

Monetary Theory and Policy
Summer Semester 2021
Prof. Dr. Alexander Meyer-Gohde
Chair of Financial Markets and Macroeconomics

Lecture: Uploaded to OLAT
Weekly interactive Zoom (Tuesdays 4:15-5:45)

6. April 2021

Recitation: Upload to OLAT (see schedule)

**Faculty of Economics and
Institute for Monetary and Financial
Stability**

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**Chair of Financial Markets and
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Online Course: Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this course will be offered online. All material including videos of lectures, discussions and mentoring sessions will be uploaded to OLAT. To increase the possibilities for interaction, previous semesters' lecture videos will be posted and Prof. Meyer-Gohde will conduct a weekly discussion/Q&A/office hours on Zoom (current planned platform). The session will be recorded and posted online to OLAT (should you have privacy concerns, feel free to submit questions in a text format). Please contact us if you have any concerns and, most importantly, stay safe!

Course Grade: The grade will be based on a final exam. The exam questions will be in English. You can answer in English or in German. If you decide to answer in English, you will not be graded on the quality of your English, but you have to make sure you convey your knowledge of the material.

Course Description: This course introduces students to the dynamic stochastic general equilibrium (DSGE) models used in modern monetary macroeconomics called New Keynesian models. The basic model equations including nominal frictions such as price

stickiness are derived carefully, and model solution techniques are discussed. Numerical solutions of the models are obtained and the models are simulated and analyzed using Dynare in MATLAB. Possible extensions to the core model that may be treated in class include an analysis of optimal monetary policy.

After completing the course, students should understand the dynamic mechanisms of nominal rigidities and the policy tradeoffs facing monetary policy. Mechanically, students will be able to derive, solve and simulate simple DSGE models and should be able to read and understand more elaborate models found in the literature.

Literature:

- Barro, Robert and David Gordon (1983): "Rules, discretion and reputation in a model of monetary policy," *Journal of Monetary Economics*, 12(1), pp. 101-121.
- Clarida, Richard, Jordi Galí, and Mark Gertler (1999): "The Science of Monetary Policy: A New Keynesian Perspective," *Journal of Economic Literature*, American Economic Association, vol. 37(4), pp. 1661-1707.
- Galí, Jordi (2008): *Monetary Policy, Inflation, and the Business Cycle: An Introduction to the New Keynesian Framework*. Princeton University Press.
- King, Robert and Watson, Mark, (1995), *Money, prices, interest rates and the business cycle*, No 95-10, Working Paper Series, Macroeconomic Issues, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.
- Lucas, Robert E. (1976): "Econometric Policy Evaluation: A Critique," *Carnegie-Rochester conference Series on Public Policy*, vol. 1, 19-46.
- McCandless, George (2008): *The ABCs of RBCs: An Introduction to Dynamic Macroeconomic Models*. Harvard University Press.
- Sims, Christopher (1980): "Macroeconomics and Reality," *Econometrica*, 48(1), 1-48.
- Woodford, Michael (2001): "The Taylor Rule and Optimal Monetary Policy," *American Economic Review* 91(2), pp. 232-237.

Course Outline

1. Introduction

Concepts/techniques:	Real Business Cycles versus New Keynesianism
Main readings:	Galí (2008), ch. 1
Additional reading:	Lucas (1976), Sims (1981)

2. A Classical Monetary Economy

Concepts/techniques:	Intertemporal optimization, monetary neutrality, log linearization
Main reading:	Galí (2008), ch. 2
Additional reading:	King and Watson (1995)

3. The Basic New Keynesian Model

Concepts/techniques:	Staggered price setting, equilibrium determination
Main reading:	Galí (2008), ch. 3
Additional reading:	Clarida et al. (1999)

4. Optimal Policy Design

Concepts/techniques:	Policy efficiency, optimal versus simple policy rules
Main reading:	Galí (2008), ch. 4

Additional reading:	Woodford (2001)
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5. Discretion versus Commitment

Concepts/techniques:	Time consistency
Main reading:	Galí (2008), ch. 5
Additional reading:	Barro and Gordon (1983)

LGMMF-1 Students will understand the empirical foundations of price rigidities and how they connect individual business decisions regarding price policies and aggregate monetary policy.

LGMMF-2 Students will understand fundamental considerations in the design of monetary policy, such as the consequences of optimal policy under discretion versus with commitment.

LGMMF-3 Students will learn the theoretical and methodological foundations of state of the art structural models of monetary policy, understand their empirical foundations, and implement them in numerical software packages.

LGMMF-4 Students will be able to apply state of the art structural models of monetary policy to practical policy questions by implementing them in state of the art numerical software packages.