

Applied Economics

Module Code: ECO00003H **Credits:** 20 **Year:** 3 **Terms:** 1-3
Contact Hours: 8 Extended Lectures, 4 Seminars, 4 Workshops (24 contact hours)
Module Organiser: Dr P Santos Monteiro

Overview:

The general purpose of this module is to analyse major issues of economic policy by an application of the theories and empirical techniques of economics. There is an emphasis on the problems which currently face the UK and other European economies. Topics recently covered include UK privatisation, monetary integration in Europe, the economics of higher education and the economics of an ageing population.

Aims:

- The identification of theories applicable to issues of economic policy
- The identification of the form of evidence against which the predictions of such theories can be tested and the results of tests carried out
- The conclusions and recommendations for policy derivable from theory and empirical evidence

Objectives:

On completing the module a student should be able to answer the following questions:

- Why is a particular outcome a policy problem? What is wrong with, say, a 5 percent annual rate of inflation?
- Which economic theories are relevant for an analysis of the defined problem, and in particular what alternative predictions and explanations of outcome do these theories offer?
- What is the most reliable form of evidence against which theories can be tested and which theory does the weight of available evidence support?
- What should and can be done by way of policy?

Assessment:

There will be a 3-hour unseen examination in the Summer Term.

Pre-requisites:

None

Main References:

There is no single text, or small set of texts, which is adequate for this module. An example of the journal articles which are recommended is:

Greenway, D. & Haynes, M. (2003). *Funding Higher Education in the UK: The Role of Fees and Loans*. Economic Journal, Vol 113.