

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Coordinator	:	Fred Seunghyun Maeng
Course Code / Title	:	HE3102 Introduction to International Macroeconomics
Pre-requisites	:	HE2002 Macroeconomics II
No. of AUs.	:	3
Contact Hours	:	39

Course Aims

This course introduces the core concepts and fundamental theories of international macroeconomics, with a focus on the balance of payments, capital flows, and economic crises. By the end of the course, you will gain a solid understanding of economic interactions across countries and will be able to apply theoretical frameworks to analyze contemporary economic events. Key topics include global imbalances, the persistence of current account surpluses and deficits, and the dynamics of economic crises. You are expected to have prior knowledge of basic macroeconomics and optimization techniques.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

1. Learn basic facts on international macroeconomics
2. Understand the role of capital flows in a frictionless economy
3. Analyze various economic crises and their causes
4. Connect theories with the data

Course Content

1. Stylized facts
2. Current Account
3. Financial Account
4. Economic Crises
5. Foreign Reserves

Course Assessment

Continuous Assessment (CA) Test/Quiz : 20%

Continuous Assessment (CA) Presentation : 30%

Summative Assessment (Final Exam) : 50%

Total -----
100%

Reading and References

Obstfeld, Maurice, and Kenneth Rogoff. Foundations of international macroeconomics. MIT press, 1996.

Uribe, Martin, and Stephanie Schmitt-Grohé. Open economy macroeconomics. Princeton University Press, 2017.

Schmitt-Grohé, Stephanie, Martin Uribe, and Michael Woodford. International macroeconomics: A modern approach. Princeton University Press, 2022.

Reinhart, Carmen M., and Kenneth S. Rogoff. This time is different: Eight centuries of financial folly. princeton university press, 2009.

Arellano, Cristina. "Default risk and income fluctuations in emerging economies." American economic review 98, no. 3(2008): 690-712.

Bernanke, Ben. The global saving glut and the US current account deficit. No. 77. Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (US), 2005.

Corsetti, Giancarlo, and Fred Seunghyun Maeng. "Debt crises, fast and slow." Journal of the European Economic Association 22, no. 5 (2024): 2148-2179.

Corsetti, Giancarlo, and Fred Seunghyun Maeng. "The theory of reserve accumulation, revisited." (2025).

Maeng, Fred Seunghyun. "Default, Inflation Expectations, and the Currency Denomination of Sovereign Bonds." (2024).

NB: The above listing comprises the foundational readings for the course and more up-to-date relevant readings will be provided when they become available.

Course Instructors

Instructor	Office Location	Email
Fred Seunghyun Maeng	SHHK	seunghyun.maeng@ntu.edu.sg

Planned Weekly Schedule

Week	Topic	Course LO	Readings/ Activities
Week 1	Introduction: stylized facts in International Macroeconomics	1	Class discussion
Week 2	Introduction: economic crises	1	Class discussion
Week 3	The balance of payments: consumption	2	Class discussion Section 1.1, Obstfeld, Maurice, and Kenneth Rogoff. Foundations of international macroeconomics. MIT press, 1996.
Week 4	The balance of payments: saving gluts	2	Class discussion Bernanke, Ben. The global saving glut and the US current account defi cit. No. 77. Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (US), 2005.
Week 5	The balance of payments: investment	2	Class discussion and tutorial Section 1.2, Obstfeld, Maurice, and Kenneth Rogoff. Foundations of international macroeconomics. MIT press, 1996.
Week 6	Introduction: Emerging Economies	1	Class discussion and class quiz
Week 7	Sovereign Default: Fundamental Crises	3, 4	Class discussion and quiz feedback Arellano, Cristina. "Default risk and income fluctuations in emerging economies." American

			economic review 98, no. 3 (2008): 690-712.
Recess Week			
Week 8	Sovereign Default: Self-fulfilling Crises	3, 4	Class discussion Corsetti, Giancarlo, and Fred Seunghyun Maeng. "Debt crises, fast and slow." Journal of the European Economic Association 22, no. 5 (2024): 2148-2179.
Week 9	Foreign Reserves	3, 4	Class discussion and tutorial Corsetti, Giancarlo, and Fred Seunghyun Maeng. "The theory of reserve accumulation, revisited." (2025).
Week 10	Original Sin: why countries borrow in dollars?	3, 4	Class discussion and class quiz Maeng, Fred Seunghyun. "Default, Inflation Expectations, and the Currency Denomination of Sovereign Bonds." (2024).
Week 11	Asian Financial Crises	3, 4	Class discussion and quiz feedback
Week 12	Applying theories to the data - 1	3, 4	Group presentation
Week 13	Applying theories to the data - 2	3, 4	Group presentation