

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

Department of Economics

ECON4423: International Finance

Outline Fall 2013

Instructor: Martin Boileau
Office: Economics 215
Office Hours: T 11:00 to 12:00 and 14:00 to 15:00
Phone: (303) 492-2108
E-mail: Martin.Boileau@Colorado.EDU

Course Description

This course reviews selected topics from both international finance and open-economy macroeconomics. From international finance, we will discuss international financial markets and their operations. From open-economy macroeconomics, we will discuss macroeconomic policies and their implications. Obviously, most of our time will be devoted to further our understanding of “exchange rates.”

Here are some stylized facts:

1. Real and nominal exchange rates are highly correlated.
2. Changes in both real and nominal exchange rates are persistent.
3. Forward exchange rates are poor and biased predictors of future spot exchange rates.
4. International differences in interest rates are large and persistent.
5. Portfolios are not internationally diversified.
6. The extent of international consumption risk-sharing is less than expected.
7. Savings and investment are highly correlated.
8. The trade balance and the current account are countercyclical.
9. Business cycles are correlated across countries.

Evaluation

The assessment for this class consists of three assignments, two tests, and one final examination. The tests and final are closed notes and closed books. No make-up tests will be given. The schedule and grade distribution is

	Week	Date	Time	Location	%
Assignment 1	6	1 October	12:30	ECON 117	5
Term Test 1	7	8 October	12:30	ECON 117	25
Assignment 2	11	5 November	12:30	ECON 117	5
Term Test 2	12	12 November	12:30	ECON 117	25
Assignment 3	16	12 December	12:30	ECON 117	5
Final Exam	Finals	18 December	19:30-22:00	ECON 117	35

Note: Students who may need academic accommodations should discuss options with the professor no later than 10 September.

Required Text

Feenstra, R. and A. Taylor (2012) *International Macroeconomics*, Second Edition, New York: Worth Publishers.

Intermediate Macro Text

Jones, C. (2011) *Macroeconomics*, Second Edition, New York: W.W. Norton and Co.

Advanced Text

Obstfeld, M. and K. Rogoff (1996) *Foundations of International Macroeconomics*, Cambridge: The MIT Press.

Course Outline

Part 1: Introduction to International Finance

1. Introduction

Feenstra and Taylor: Chapter 1.

Part 2: Exchange Rates

2. The Foreign Exchange Market

Feenstra and Taylor: Chapter 2 and Chapter 11.2.

3. The Monetary Approach in the Long Run

Feenstra and Taylor: Chapter 3 and Chapter 11.1.

4. The Asset Approach in the Short Run

Feenstra and Taylor: Chapter 4.

Part 3: The Balance of Payments

5. Income, Wealth, and the Balance of Payments

Feenstra and Taylor: Chapter 5.

Prereq: Jones Chapter 2.

6. Output, Exchange Rates, and Macroeconomic Policies in the Short Run

Feenstra and Taylor: Chapter 7.

Prereq: Jones Chapters 11 and 12.

7. The Gains from Financial Globalization

Feenstra and Taylor: Chapter 6.

Prereq: Jones Chapters 15 and 16.

Part 4: Policy Issues

8. Fixed versus Floating

Feenstra and Taylor: Chapter 8.

9. Exchange Rate Crises

Feenstra and Taylor: Chapter 9.

University Policies

You should familiarize yourself with the following University of Colorado policies:

1. University policies regarding classroom behavior are available at
<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html>
2. University policies regarding disabilities are available at
<http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>.
3. University policies regarding religious practice are available at
http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html.
4. University policies regarding Sexual Harassment and Amorous Relationships are available at
<http://www.colorado.edu/odh/>.
5. Information regarding the Honor Code Council is available at
<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html>
<http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>.