

Financial Institutions and System

Lecture 1: Introduction

Igor Vyshnevskyi, Ph.D.

Sogang University

March 5, 2026

Hello everyone!

I am *Igor Vyshnevskyi*, your instructor for **Financial Institutions and System**.

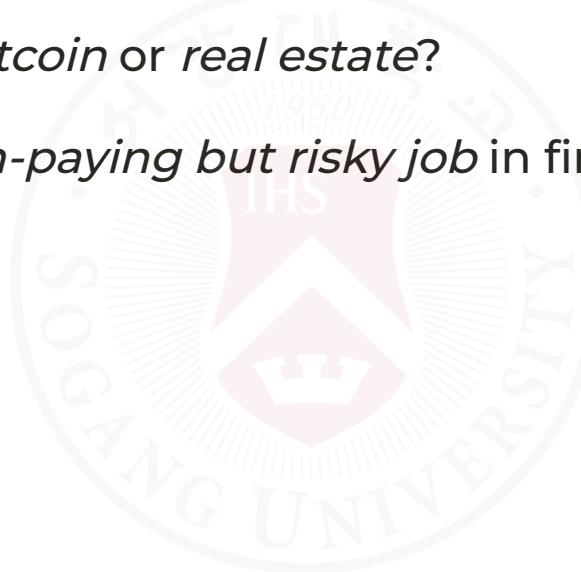
In Week 1 we will focus on what this course is, how it works, and why it matters.



Quick Icebreaker

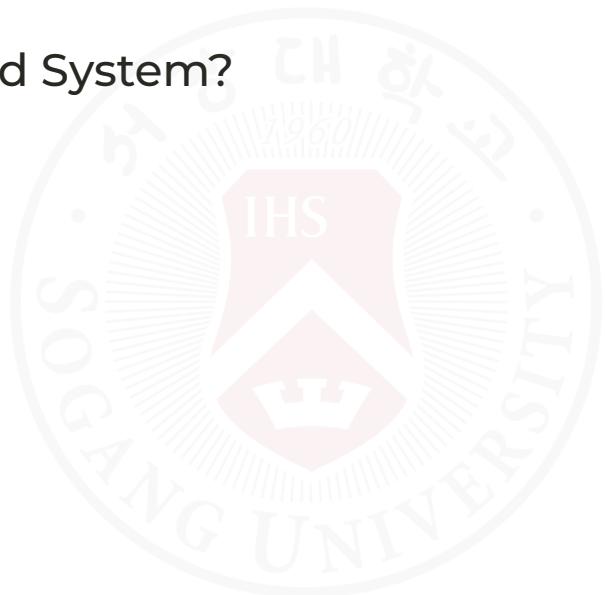
Would You Rather: Finance Edition

1. Would you rather *receive \$10,000 today or \$20,000 in five years?* Why?
2. Would you rather *invest in Bitcoin or real estate?*
3. Would you rather *have a high-paying but risky job in finance or a stable, lower-paying government position?*



Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Course Overview
3. Why Financial Institutions and System?

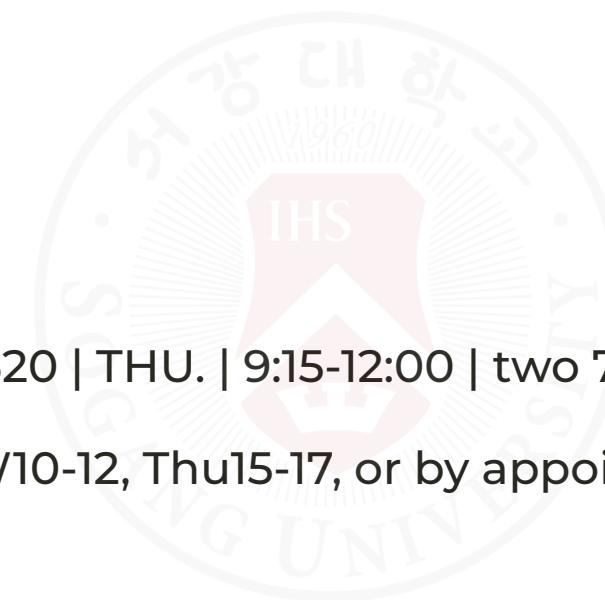


1. Introduction



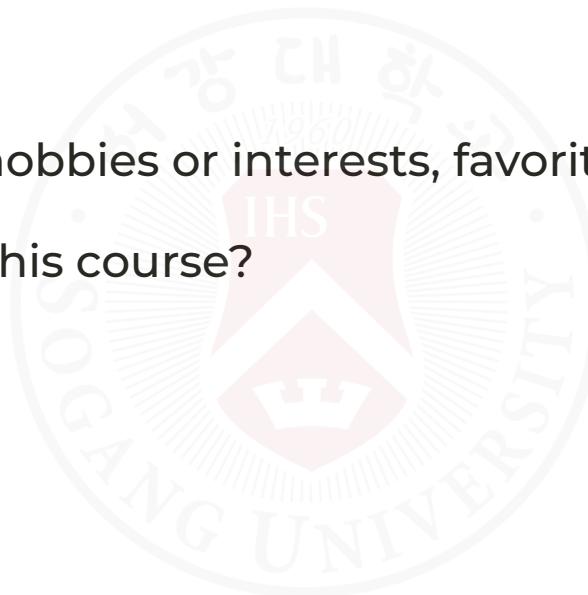
Course Information

- **Course Title:** Financial Institutions and System
- **Course Credit:** 3
- **Designed for:** MA students
- **Course Prerequisites:** None
- **Semester:** Spring 2026
- **Meeting Venue and Time:** J520 | THU. | 9:15-12:00 | two 7-min breaks
- **Office Hours:** J721, Tu10-12, W10-12, Thu15-17, or by appointment



Introductions

- Let's start with a little introduction:
 - What's your preferred name?
 - Where are you from?
 - Any fun fact to share (e.g. hobbies or interests, favorite quote, e.t.c.)?
 - What do you expect from this course?



Our TA

Name: Fu Chengzhi

Email: fuchengzhi@sogang.ac.kr

Office hours: none



About me

My name is Ievor Vyshnevskyi.

- Assistant Professor ([link](#)), Sogang University
- Background: International banking & central banking
- Research interests: central banking, computational data science

Some Info:

- email: ievysh@sogang.ac.kr
- office: J721
- Communication preference:
 - LMS for most Q and A
 - Email mainly for meeting requests and urgent issues
- [My page](#)
- *Hobbies*: research, martial arts, cycling, etc.

Disclaimer

- This course may be adjusted during the semester depending on class progress and learning needs.



2. Course Overview

Course Description:

- *Understanding Financial Institutions* – Covers commercial banks, investment banks, insurance, and non-bank financial institutions.
- *Regulatory and Policy Impact* – Examines financial regulations, monetary policy, and systemic risks.
- *Market Interactions* – Analyzes how financial markets and institutions shape economic conditions.
- *Case Studies & Contemporary Issues* – Includes financial crises, regulatory responses, FinTech, and sustainable finance.
- *Learning Approach* – Combines lectures, discussions, and applied research with a group presentation on financial institutions and policies.
- *Foundation for Advanced Study* – Prepares students for topics like central banking, risk management, and investment analysis.

Course Objectives:

- *Understand* financial institutions and markets and their role in the economy.
- *Analyze* financial instruments and risks across various sectors.
- *Evaluate* monetary policy and regulation in shaping financial stability.
- *Examine* financial crises and policy responses with real-world applications.
- *Explore* emerging trends like FinTech and sustainable finance.
- *Develop* critical thinking and communication skills through research and discussions.



Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. **Understand Financial Institutions & Markets** – Explain their roles and functions in the economy.
2. **Analyze Financial Instruments & Risks** – Assess key products like bonds, equities, and derivatives.
3. **Evaluate Monetary Policy & Regulations** – Examine their impact on financial stability.
4. **Assess Financial System Challenges** – Identify crises, systemic risks, and financial innovations.
5. **Engage with Emerging Trends** – Analyze FinTech, sustainable finance, and digital currencies.
6. **Apply Knowledge to Real Cases** – Research and present on financial institutions and policies.
7. **Develop Critical Thinking & Communication** – Interpret financial data and articulate insights effectively.

The course in a nutshell

1. This course provides a deep dive into the structure and functions of financial institutions, the role of financial markets, and the impact of monetary policy and regulation on economic stability.
2. Through lectures, discussions, and case studies, they will analyze real-world financial issues and policy responses.
3. *Supportive Environment* – A safe space to ask questions, discuss, and learn from mistakes.
4. *Beyond the Classroom* – Adjust to school life, understand Korean culture, and connect with classmates, seniors, and professors.

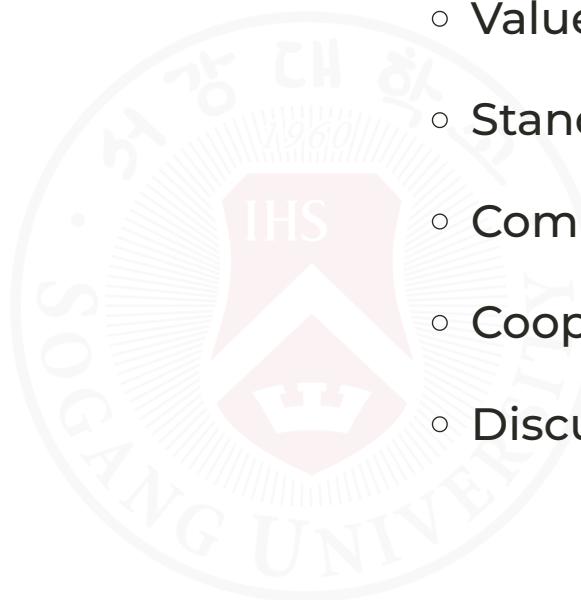
Broad coverage

- **Formal/core curriculum:**

- Concepts
- Understanding
- Real-life cases
- Problem-solving
- Application

- **Hidden curriculum:**

- Values
- Standards
- Communication
- Cooperation
- Discussions

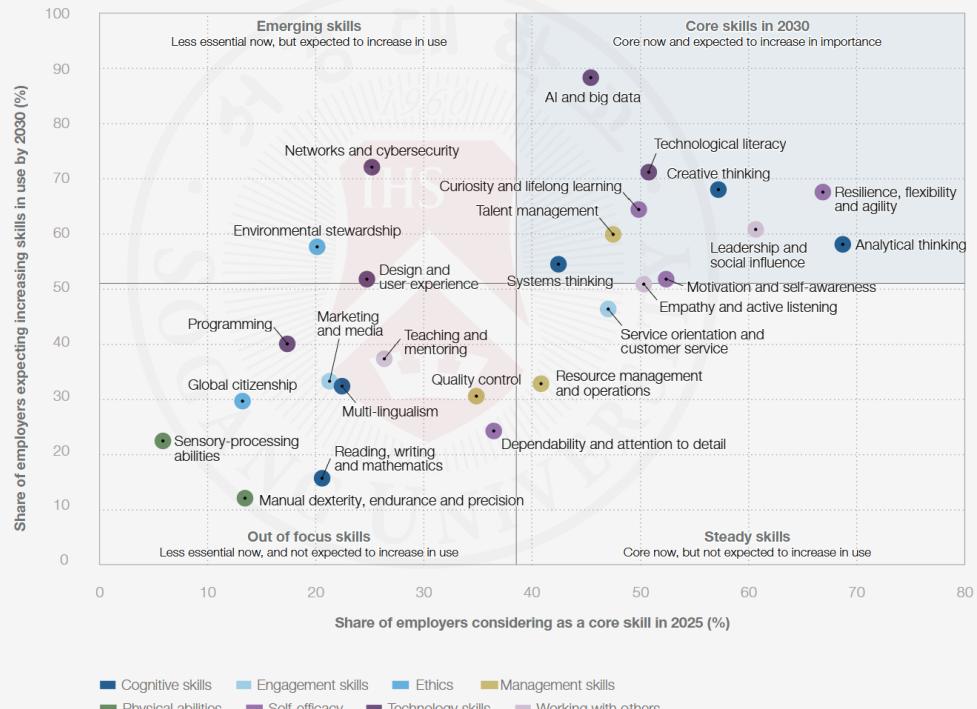


Skills you will learn

Return on skills is higher than return on knowledge.

FIGURE 3.6 Core skills in 2030

Share of employers considering skills to be a core skill in 2025 and share of employers expecting skills to increase in importance by 2030.



Source

World Economic Forum, Future of Jobs Survey 2024.

Note

The Future of Jobs Survey uses the World Economic Forum's Global Skills Taxonomy.
Bold lines represent the median values across all skills.

Teaching method

This course follows a **flipped classroom approach**, where students are expected to complete assigned readings before class. Each session is usually structured as follows:

- *Hour 1:* Brief Lecture – A concise overview of key concepts from the readings.
- *Hour 2:* Practical Application – Hands-on exercises, case studies, and data analysis.
- *Hour 3:* Interactive Activities – Debates, discussions, simulations, and policy analysis.

This format fosters active learning, critical thinking, and engagement with current issues in the field.

Course materials:

- Lecture slides
- Mishkin, **The Economics of Money, Banking and Financial Markets**, 12th Edition, Pearson, 2019.
- I give *additional reading assignments* if/when necessary.



GRADING

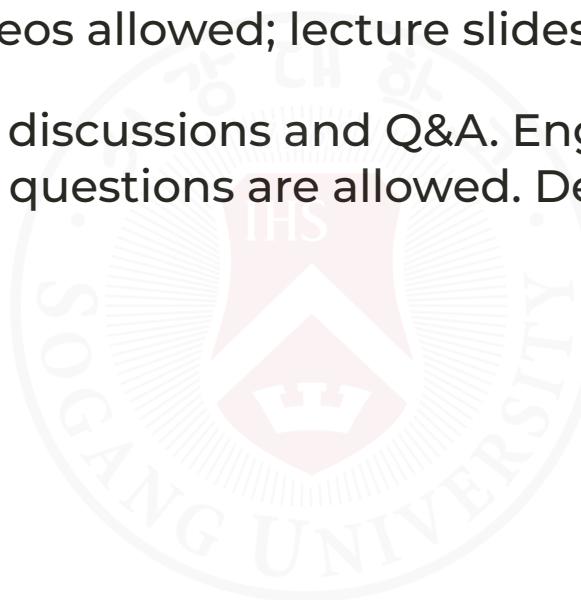
- *Class Participation*: 20%
- *Presentation*: 20%
- *Midterm Examination (Week 8)*: 25%
- *Final Examination (Week 16)*: 35%
- **Total**: 100%

More details on each item you will get down the road.

Remember, I'm not giving you grades; you're earning them.

Course Policies

- **Academic Integrity:** The University's Honor Code and Academic integrity will be strictly reflected. Plagiarism results in zero credit and an F-grade for the course.
- **Class Policy:** No photos or videos allowed; lecture slides are provided before class.
- **Communication:** Use LMS for discussions and Q&A. Engage early to benefit from collective knowledge. Private questions are allowed. Details will be provided in the first class.



Course Roadmap

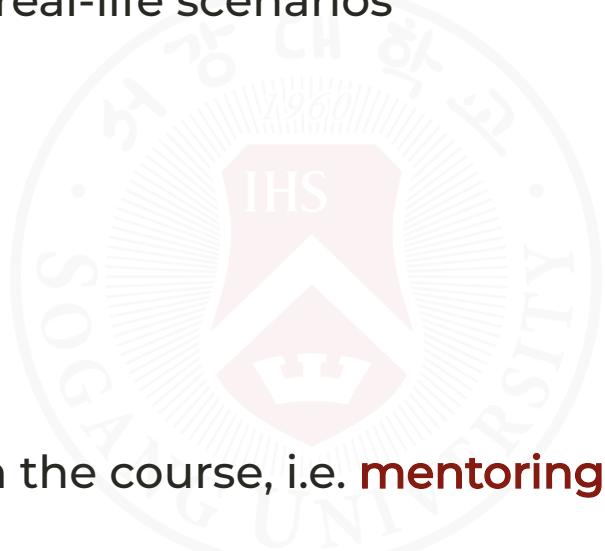
Week	Topic
Week 1	Course Introduction: Why Study Money, Banking, and Financial Markets?
Week 2	The Meaning of Interest Rates. The Behavior of Interest Rates.
Week 3	The Risk and Term Structure of Interest Rates. The Stock Market, the Theory of Rational Expectations, and the Efficient Market Hypothesis.
Week 4	An Economic Analysis of Financial Structure. Banking and the Management of Financial Institutions.
Week 5	Economic Analysis of Financial Regulation. Banking Industry: Structure and Competition.
Week 6	Financial Crises in Advanced Economies. Financial Crises in Emerging Market Economies.
Week 7	Central Banks. The Money Supply Process.
Week 8	Mid-term
Week 9	Tools of Monetary Policy. The Conduct of Monetary Policy: Strategy and Tactics.
Week 10	The Foreign Exchange Market. The International Financial System.
Week 11	Quantity Theory, Inflation, and the Demand for Money. The IS Curve. The Monetary Policy and Aggregate Demand Curves.
Week 12	Aggregate Demand and Supply Analysis. Monetary Policy Theory.
Week 13	The Role of Expectations in Monetary Policy. Transmission Mechanisms of Monetary Policy.
Week 14	ESG and Sustainable Finance: The Role of Financial Institutions in Promoting Sustainability.
Week 15	Current Issues on Challenges and Risks in the Modern Financial System. <i>Student presentations</i>
Week 16	Final Exam

Tentative schedule. It may be adjusted based on class background and progress.

Guest speakers may be invited to share insights on specific topics.

General things

- Our Goals:
 - to learn the basics of FIS
 - to apply the knowledge in real-life scenarios
 - see that *Finance is fun* :-)
- Our Principle:
 - learning by doing
 - mutual respect
 - put one's efforts
- My role: to guide you through the course, i.e. **mentoring and facilitating**
- Your suggestions are welcomed and appreciated to make the course better for you and future students.



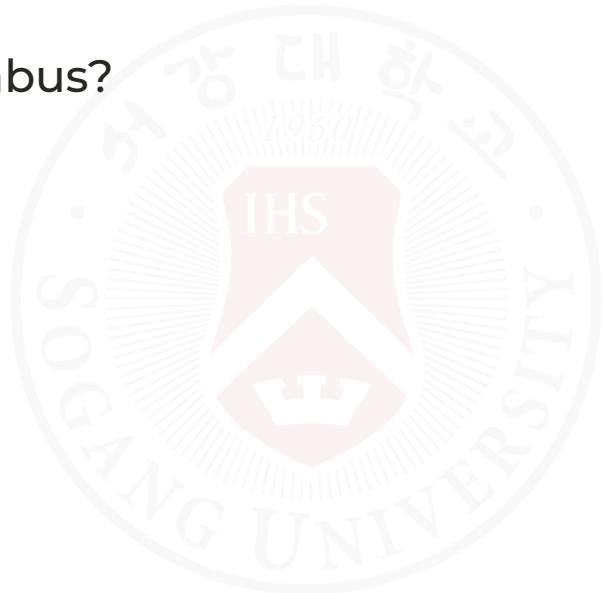
Our communication

- Check the website regularly for materials and messages
- Feel free to approach me before or after our class
- **Office hours:** J721, Tu10-12, W10-12, Thu15-17, or by appointment. You are welcome to discuss course-related issues and questions, career plans, etc.
- Check / use **LMS** (incl. messages in-there)
- **Emailing policy:** email me to set up a one-to-one meeting or in the case of some urgent issues.
 - Please indicate the course name in the subject line and the issue (e.g., *[Financial Institutions and System] Meeting request*)
 - Please write at least two times when you would like to meet and a brief description (1-2 sentence) why you want to meet up with me
 - Sorry, I may not reply on time (so email me in advance)

Course Overview

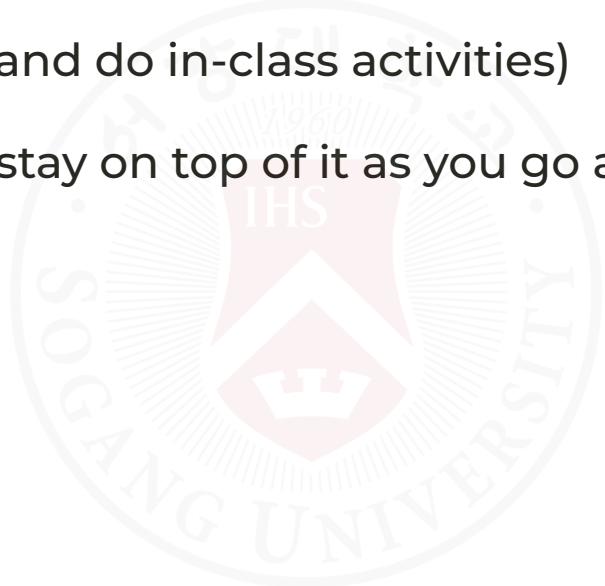
Questions?

- Any questions about the course?
- Any questions about the syllabus?



Study Suggestions

1. Reading materials before class
2. Participate (20% of your grade) and ask questions.
3. Be active in class (don't miss and do in-class activities)
4. "The best way to learn ... is to stay on top of it as you go along. The worst way is to cram the night before exams." (c)



Common Challenges Students Face

1. Lack of Interest
2. Language Barrier
3. Personal Challenges
4. Math / Economics Anxiety / PTSD



Based on Gaston Sanchez' [lectures](#)

1. Lack of Interest

- Great indifference
- Missing lectures
- Coming/leaving late/early
- No in-class activities
- Doing something else in class
- Cheating / free riding

DROP IT

2. Language Barrier

- Trouble with listening/reading comprehension
- Poor vocabulary
- Hard time with new terminology

It's okay, just push harder

No worries; it's not a language class.

Please use some online speech/voice translation tools to help you like **Online Voice Translator** or any others.

3. Personal Challenges

- Health
- Family
- Job
- Universe against you

Come talk to me ASAP

4. Math Anxiety / PTSD

- Traumatic math experiences
- Can't operate numbers
- Don't see econ linkages

Just patience & work harder, give it a try



3. Why Financial Institutions and System?

Why Study Financial Markets?

Financial markets transfer funds from those with excess funds to those in need.

- Examples: **bond and stock markets**
- Promote economic efficiency by channeling funds to productive uses
- Well-functioning financial markets drive **economic growth**

Impact on Personal Wealth

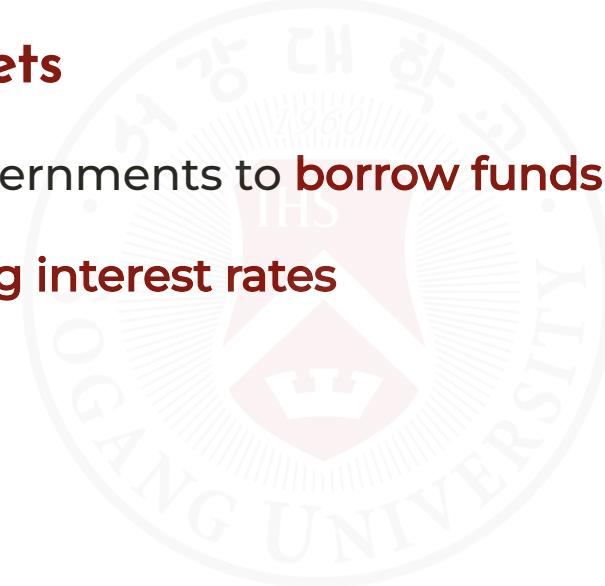
- Financial crises, such as **2007-2009** and the **COVID-19 pandemic**, have had profound effects worldwide

The Bond Market and Interest Rates

- A **security (financial instrument)** is a claim on the issuer's future income or assets.
- A **bond** is a debt security that promises periodic payments over time.

Importance of Bond Markets

- Enable corporations and governments to **borrow funds**
- Play a key role in **determining interest rates**

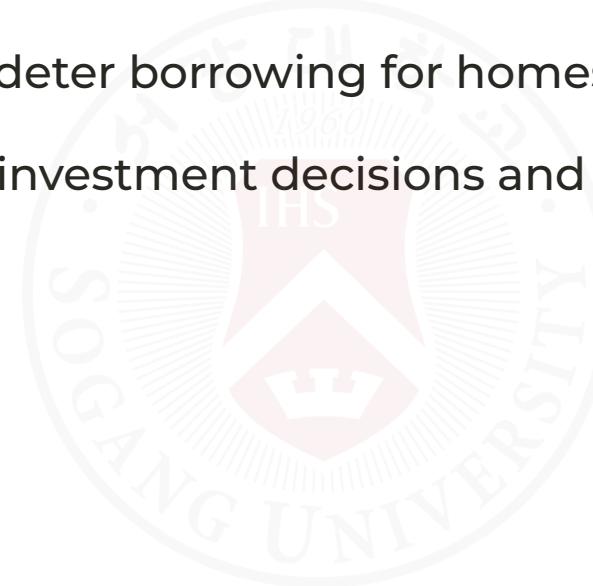


Interest Rates and Economic Impact

An **interest rate** is the cost of borrowing or the price of money.

Why Interest Rates Matter

- **Personal finance:** High rates deter borrowing for homes or cars.
- **Economic impact:** Influence investment decisions and economic growth.



Interest Rates on Selected Bonds, 1950-2020



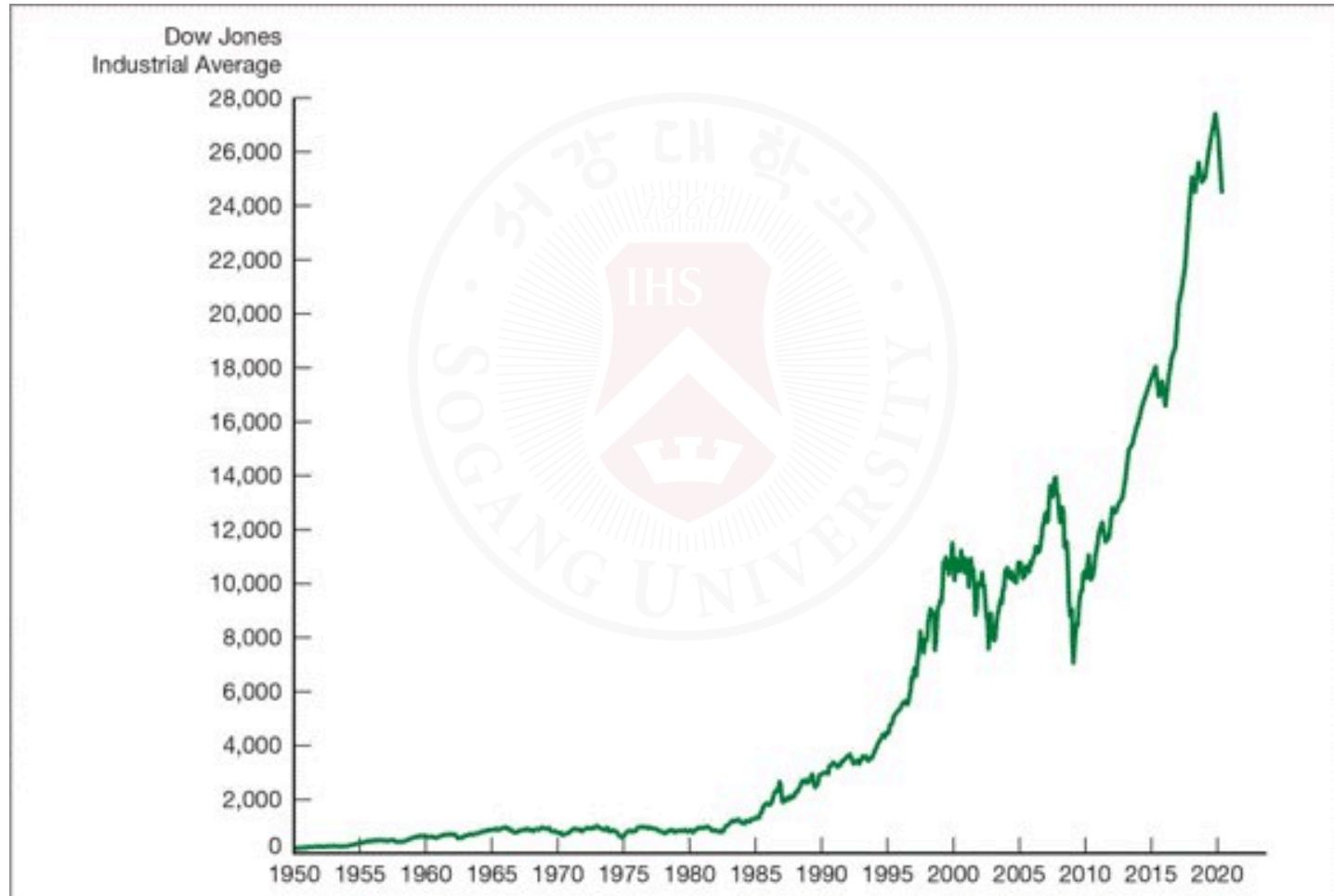
The Stock Market

- **Common stock** represents **ownership** in a corporation.
- Investors claim a share of residual earnings and assets.
- Corporations raise funds by **issuing stock to the public**.
- Stock prices significantly impact business investments.

Why Study the Stock Market?

- Potential for quick wealth or losses
- Determines corporate fundraising ability

Stock Prices as Measured by the Dow Jones Industrial Average, 1950-2020



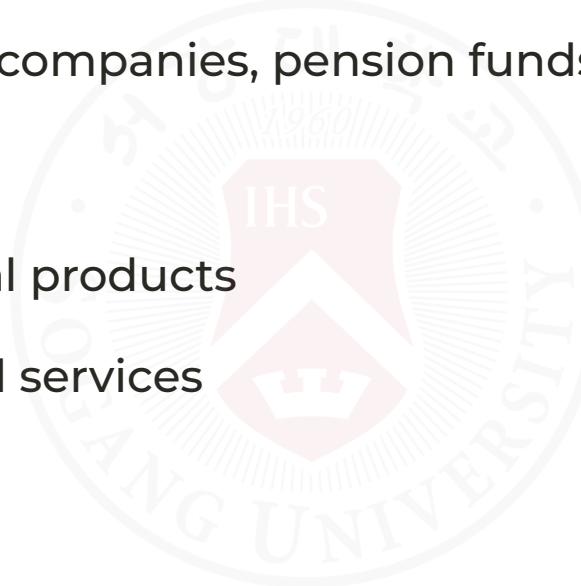
Why Study Financial Institutions and Banking?

Financial intermediaries: institutions that borrow from savers and lend to borrowers.

- **Banks:** Accept deposits, make loans (commercial banks, credit unions, etc.)
- **Other institutions:** Insurance companies, pension funds, investment firms

Financial Innovation

- Development of new financial products
- **E-finance:** Electronic financial services



Financial Crises

Financial crises involve major market disruptions, sharp asset price declines, and firm failures.



Why Study Money and Monetary Policy?

- **Money** facilitates transactions and influences **business cycles**.
- **Recessions & expansions** affect employment and economic well-being.

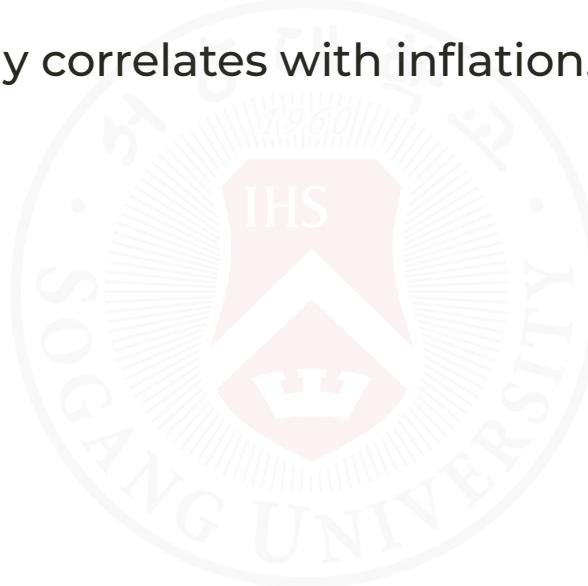
Role of Monetary Policy

- Ties money supply changes to **economic activity and inflation**

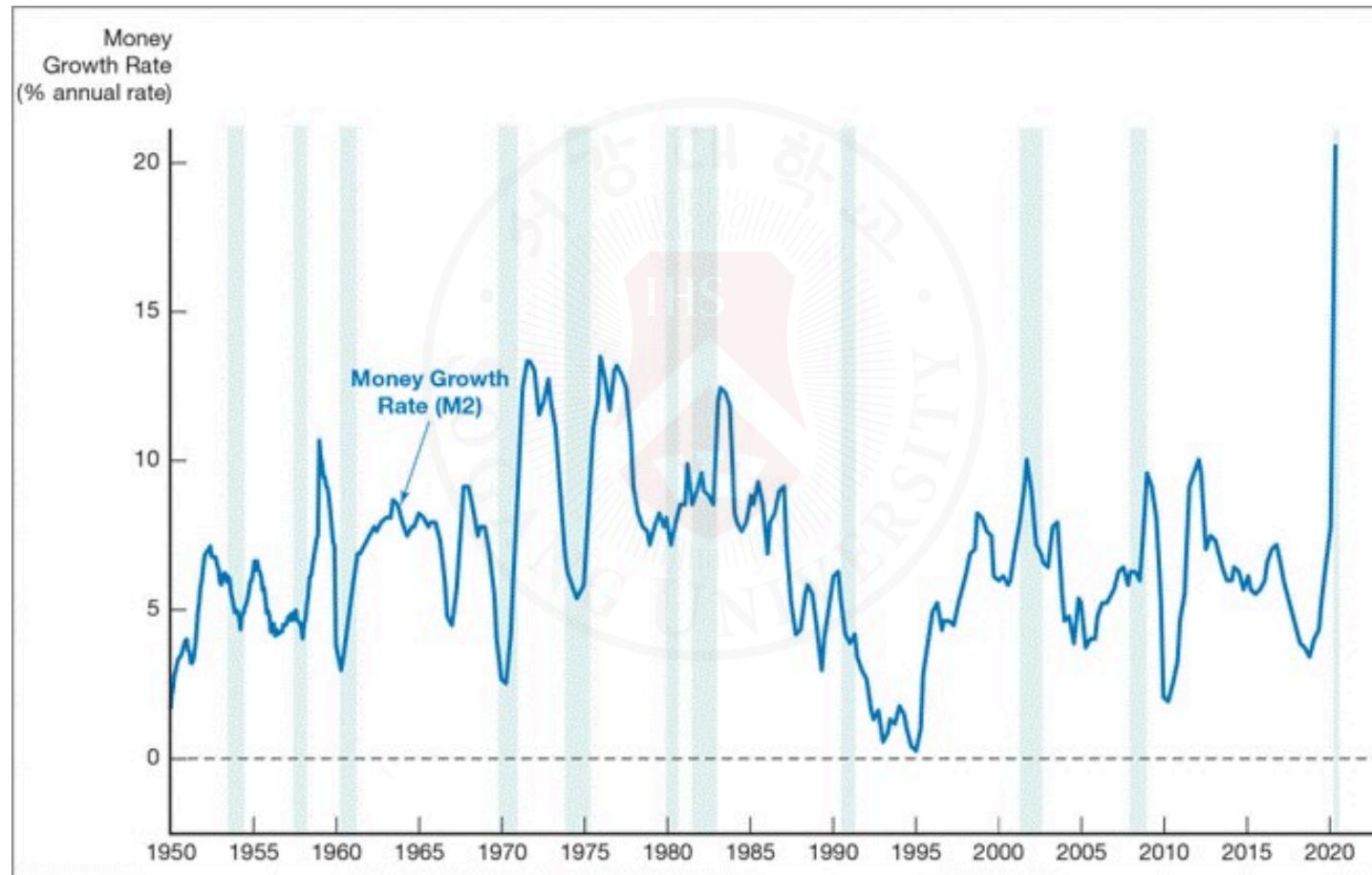


Money, Business Cycles, and Inflation

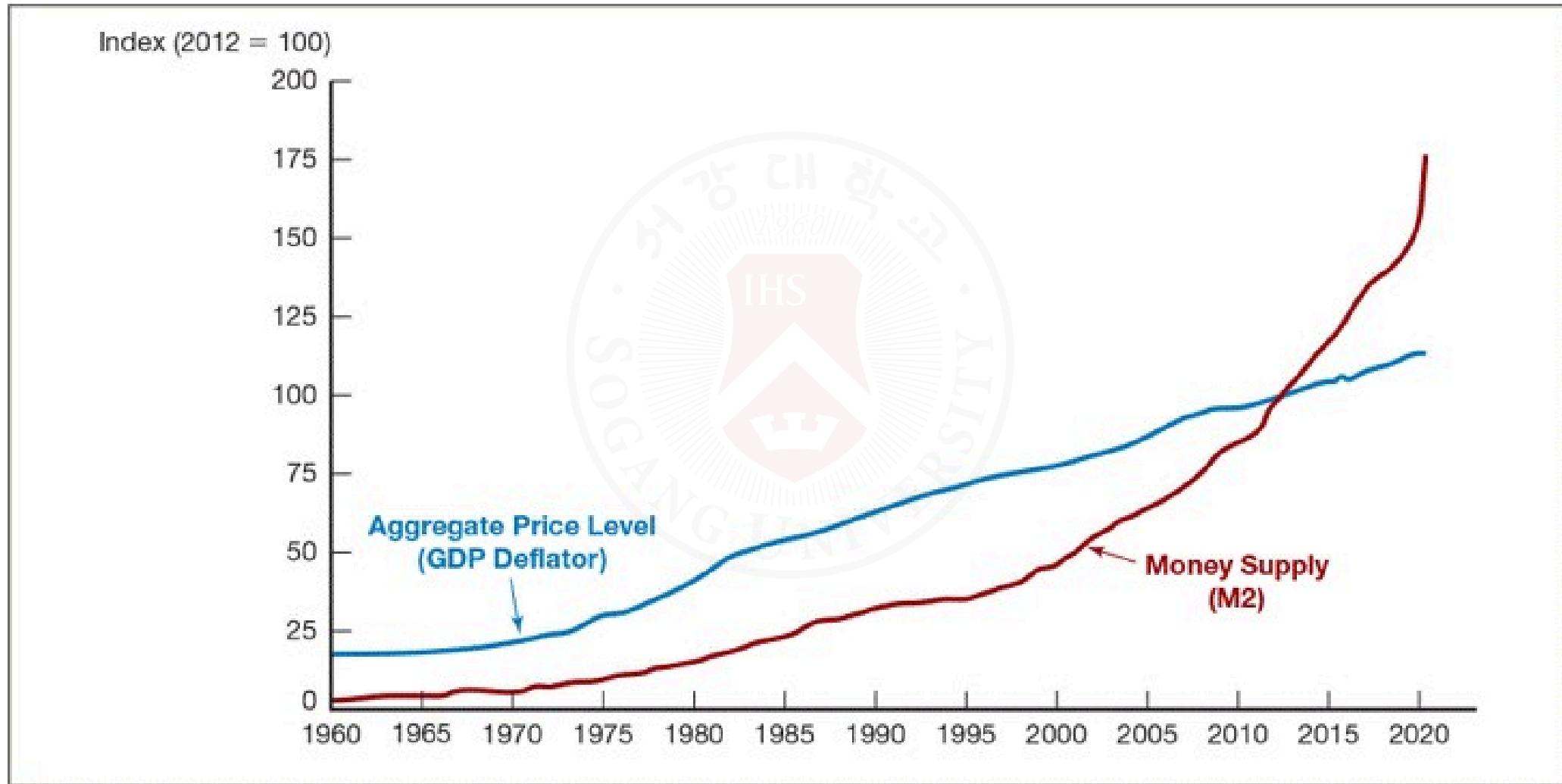
- **Aggregate price level:** The average price of goods/services.
- **Inflation:** Sustained rise in prices affecting all economic players.
- **Money supply growth** strongly correlates with inflation.



Money Growth (M2 Annual Rate) and the Business Cycle, 1950-2020



Aggregate Price Level and Money Supply, 1960-2020



Data Work

1. Find **M2 and GDP deflator** data and compare via plots.
2. **Correlation vs. Causation** analysis.

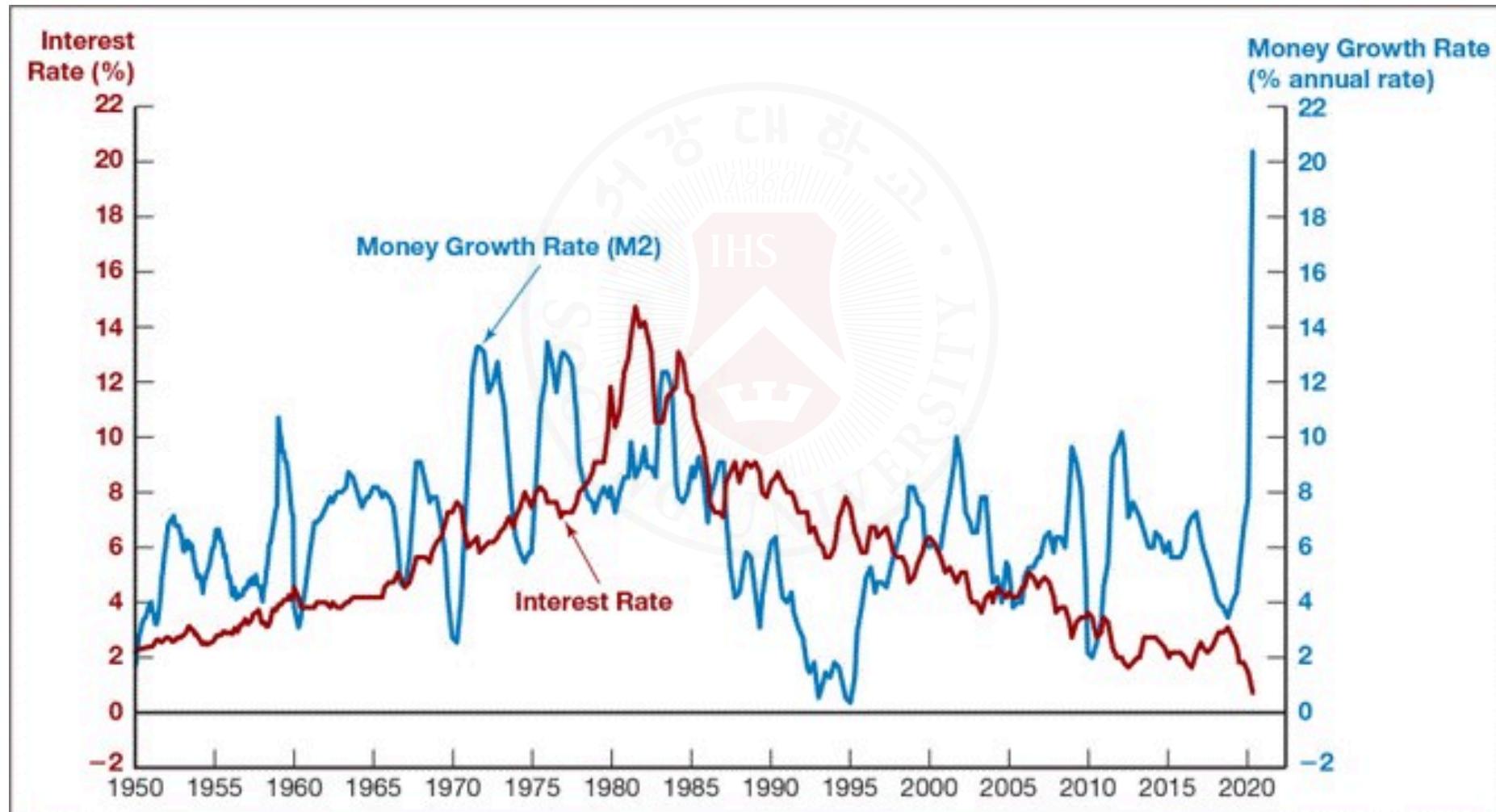


Money and Interest Rates

- Interest rates **reflect the price of money**.
- Before 1980, **money growth and interest rates** moved closely together.
- The relationship has weakened but remains influential.



Money Growth (M2 Annual Rate) and Interest Rates, 1950–2020



Fiscal and Monetary Policy

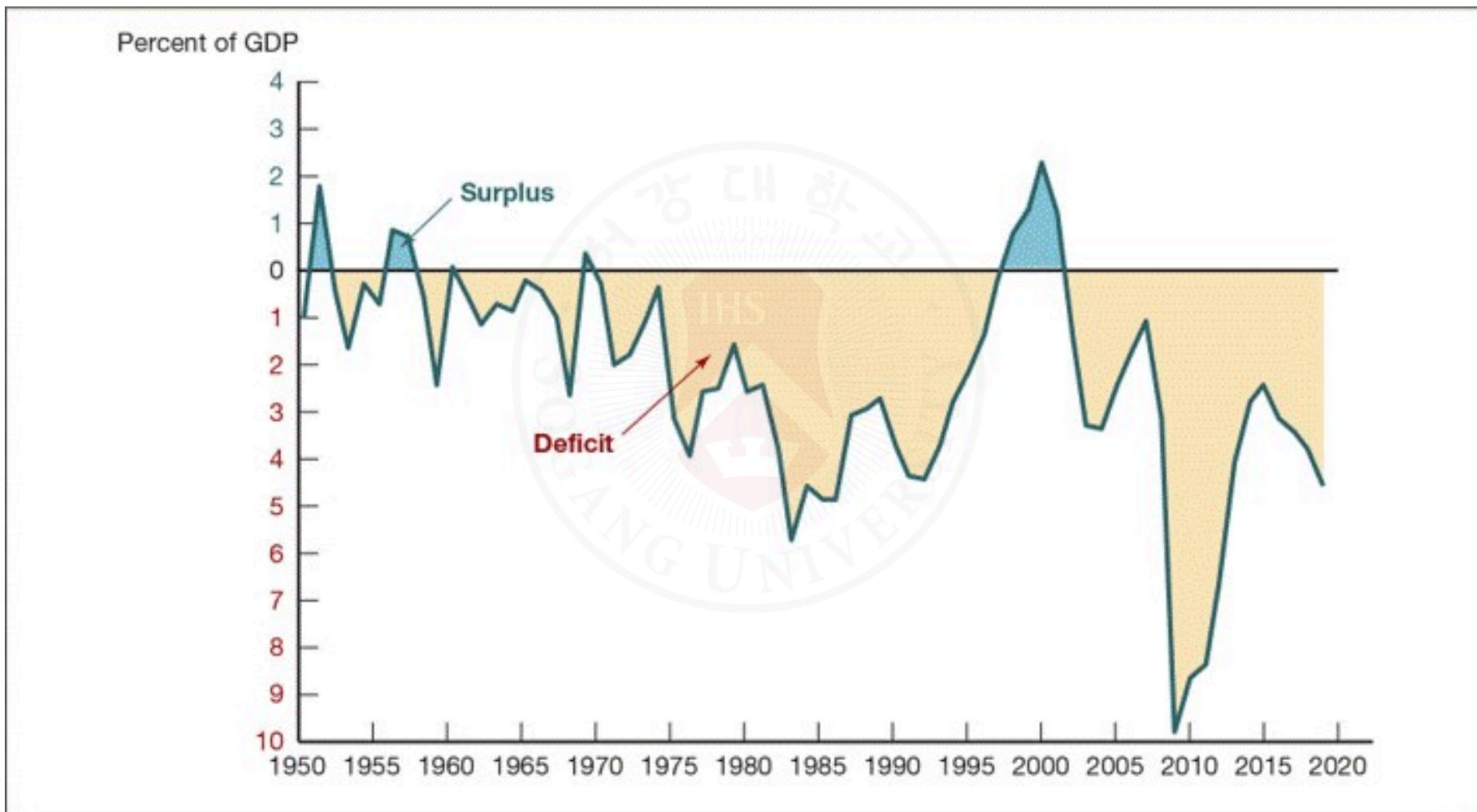
Monetary Policy

- Managed by **central banks** (e.g., Federal Reserve in the U.S.)
- Controls **money supply and interest rates**

Fiscal Policy

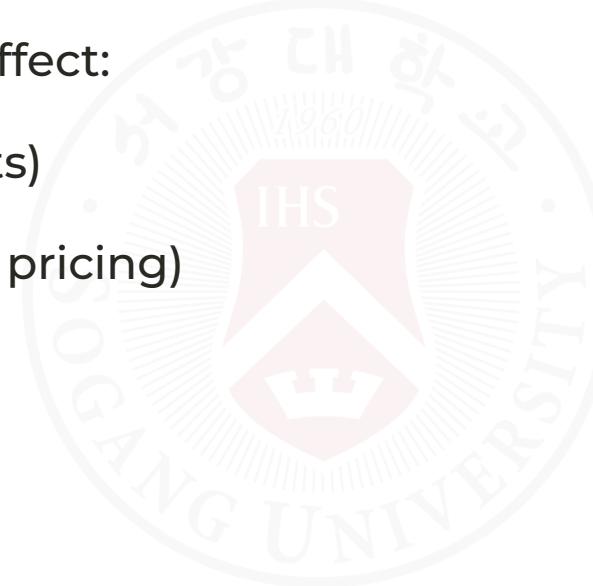
- Deals with **government spending and taxation**
- **Budget deficit:** Expenditures exceed revenue
- **Budget surplus:** Revenue exceeds expenditures

Government Budget Surplus/Deficit as a % of GDP, 1950-2019



The Foreign Exchange Market

- **Foreign exchange market** converts currencies.
- **Exchange rate:** The price of one currency in terms of another.
- Exchange rate fluctuations affect:
 - **Consumers** (cost of imports)
 - **Businesses** (foreign goods pricing)

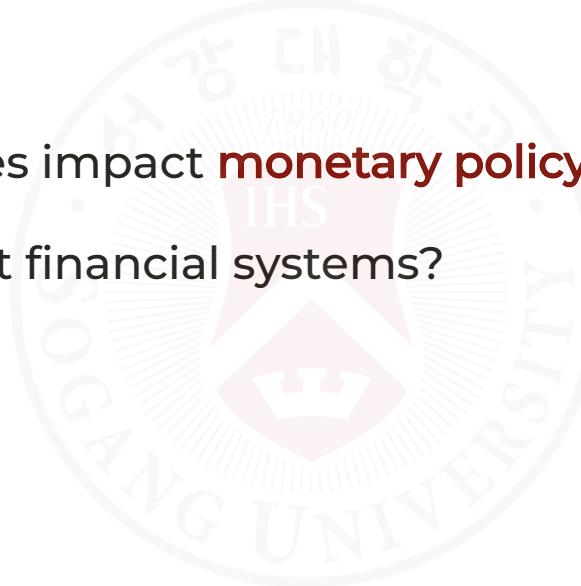


Why Study International Finance?

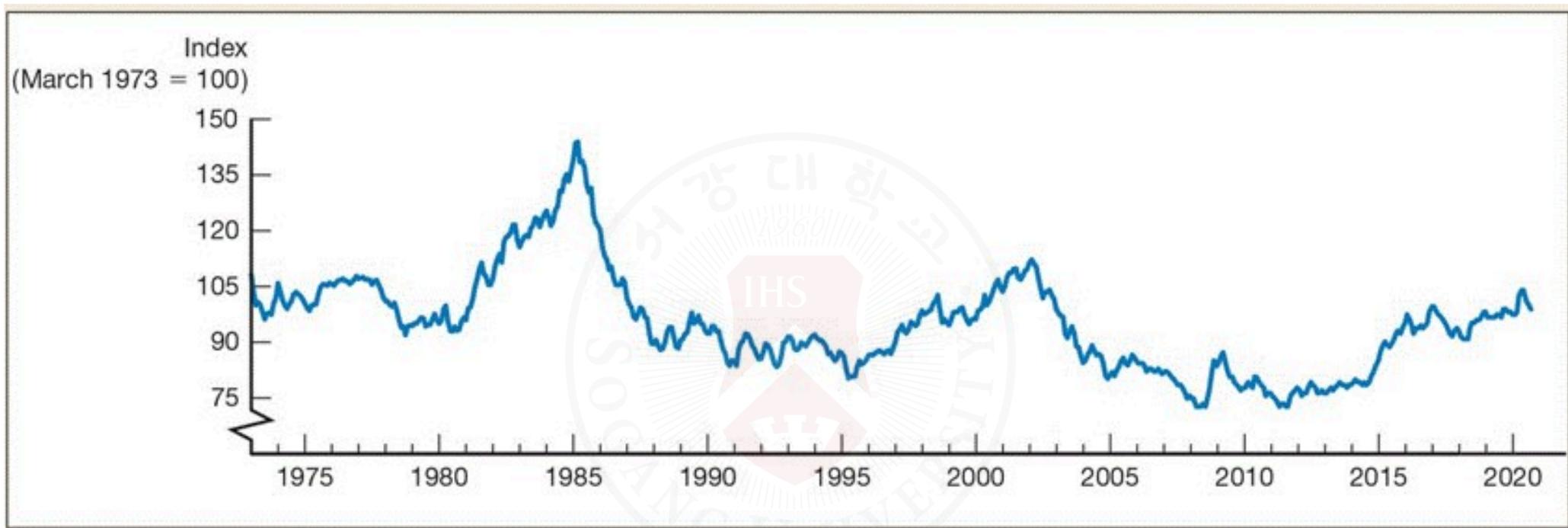
- Financial markets are increasingly **globalized**.
- The international financial system affects domestic economies.

Key Questions:

- How do exchange rate policies impact **monetary policy**?
- How do **capital controls** affect financial systems?



Exchange Rate of the U.S. Dollar, 1973-2020



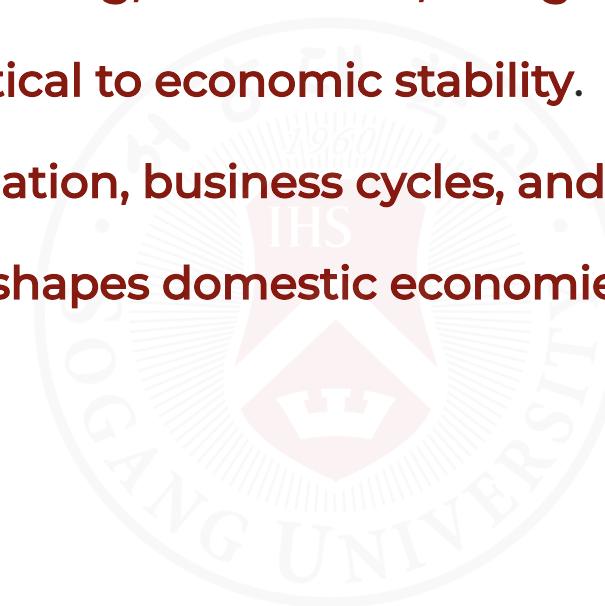
Money, Banking, and Your Career

- Financial institutions are among the **largest employers**.
- Understanding **monetary policy** helps in predicting interest rate changes.
- **Banking knowledge** helps in investment and loan decisions.



Summary

- Financial markets **allocate resources and manage risk.**
- Interest rates influence **borrowing, investment, and growth.**
- Financial institutions are **critical to economic stability.**
- Monetary policy impacts **inflation, business cycles, and economic performance.**
- The global financial system **shapes domestic economies.**





Any QUESTIONS?

Thank You!

Next Class

- (Mar 12) Chap 4. The Meaning of Interest Rates; Chap 5. The Behavior of Interest Rates

