

Course Unit Title	Contemporary Economic Issues		
Course Unit Code	AFCE410		
Type of course unit	Business Elective		
Level of course unit	Bachelor (1 <sup>st</sup> Cycle)		
Year of Study	4		
Semester when the unit is delivered	7-8		
Number of ECTS credits allocated	6		
Name of lecturer(s)	Dr. Petia Tanova		
Learning Outcomes of the course unit	<p>By the end of the course, the students should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Categorize the most acute contemporary economic problems and discuss their sources.</li> <li>2. Examine the nature of globalization and confront the opposing views on its impact on welfare</li> <li>3. Critically assess the role of institutions in the world economy and their constraints.</li> <li>4. Compare and contrast different theoretical approaches to the contemporary financial crisis and the recession in the real sector.</li> <li>5. Debate the merits and drawbacks of the European Monetary Union from the current sovereign debt crisis.</li> <li>6. Realize the nature of macroeconomic imbalances and their significance during the current economic turbulences.</li> <li>7. Critically assess the financial and structural crisis in Cyprus in the current decade.</li> <li>8. Discuss the appropriateness of policies to handle the crisis and assess their effectiveness</li> <li>9. Debate the Brexit case and its possible consequences.</li> <li>10. Evaluate the effectiveness of different approaches to current economic problems in Cyprus and globally, and arrive at a consistent personal point of view, assembling information and data to support it.</li> </ol>		
Mode of Delivery	Face-to-face		
Prerequisites	ABSE203,ABSE204	Co-requisites	NONE
Recommended optional program components	NONE		
Course Contents	<p><b><i>I. Globalization and the world economic order</i></b></p> <p>The nature of globalization: technological, institutional and structural changes in the world economy. Confrontation of opposing views on globalization: Why globalization works (M. Wolf) vs. Globalization and its discontents (J.Stiglitz). The role of institutions in the world economy. The rules of the world economic order, established in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The IMF, the World bank, G-7, G-20. Critical assessment of “the rules of the game” and their</p>		

	<p>controversies. The controversies of sustainable development. Discussion of different approaches to the establishment of new rules of the world economic order. The impact of terrorism on the world economy and business.</p> <p><b>II. The World's financial crisis and the recession in the real sector</b></p> <p>An overview of the financial crisis. Drying up investment. Critical assessment of financial and institutional solutions, offered in the EU and in the U.S. Discussion of imperatives and alternatives of the world economic recovery and growth.</p> <p><b>III. The EU: Multiple European Problems and Challenges</b></p> <p>The single European market and the multiple European problems and challenges. Controversies of technological, structural and institutional changes in the EU. Critical assessment of macroeconomic imbalances. The Brexit case and its possible consequences. Analysis of the merits and drawbacks of the European Monetary Union. The Greek crisis.</p> <p><b>IV. The Recent Economic Issues of the Republic of Cyprus</b></p> <p>The impact of the world crisis on the economy of Cyprus and the dimensions of the cyclical fluctuations. Main features of the financial crisis and the macroeconomic slump. Imperatives of economic restructuring. Attributes of the current economic development and growth. Discussion of alternative solutions for negative externalities - the water problem, the issue of energy saving, etc. Other issues of the day.</p>
Recommended and/or required reading:	
Textbooks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bonello F. J. and I. Lobo, Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Economic Issues. McGraw-Hill; 14th Edition, .</li> <li>• Edgmand, M., Moomaw, R., Oslow, K., Economics and Contemporary Issues – Barnes &amp; Noble (latest available edition)</li> </ul>
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begg, D., Global Economics: Contemporary Issues, McGraw Hill Education</li> <li>• Levitt, S.D. and Dubner, S.J., Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything, Penguin</li> <li>• Sen A. Development as Freedom. Oxford University Press: 1999</li> <li>• Wolf M. Why Globalization Works. Yale University Press: 2004</li> <li>• Stiglitz J. Globalization and its Discontents, W.W.Norton &amp; Company: 2002.</li> </ul>
Planned learning activities and teaching methods	<p><i>Ex cathedra</i> lectures and discussions in class, by means of traditional tools or using computer demonstrations. Some of the key issues are revealed on the basis of simulation games.</p> <p>Topic notes are compiled by students, during the lecture which serve to cover the main issues under consideration and can also be downloaded from the lecturer's webpage. Further literature search is encouraged by assigning students to identify</p>

	<p>a specific problem related to some issue, gather relevant scientific information about how others have addressed the problem and report this information in written or orally.</p> <p>Students' teams (of two or three individuals) are assigned to study a current economic problem, related to the course subject, and approved by the instructor. The case study should be presented in class.</p>
Assessment methods and criteria	<p>Mid-term test                      20%</p> <p>Case study                            10%</p> <p>Participation in discussions 10%</p> <p>Final Exam                            60%</p>
Language of instruction	English
Work placement(s)	NO