ECONOMIC REPORTING LAB

Bachelor in Economics BIE SEP-2024 ERL-Ec.2.M.A
Area Economics
Number of sessions: 15
Academic year: 24-25
Degree course: SECOND
Number of credits: 3.0
Semester: 2º
Category: COMPULSORY
Language: English

Professor: **PEDRO ALVAREZ ONDINA**

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Pedro Alvarez is an economist with more than 20 years of working experience in macroeconomic research for the financial industry. He holds a MSc on macroeconomic policy and financial markets awarded by Universidad de Oviedo, has several published papers covering currency crises and early warning systems, and is a former professor of economics at Universidad Carlos III. His career started at the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) at Washington, D.C. (United States), working for the Inter-American Initiative of Social Capital, Ethics and Development. Since then, his career has always been linked to the Spanish financial system and he currently works as a senior economist in Caixabank Research, now covering the sectoral analysis of the Spanish Economy.

Office Hours

Office hours will be on request. Please contact at:

palvarezo@faculty.ie.edu

SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

Economics graduates are increasingly being asked to be proficient in writing concise and effective economic reports. This course will provide students with a methodology for writing economic reports that can be applied in a wide variety of circumstances, framed for a corporate environment.

More importantly, the course is designed to expose students to major economic themes and current global developments and teach them skills on how to effectively structure a typical economic report on such topics. It will also empower students to ask effective questions and clearly present results and recommendations.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Effective report writing covering key themes of current macroeconomic developments
- Immerse in different types of economic reports: academic research versus applied economic reporting
- Develop rhetorical and persuasive skills necessary to convince readers of the central argument of a report
- Understanding the use of data in economic reporting
- Developing analytical and discussion skills on key macroeconomic themes and developments
- Presentation skills
- Team-work skills

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

IE University teaching method is defined by its collaborative, active, and applied nature. Students actively participate in the whole process to build their knowledge and sharpen their skills. Professor's main role is to lead and guide students to achieve the learning objectives of the course. This is done by engaging in a diverse range of teaching techniques and different types of learning activities such as the following:

Learning Activity	Weighting	Estimated time a student should dedicate to prepare for and participate in
Lectures	6.7 %	5.0 hours
Discussions	20.0 %	15.0 hours
Exercises in class, Asynchronous sessions, Field Work	33.3 %	25.0 hours
Group work	33.3 %	25.0 hours
Individual studying	6.7 %	5.0 hours
TOTAL	100.0 %	75.0 hours

AI POLICY

Generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) tools may be used in this course for research, ideation, proofreading, or grammar check with appropriate acknowledgement. GenAI may not be used for final report or exams. If a student is found to have used AI-generated content inappropriately, it will be considered academic misconduct, and the student might fail the respective assignment or the course.

If you are in doubt as to whether you are using GenAI tools appropriately in this course, I encourage you to discuss your situation with me.

Below, a suggested format to acknowledge the use of generative AI tools. Please note that acknowledging AI will not impact your grade.

I acknowledge the use of [AI systems link] to [specify how you used generative AI]. The prompts used include [list of prompts]. The output of these prompts was used to [explain how you used the outputs in your work]

If AI was permitted to use in your assignment, but you have chosen not to include any AI generated content, the following disclosure is recommended:

No content generated by AI technologies has been used in this assignment.

PROGRAM

SESSION 1 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Introduction to the course and learning objectives

- Introduction and presentation. Syllabus of the class, sessions overview, materials to use, references and evaluation criteria.
- First overview and introduction to economic reporting: the importance of explaining or translating economics from theory to real data and current topics
- Background and evolution of economic research.

SESSION 2 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Introduction to the economic reporting methodology

- Definition of an economic report. Structure, style and purpose.
- Types of economic reports: main institutions, target audience and examples.
- Overview of the research method: question, methodology, data, findings and conclusions.
- Identifying common mistakes at writing economic reports.

SESSION 3 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

The importance of leading points in Economic reports.

- What is a leading point?
- Why is it important for your report?
- Learn how to defend the leading point of your report
- We will practise at class about leading points with current hot-topics

SESSION 4 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

The importance of concluding your report appropiately.

- How should we end our report?
- Why is it so important?
- The importance of relating different economic issues
- We will practise with real examples about hot current topics

SESSION 5 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

1st topic of discussion: short term indicators

- We will learn about short term indicators
- Inflation, GDP growth, labot market, industrial production, business surveys, etc.
- We will discuss and learn in class about a hot topic in the current Economic debate
- Students will use this discussion to write their first economic report properly

SESSION 6 (ASYNCHRONOUS)

Assignment #1: students (in groups of 2-3) will have to submit a 1 page report about a short-term indicator (inflation, GDP or labor market) using the discussing in class and following the instructions and style discussed at first sessions.

SESSION 7 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Corrections and general mistakes at assignment #1

SESSION 8 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Second topic of discussion: central banks

- We will learn about the specifics of economic reports dealing with central bank decissions
- We will review economics behind central banks monetary policy decissions
- We will discuss and learn in class about how a modern central bank acts according to the behavior of inflation
- Students will use this discussiond and knowledge to write their next report

SESSION 9 (ASYNCHRONOUS)

Assignment #2: students (in groups of 2-3) will visualize a video or podcast related to monetary policy decisions from a major central bank and to submit a 1 page report about it.

SESSION 10 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Peer-to-peer review of assignment #2

SESSION 11 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Third topic of discussion: How to perform a qualified industrial analysis

- Specific structure, style and purpose
- Brief overview of long-term economic indicators
- The use of databases to get the data
- Discussion in class of Professor's reporting examples

- During next week, students will have to write a third report (Assignment #3) in groups of 4-5. They will have to choose a country and a sector and write a 2-3 report about that topic. In next sessions they will have to perform a presentation in class. Please, be aware this presentation will be part of your final grade.

SESSIONS 12 - 13 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Groups will give a lecture or short presentation (no longer than 10 mins) to the class about assignment #3. Students, in groups of 4-5 will choose a country and a sector and write a report about it using the style and structure srudied in class. In this two sessions they will perfomed a presentation about that report. There will be some time for Q&A at the end of each presentation.

- Peer-to-peer review and Q&A.
- Professor will give its personal review of the report and presentation.

SESSION 14 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Groups will give a lecture or short presentation (no longer than 10 mins) to the class about assignment #3. There will be some time for Q&A at the end of each presentation.

- Peer-to-peer review and Q&A.

    Professor will give its personal review of the report and presentation.

SESSION 15 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Final report is due.

Students will write a final report in class about a current topic. The purpose is to cover the different types of reports we have studied during the course (ie. short term indicators, monetary policy decissions and industry analysis).

EVALUATION CRITERIA

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Each student has four attempts over two consecutive academic years to pass this course.

For every BIE Program mandatory class, students are required to obtain the minimum grade of 5 required to pass the course. Students whose grade in the Final Exam (or the largest assignment) is below 5 will fail the course. The rule applies to whichever assignment carries the greatest weight to the final grade. Dates and location of the final exam will be posted in advance and will not be changed.

Students must attend at least 70% of the sessions. Students who do not comply with the 70% attendance rule will receive a 0.0 on their first and second attempts and go directly to the third one (they will need to enroll in this course again the following academic year).

Students who are in the third or fourth attempt must contact the professor during the first two weeks of the course.

ATTENDANCE

In-person attendance is mandatory at IE University, as it is an essential factor of IE´s learning methodology. While we do closely monitor attendance in each course, we also consider our students responsible for their own agenda and commitments, as adult university students. With that in mind, each student may miss up to 30% of the sessions within a given course and still maintain the possibility of passing that given course. This 30% "buffer" is to be used for any absences, such as: illnesses, personal emergencies, commitments, official/governmental matters, business and/or medical appointments, family situations, etc. Students should manage their various needs, and situations that may arise, within that 30% buffer. If a student is absent to more than the allowed 30% of the sessions (regardless of the reason), s/he will obtain a 0.0 grade for that course in both the ordinary and extraordinary calls of the current academic year, and s/he will have to retake the course during the following academic year.

Please pay close attention to your attendance. The program strongly encourages attending 100% of the sessions as it will improve your learning outcomes, it will increase the class performance and it will benefit your participation grade. Noncompliance with deadlines for Non-Classroom Learning activities or assignments will result in an absence for the session.

Extreme cases involving emergencies such as: extended hospitalizations, accidents, serious illnesses and other cases of force majeure, are to be consulted with the Program Management (bir.biemadrid@ie.edu) for assessment of the situation and corresponding documentation, in order to support and guide each student optimally.

For more information about the university attendance policy, please check; https://www.ie.edu/student-guide/bir/policies-and-guidelines/attendance/

criteria	percentage	Learning Objectives	Comments
Class Participation	15 %		Lectures, live discussions, practical exercises in classes, forums and discussions
Intermediate Tests	20 %		3 reports during semester
Group Presentation	15 %		Presentations during semester
Final Exam	50 %		Final Project

RE-SIT / RE-TAKE POLICY

Any student whose weighted final grade is below 5 will be required to sit for the retake exam to pass the course (except those not complying with the attendance rules, whom are banned from this possibility).

Grading for retakes will be subject to the following rules:

- The retakes will consist of a comprehensive exam or equivalent assignment. The grade will depend only on the performance on this exam; continuous evaluation over the semester will not be taken into account.
- Dates and location of the retakes will be posted in advance and will not be changed.
- The exam/assignment will be designed bearing in mind that the passing grade is 5 and the maximum grade that can be attained is 8 out of 10.

PLAGIARISM / ACADEMIC HONESTY

Plagiarism is the dishonest act of presenting another person's ideas, texts or words as your own. This includes in order of seriousness of the offense:

- providing faulty sources;
- copy-pasting material from your own past assignments (self-plagiarism) without the instructor's permission;
- copy-pasting material from external sources even while citing them;
- using verbatim translations from sources in other languages without citing them;
- copy-pasting material from external sources without citing them;
- and buying or commissioning essays from other parties.

IEU students must contact the professor if they don't know whether the use of a document constitutes plagiarism. For help with your academic writing, contact the Writing Center (writingcenter@faculty.ie.edu). The professor will also advise the student on how to present said material. All written assignments must be submitted through Turn-it-in, which produces a similarity report and detects cases of plagiarism. Professors are required to check each student's academic work in order to guarantee its originality. If the originality of the academic work is not clear, the professor will contact the student in order to clarify any doubts. Students using external tutorial support should report it to the professor and the BIR Program from the moment they began receiving this support. In the event that the meeting with the student fails to clarify the originality of the academic work, the professor will inform the Director of the Bachelor Program about the case, who will then decide whether to bring the case forward to the BIR Academic Review Panel. Very high similarity scores will be automatically flagged and forwarded to the Academic Review Panel. Plagiarism constitutes a very serious offense and may carry penalties ranging from getting a zero for the assignment to expulsion from the university depending on the severity of the case and the number of times the student has committed plagiarism in the past.

BEHAVIOR RULES

Please, check the University's Code of Conduct [here](). The Program Director may provide further indications.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Please, check the University's Attendance Policy [here](). The Program Director may provide further indications.

ETHICAL POLICY

Please, check the University's Ethics Code [here](). The Program Director may provide further indications.