

Boston College  
Department of Economics

Economics 361.01  
Money and Monetary Policy  
Dr. H. S. Kazemi

Fall 1996  
Office: Carney 243  
Office Hours:  
Tu.&Th. 4:15-5:15

A. Books:

1. L.S. Ritter and W.L. Silber, Principles of Money, Banking and Financial Markets. Basic Books, 8th Ed., 1993
2. J.A. Dorn and Anna J. Schwartz, The Search for Stable Money, University of Chicago Press, 1987.
3. The Board of Governors of the Federal System, The Federal Reserve System: Purposes of Functions, Washington, DC. December 1994.
4. Wall Street Journal.

B. Exams:

There will be three exams, two mid-terms accounting for 60% of your final grade (30% each) and a final exam which will account for 30%. Since student participation in class discussions is an important input in this course, the remaining 10% will be assigned to student discussion as well as writing assignments (see below). "Make-up" exams will not be given for missed scheduled exams except in the case of a reasonable and valid excuse which is submitted to me promptly. These excuses are subject to my approval, and I may require substantiation. For approved excuses, a make-up exam will be scheduled at the time of the final exam. Exam dates: 1st and 2nd exam dates to be announced in class; and the Final is on December 17 at 9:00 a.m..

D. Assignments:

During the semester there will be a number of assignments given which may be a written summary of a section or chapter out of one of the books listed above or an article from the Wall Street Journal or other economic journals to be analyzed and discussed in class. You will be graded on this as part of your class participation. Assignments should be handed in when due and if late will not be accepted.

E. Reading Schedule:

- I. An Introduction to Money and Monetary Economics - The thrust of the first section is simply to review and discuss money and macroeconomics.

Reading assignment: The first six chapters of the text in addition to Chapters 28-32.

II. Commercial Banks and the Role of Banks in an Industrial Society - In this section we will give almost exclusive emphasis to banks, and focus on different aspects of the banking business.

Reading assignment: Chapters 7 through 12 of the text in addition to "The Federal Reserve System: Purposes and Functions (the entire book). You will also read a summary version of "The Depository Institutions Deregulation and Monetary Control Act of 1980," on reserve at the main Library.

III. The Federal Reserve System - All modern industrial countries have some kind of central bank. Ours is called not a "bank" but a "system": The Federal Reserve System. The ultimate function of most central banks is monetary policy. In this section we will read all about the Fed and its functions.

Reading Assignment: Chapter 13 through 18 of the text.

William Poole, The Erratic Nature of Federal Reserve Policy, pages 31-47, The Search for Stable Money.

Lawrence R. Roos, "Inherent Conflicts of U.S. Monetary Policy making, pages 47- 52, The Search for Stable Money.

IV. Money and Macroeconomic Theory - One of the great controversies of macroeconomics is whether and to what degree "money matters." It will be very difficult to understand and appreciate that controversy without some macro theory. We start a macro model without money, and then bring money in to see its role.

Reading Assignment: Chapter 19 through 25. In addition to:

Michael D. Bordo and Anna J. Schwartz, The Importance of Stable Money: Theory and Evidence, pages 53-73, The Search for Stable Money.

Milton Friedman, Monetary Policy: Tactics vs. Strategy, pages 361-382, The Search for Stable Money.

Karl Brunner, Has Monetarism Failed?, Pages 163-209, The Search for Stable Money.

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