

## inside the classroom

### A GLIMPSE OF A DAY IN THE CLASSROOM THROUGH THE EYES OF A STUDENT

By Anh Thu Pham, a junior majoring in American Studies and economics.

Walking around the UC Davis bike loop on a busy bright Tuesday afternoon to get to Economics 160 is quite a feat as students on bike and foot hustle to their designated classrooms. The class meets in the Chemistry Building, located in the heart of campus, and it begins quickly after students race towards class and enthusiastically sit down. Wing Thye Woo, professor of economics, walks into the lecture hall and asks, “How is everyone today? Excited for the break to start?” and students eyes light up as they nod their heads in agreement. Lectures are more concise considering it is the week of Thanksgiving break and students are ready for a few days off before finals begin.

Students rarely miss this class; the material about international macroeconomics relates to current news, politics and world economic situations that they truly seem to care deeply about. Woo advises students to read media outlets to stay on top of current news, such as picking up *The Economist*, which discusses today’s topic in an article called “China Buys up the World.” Woo emphasizes the Asian financial crisis and the tensions between U.S and China over the exchange rate. Students furiously scribble (or type) everything that Woo discusses with his enthusiastic hand

motions and loud booming voice.

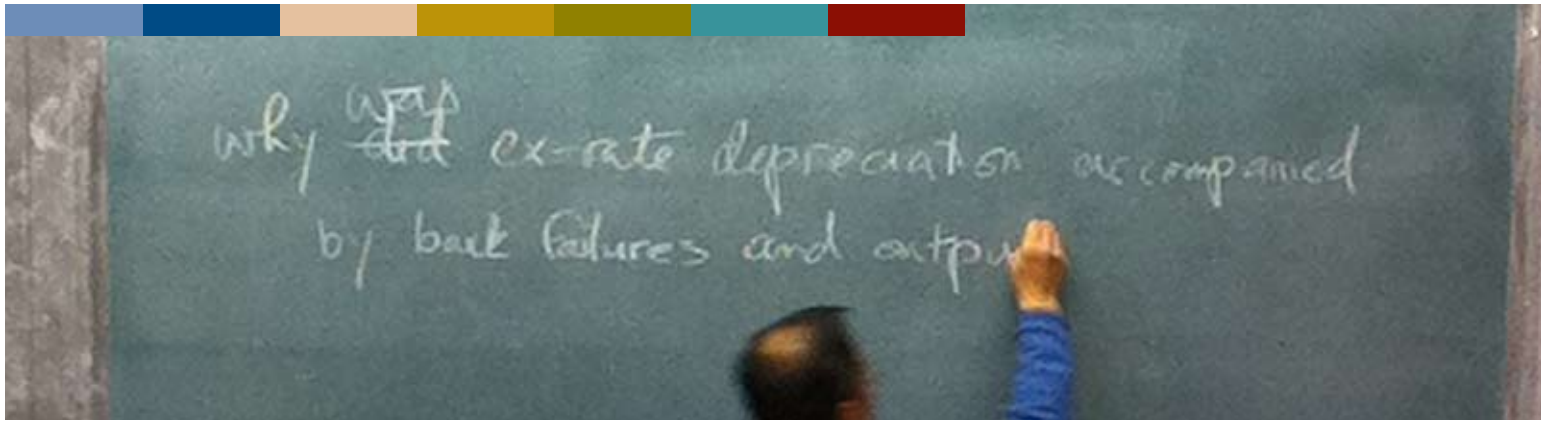
Many do not know that Woo’s classes are a treasure to find; he is an admired part of the economics faculty. But his research often takes him overseas when he is not teaching. Woo travels through most of Asia and Eastern Europe to help with the underdeveloped countries in their financial problems. “There are a lot of problems in developing countries and I try to engage in work to help ensure that economic prosperity comes to them.”

Anh-Thu Tran, a senior about to graduate this fall, says that she enjoys Woo’s class because not only is she an economics major, but also an international student originally from Germany. “The awareness that Professor Woo puts forth onto other



Wing Thye Woo

ECONOMICS 160



nations really inspires me to go back and work in Germany like my parents did.”

Economics 160 is designed for two popular majors in the College of Letters and Science, economics and international relations, to investigate globalization particularly focusing on the macro-economics of independence, foreign exchange rate, and global markets. It's the stuff of the future, according to many of the students in the lecture hall on this day.

“We examine external financial crisis and tensions between the U.S and China and learn what to do about them,” says one student. “Professor Woo relates recent problems in the international economy to the economic theory we have learned in earlier courses.”

Woo hopes that students will use his theories to apply to real life problems they face in the future job market. “I want students to understand economic mechanisms and be able to modify standard theories to explain events that happen in our future.” Woo advises students to read more about current financial news to sharpen their knowledge of how the global economy works. “The study of economics is very important because economic prosperity allows progress on many other social dimensions and contributes to a more meaningful existence.” And isn't that what everyone is living and striving for?

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