

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!