

International Finance – Econ 280B

Winter 2010 - Henning Bohn

The course will survey the principles of international finance and open economy macroeconomics. The main topics are current account dynamics, exchange rate determination, international risk sharing, and policy issues in the open economy. Prerequisites are Econ 204A-B.

The reading list and other information about the class are available on the class page:

<http://www.econ.ucsb.edu/~bohn/280B/280Bindex.html>

Course Requirements:

Course requirements are class participation, the final exam, and a paper.

In most class sessions, one of you will serve as discussion leader. Discussion leaders are selected at random. Everyone is expected to do the assigned readings before class and be prepared to lead the discussion. Because leadership includes asking questions, don't worry about not understanding a paper on your own. You are supposed to explain the easy points, ask about the difficult ones, and thereby help us identify which items you—and presumably others—find difficult and worthy of more discussion. You are encouraged to prepare notes. The final exam is about the readings covered in class.

The paper should be about an international topic of your choice. The default option is to write a survey article (covering papers not on the reading list). Students taking international economics or macroeconomics as a field are encouraged to start an original research paper.

Paper deadlines: 1. By February 2, submit a one-page description of your project. 2. By the last day of classes, submit a complete draft. In most cases, your grade will be based on this draft. If you are working on an original research paper, I may extend the deadline for a revised version; a preliminary draft is nonetheless due on the last day of classes.

Class participation, final exam, and paper will receive about equal weight in the course grade.

Contact information:

Office: 3016 North Hall. Phone: 893-4532. E-mail: bohn@econ.ucsb.edu. Formal office hours are posted on the class page. However, I am available to graduate students any time without appointment; just drop in.