

# UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School

## MBA 774: Global Economics

### Course Contact Information

Instructor: Prof. Andreas Stathopoulos  
Office: McColl 4101  
Office Hours: Thursday 3:30 - 4:30 pm (McColl 4101 or Zoom) or by appointment  
(please email me to schedule)  
Phone: 919-962-2007  
Email: [Andreas.Stathopoulos@kenan-flagler.unc.edu](mailto:Andreas.Stathopoulos@kenan-flagler.unc.edu)

Class Times: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00 am-12:20 pm, 2:00-3:20 pm  
Classroom: virtual (Zoom) – see information below  
Zoom link for 11 am session: <https://kenan-flagler.zoom.us/j/91600716171>  
Zoom link for 2 pm session: <https://kenan-flagler.zoom.us/j/92129018083>

If you are having trouble, please schedule a meeting with me earlier rather than later. Please do not hesitate to email me.

### Course Description and Goals

MBA 774: Global Economics is an introductory course in global economics for managers, with the primary goal of providing applied tools to optimize business in the global economy. The course is motivated by the following fact: managers in all fields and firms need a solid understanding of both country-level and global trends to make successful operation-, marketing-, strategy-, and finance-related decisions. The topics covered include business cycles and inflation, labor and capital markets, monetary and fiscal policy, and exchange rates, international trade and the balance of payments.

### Course Policies

You are responsible on exams **for all the material covered in the lectures (including slides and supplementary material discussed in class) and in the assignments.** There is significant lecture/assignment material not in the textbook and significant textbook material not in the lectures/assignments, but exams come from the lecture and assignments. The textbook is used solely as support material. Supplementary material not discussed in class is optional and will not be examined.

## Course Material

- Recommended textbook (optional): [ABC] “Macroeconomics” by Andrew B. Abel, Ben S. Bernanke, and Dean Croushore, 6th edition or later (the most current edition is the 10th), Pearson.
- Case pack (mandatory): The case pack contains the cases we will cover and can be purchased from Harvard Publishing at: <https://hbsp.harvard.edu/import/815968>
- Calculator: You will sometimes need to do calculations without access to an electronic device. For that reason, please make sure you have a standard calculator with you that you know how to use.
- Supplementary readings: I will often post readings (weblinks or files) on Canvas that either deal with current events or are useful background reading. Sometimes, we will discuss those readings in class. When we do, those supplemental readings become part of the examinable class material.
- Suggested readings: I encourage you to follow economic and business news, as reported by the Economist, the Wall Street Journal, the Financial Times and other reputable news sources. Purely online news sources include Google Finance and Yahoo Finance. Another useful source of information is the Economic Calendar in Nasdaq.com: <https://www.nasdaq.com/markets/us-economic-calendar.aspx>.
- Data: You can find thousands of macroeconomic time-series on the St. Louis Fed FRED site:  
<https://fred.stlouisfed.org/>  
and the BEA NIPA site:  
[https://apps.bea.gov/iTable/index\\_nipa.cfm](https://apps.bea.gov/iTable/index_nipa.cfm)  
International sources include the OECD:  
<https://data.oecd.org/economy.htm>  
and the IMF:  
<https://www.imf.org/en/Data>

## Grading

Your course grade is made up from the following components:

- Canvas quizzes: 10% or 30% (see below)
- Group assignments: 15% or 30% (see below)
- Final exam: 30% to 65%, depending on Canvas quiz and group assignment weights (see below)
- Participation: 10%

**I provide two grading weights for Canvas quizzes and group assignments and I will use the weighting that works to each student's advantage.** For example, for some students the optimal weighting would count Canvas quizzes as 10%, group assignments as 15% and the final exam as 65%, for other students the optimal weighting would count Canvas quizzes as 30%, group assignments as 15% and the final exam as 45%, for other students the optimal weighting would count Canvas quizzes as 10%, group assignments as 30% and the final exam as 50%, while for other students the optimal weighting would count Canvas quizzes as 30%, group assignments as 30% and the final exam as 30%. You don't need to do anything to use this policy - I will automatically use the method that works in your favor.

**Canvas quizzes** These quizzes are provided on Canvas and are automatically graded. There will be three such quizzes. Those are short quizzes – the estimated time for completion is about 15-20 minutes per quiz. Those quizzes will be due at the following dates:

- Quiz #1: Sunday, April 11, 11:59 pm
- Quiz #2: Sunday, April 25, 11:59 pm
- Quiz #3: Sunday, May 9, 11:59 pm

**Group assignments** There will be two group assignments; each assignment will take the form of a report that should be consistent with my guidelines. **The assignments are required to be done in study groups of (at most) 4 students.** If (for some legitimate reason) you prefer to work alone, I will consider your request to do so, after discussing the matter with you. **Turn in only one hard copy of each assignment per group.** Each write-up should include a cover sheet with the names of all the group members.

Even though form without substance is meaningless, please remember that form still matters. You should prepare all graded materials in a form that meets professional standards. These standards include but are not limited to dating all material, numbering the pages, labeling any graphs or tables you may have, and expressing yourself in a legible, concise and grammatically correct manner.

**Final exam** **The final exam will be comprehensive, i.e., it will include all the material taught in the class.** The final exam is designed to test your understanding of the material covered in class as well as your ability to apply the concepts in different set-ups.

## The Honor Code

It shall be the responsibility of every student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to obey and support the enforcement of the Honor Code. The Honor Code prohibits plagiarism, falsification or misrepresentation of an academic assignment, unauthorized collaboration on academic work, and cheating on examinations or other academic

assignments. If you have questions about your responsibilities under the Honor Code, please consult the document *The Instrument of Student Judicial Governance*. If you have any questions about whether a proposed action is permitted in this class, you should ask me.

## Tentative Schedule

This tentative schedule is a list of class topics. Please remember that class material is the lectures and assignments; the correspondence to textbook chapters is provided for reference only.

- Meeting #1: Tuesday, March 23  
Topics: The structure of the national economy  
Textbook: ABC Chapter 2
- Meeting #2: Thursday, March 25  
Topics: Inflation and business cycles  
Textbook: ABC Chapter 2 and 8
- Meeting #3: Tuesday, March 30  
Topics: Labor market  
Textbook: ABC Chapter 3
- Meeting #4: Thursday, April 1  
Topics: Capital market  
Textbook: ABC Chapter 4
- Meeting #5: Tuesday, April 6  
Topics: Central banks and the money supply  
Textbook: ABC Chapter 7
- Meeting #6: Thursday, April 8  
Topics: Central banks and the money supply (cont.)  
Textbook: ABC Chapter 7
- Meeting #7: Tuesday, April 13  
Topics: Monetary policy  
Textbook: ABC Chapter 14  
Deliverable: Group assignment #1 due
- Meeting #8: Thursday, April 15  
Topics: Monetary policy (cont.)  
Textbook: ABC Chapter 14

Meeting #9: Tuesday, April 20  
Topics: The government budget and fiscal policy  
Textbook: ABC Chapter 15

No class: Thursday, April 22 (Wellness Day)

Meeting #10: Tuesday, April 27  
Topics: Exchange rates  
Textbook: ABC Chapter 5

Meeting #11: Thursday, April 29  
Topics: Exchange rates (cont.)  
Textbook: ABC Chapter 5

No class: Tuesday, May 4 (Wellness Day)

Meeting #12: Thursday, May 6  
Topics: International trade and the balance of payments  
Textbook: ABC Chapter 13

Meeting #13: Tuesday, May 11  
Topics: International trade and the balance of payments (cont.)  
Textbook: ABC Chapter 13  
Deliverable: Group assignment #2 due

Meeting #14: Thursday, May 13  
Topics: Review session

Final Exam: Friday, May 14