**Instructor:** TBA

**Email:** TBA

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

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This course covers topics in international macroeconomics. Its purpose is to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the intersection between macroeconomics and finance in the global context. It explores the dynamics of international financial markets, the impact of macroeconomic factors on financial decisions, and the interplay between monetary policy, exchange rates, and international capital flows. Through theoretical analysis, empirical research, and case studies, students will develop a deep understanding of the complexities and challenges in the field of international macro-finance.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the theoretical foundations of international macro-finance
2. Analyze the determinants of exchange rates and their implications for international trade and investment
3. Examine the role of monetary policy in influencing macroeconomic and financial outcomes globally
4. Evaluate the impact of global financial crises on international markets and economies
5. Investigate the relationship between international capital flows and economic stability
6. Apply quantitative techniques and econometric tools to analyze international macro-finance phenomena
7. Explore policy implications and challenges in the management of international macro-financial systems



## **PREREQUISITES**

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N/A

## **GRADING**

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Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
Short Paper	20 Points
Midterm 1	20 Points
Midterm 2	20 Points
Final Exam	40 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$ .

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

## **COURSE MATERIALS**

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### **Required Texts:**

Maurice Obstfeld and Kenneth Rogoff's *Foundations of International Macroeconomics*, Cambridge: MIT Press, 1996.

### **Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:**

None

## **COURSE TOPICS**

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<b>MODULE</b>	<b>TASKS</b>
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Module 1	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 1: Interconnections between macroeconomics and finance in the international context  Topic 2: Exchange Rates and International Trade  Topic 3: Determinants of exchange rates, Effects of exchange rate fluctuations on trade flows  Topic 4: Trade policies and their impact on exchange rates</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Short Paper#1</p>
Module 2	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 5: International Capital Flows and Financial Integration  Topic 6: Financial openness and economic development  Topic 7: Financial crises and contagion effects  Topic 8: Monetary Policy and Macroeconomic Stabilization</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Short Paper#2</p>
Module 3	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 9: Central banks and their roles in macroeconomic management  Topic 10: Monetary policy frameworks in an open economy  Topic 11: Monetary policy coordination and exchange rate regimes  Topic 12: International Financial Markets</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Midterm#1</p>
Module 4	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 13: Bond markets, equity markets, and foreign exchange markets  Topic 14: Financial derivatives and their role in managing risk  Topic 15: Global Financial Crises and Controversies  Topic 16: Systemic risks and regulatory challenges</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Midterm#2</p>
Module 5	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 17: Empirical Analysis in International Macro-Finance  Topic 18: Time series analysis and panel data methods  Topic 19: Policy Implications and Challenges in International Macro-Finance  Topic 20: Managing capital flows and exchange rate volatility</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Final Exam</p>

## ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to



decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

## **LEARNING REQUIREMENTS**

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

## **TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the



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academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

## **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION**

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Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.