

Economic Policy and Business Activity



LISBON
SCHOOL OF
ECONOMICS &
MANAGEMENT
UNIVERSIDADE DE LISBOA

Academic Year 2017-2018

2nd Semester

Course outline

1. Introduction to economic policy: foundations and methodology
2. Limits of economic policy in a complex world
3. Fiscal policy
4. Monetary policy
5. Growth policies

Recommended reading list

- Bénassy-Quéré, A. e outros (2010), *Economic Policy: Theory and Practice*, Oxford University Press.
- *Economic Policy and Business Activity, Course Notes and Materials*, AEISEG.

Practical classes

Dedicated to the **analysis and discussion of a selection of texts about fiscal policy, monetary policy and growth policies** – see the list in the next slides.

Practical Classes

Presentations

Title

Text 1

OECD (2011), OECD at 50: Evolving Paradigms in Economic Policy Making, OECD Economic Outlook, volume 50, OECD, pp. 1-12.

Text 2

OECD (2011), OECD at 50: Evolving Paradigms in Economic Policy Making, OECD Economic Outlook, volume 50, OECD, pp. 12-23.

Text 3

Narcissa Balta (2013) Catching-up processes in the euro area, Quarterly Report on the Euro Area, 12(1), European Commission.

Practical Classes

Presentations

Title

Text 4

BIS (2014), Debt and the financial cycle: domestic and global, Bank for International Settlements, 84th Annual Report.

Text 5

Bertola, G. et alii (2014), Austerity: Hurting or Helping, The EEAG Report on the European Economy.

Text 6

Janos Varga and Jan in 't Veld (2013), The growth impact of structural reforms, Quarterly Report on the Euro Area, 12(4), European Commission.

Text 7

SAERG (2017), Regulation and competition: a literature review, SAERG.

Presentation	Date Class E11 – Management (Wed, 10h30-12h30)
Text 1	28/02
Text 2	07/03
Text 3	14/03
Text 4	04/04
Test 1	21/03
Text 5	18/04
Text 6	02/05
Test 2	09/05
Text 7	16/05

Course Assessment

1. Ongoing student assessment during the semester accounts for 40% of the course final mark and includes the following elements:

- Two mini-tests with topics and date arranged in advance (50% of ongoing student assessment). Questions about the texts discussed in practical sessions.
- Presentation and discussion of the texts selected for the practical sessions (50% of ongoing student assessment).

Course Assessment (cont.)

2. Students with an average mark below 10 values on the ongoing student assessment **cannot** take the normal examination period final exam, but **can** take the written exam in other examination periods.
3. The overall final mark will consist of: 40% of the average mark from the ongoing student assessment (see point 1) and 60% of the mark obtained in the final written exam.

Course Assessment (cont.)

4. Students taking the final exam in the second examination period can also benefit from ongoing student assessment if it helps increase their final mark.

In summary, the final mark will be:

- $40\% \times \text{ongoing student assessment} + 60\% \times \text{final exam mark}$, if final exam mark $<$ ongoing student assessment
- 100% of final exam mark if exam mark \geq ongoing student assessment

5. The final mark for the special examination period consists only of the mark obtained in the written exam.

Guidelines for the analysis and presentation of texts

1. Include an introduction to the text – i.e. where does it fit in relation to the theory classes?
2. What are the key questions or problems discussed in the paper?
3. What methods are used to carry out the analysis and/or discussion? Are they credible and well implemented?
4. What are the conclusions reached? What lessons can we learn from the text? Why is it important?
5. Summarise the key messages and link them to what you have learnt in theory classes