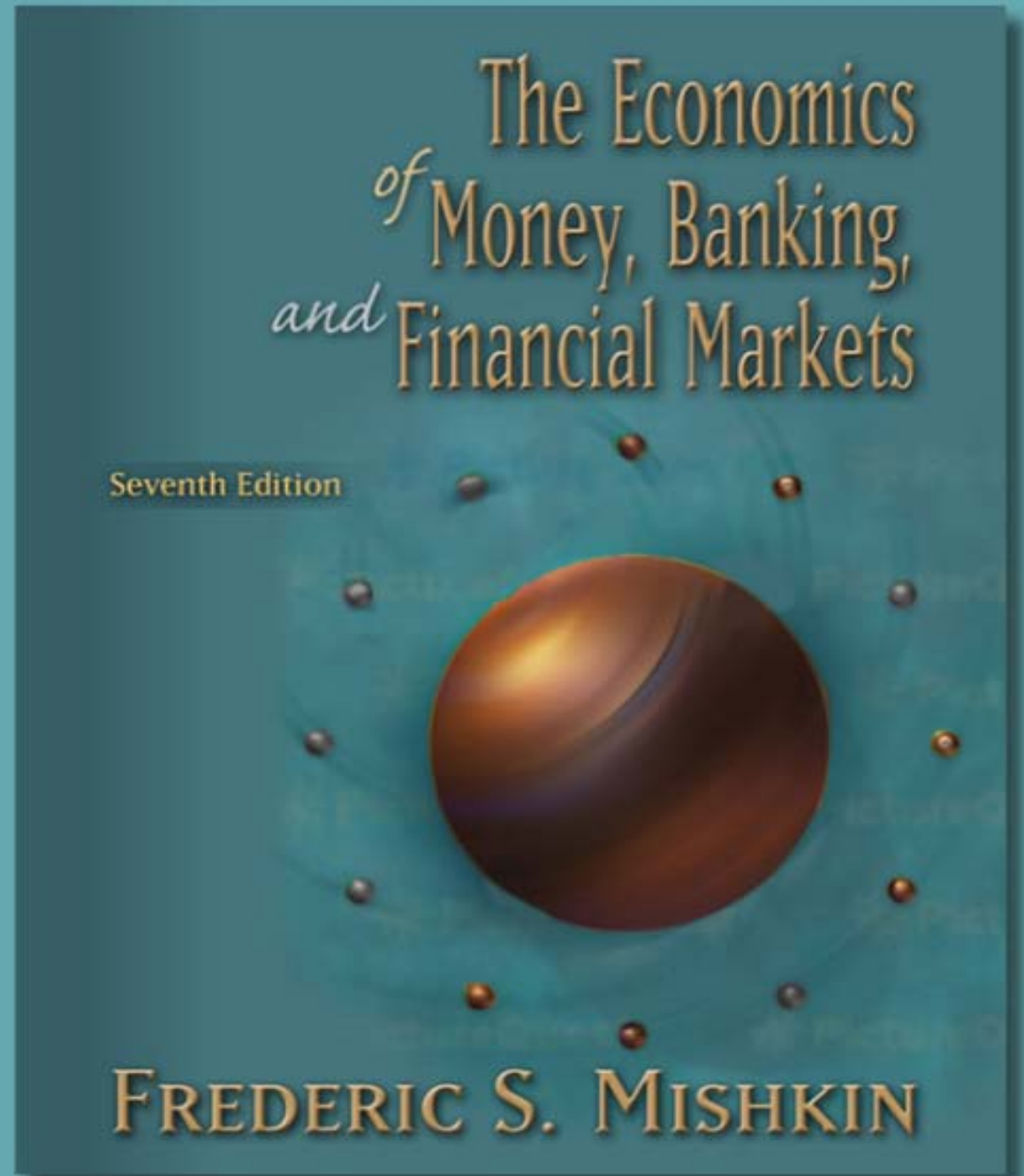


# Essex EC248-2-SP

## Class 5

### Discussing and Assigning Class Presentations

Alexander Mihailov, 15/02/06



# Central Banking Today: Key Topics

- Focus of presentations/discussions on a particular **central bank** or aspect(s) of it, e.g.,
  - Historical/functional evolution
  - Structure and independence (legal and actual)
  - Monetary policy
    - goals (ultimate)
    - targets (intermediate)
    - instruments (operating)
    - tools (conceptual)
  - Involvement in banking/financial sector regulation

# Central Banking Today: Major Cases

- **The Large (Closed) Economy Case**
  - European Central Bank (ECB)
  - Bank of Japan (BoJ)
  - [Federal Reserve System (Fed): partly covered in lectures]
- **The Small (Open) Economy Case**
  - Bank of England (BoE)
  - Swiss National Bank (SNB)
  - some other bank if any of you has a particular interest in

# Financial Innovation Today: Key Topics

- Focus of presentations/discussions on a particular variety of **financial innovation** or aspect(s) of it, e.g.,
  - Characteristics (definition)
  - Rationale (why it appeared)
  - Trends (in its evolution)
  - Benefits/opportunities
  - Costs/risks

# Financial Innovation Today: Major Cases

In EU, US, UK, Japan or other country of interest to any of you

- **Electronic Banking**

- Retail Services
  - online banking
  - automatic teller machines (ATMs)
  - other innovations of interest to any of you
- Large-Value Transfer Systems

- **Off-Balance Sheet Activities**

- Financial Guarantees (standby letters of credit, bank loan commitments)
- Derivatives (swaps, options, futures, forward contracts)

- **Financial Services**

- Cash Management
- Investment Products
- Private Banking
- Trust Operations

# Class Presentations: Organisation

- **Teams** of 2-3 persons (each person may present an aspect)
  - Depending on your wish to participate and the topics chosen, during one class we could have:
    - either **two presentations** of about 20 minutes each
    - or **one presentation** of some 30 minutes
    - followed by 10-15 minutes of **questions and general discussion**
  - **Another possibility:** present an interesting or recent **paper** on any subject *related* to the topics covered in our course
  - **Open dates** for (potential) class presentations are thus:
    - 22 Feb: on central banking or paper
    - 1 Mar: on central banking or paper
    - 8 Mar: on financial innovation or paper
    - 15 Mar: on financial innovation or paper
  - **22 Mar: last class intended for revision/questions**
- Send me e-mails with your ideas and suggestions!
- **Slides/notes** you prepare could be posted on the course website!