Description
This course is designed to provide students with a structured understanding of the broad economic and financial movements in the global economy. Topics covered will include measures of economic performance, interest rates, inflation rates, unemployment, consumption and saving decisions, investment, the financial markets, the business cycle, monetary and fiscal policy, international trade and investment, exchange rates, international capital flows, and international finance. By the end of the course, students will be able to evaluate and discuss the economic environment in which business and financial decisions have to be made.

Teaching and learning activities
There will be 12 two-and-a-half-hour sessions and 6 exercise sessions. Additionally the module requires the preparation of lectures and case studies through personal study, and the completion of individual and/or team complementary tasks.

Lectures will mainly develop the concepts and methodologies that make up the five items of the course list. These classes are based on the textbooks that support the course, but we have also prepared a set of slides that set out the main material more specifically. Both the textbook and the slides should be the fundamental support for personal preparation before and / or after the lectures.

The lecture sessions will also include the discussion of real world macroeconomic issues. Analysis of these issues will be presented in groups. The maximum group size is 4 people. All group members will receive the same score. During those sessions, we will also encourage student participation in the discussions, which will be evaluated individually.

We will also circulate problem sets with practical exercises. We recommend that you work in groups to solve problems. The maximum group size is 4 people. Please submit one solution per group. All group members will receive the same score. Verify that you place the names of all who worked on the problems. These exercises must be handed-in before the exercise sessions, in which we will discuss some of the most relevant exercises.

Evaluation
To pass, you should get at least 50 points out of 100, according to the following distribution:
- Final exam: 60 points (must get at least 24 to pass the course)
- Group presentations: 20 points.
- Problem sets: 20 points.
- Active participation in the case studies: 5 points.

Bibliography
Lectures and tentative schedule

Part 1: Monitoring Macroeconomic Performance
- Business Cycle and Financial Indicators, International Indicators, Productivity and Growth

Part 2: Understanding the Business Cycle
- Short-Run Economic Performance, Financial Crises, Fiscal and Monetary Stimulus

Part 3: Determinants of Long-Run Economic Growth
- The Long-Run Real Interest Rate; Savings and Investment, the Labor Market

Part 4: Money, Inflation, Monetary Policy and Commercial Banking

Part 5: Interest Rates and Exchange Rates.
- Fixed and Flexible Exchange Rate Regimes, Global Capital Flows