

## Essex EC248-2-SP Class 5

Discussing and Assigning  
Class Presentations

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## 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!