ECONOMICS 2020-500  
Principles of Macroeconomics  
Spring 2005

Professor:    Billy Mertens  
Office:       ECON 4D  
E-mail:       mertens@colorado.edu  
Web:          http://spot.colorado.edu/~mertens  
Office Hours: T,R 3:30 – 4:30pm; W 2:15 – 6:15pm


Course Description:

Principles of Macroeconomics (ECON 2020) is a companion course with Principles of Microeconomics. Together the courses introduce you to the "economic way of thinking". The central fact that underlies economics is the fact of "scarcity" in the short run. By this it is meant that our wants exceed the goods freely available from nature in the immediate future – hence choices must be made among the many things we want. This leads to the fundamental economic questions, narrowly defined, which face all societies: What to produce? How to produce? And for whom to produce? But economics really is much broader in scope than this; it is really the study of wise decision-making in all areas of life.

The issues we discuss are complex but they do lend themselves extremely well to critical thinking and rational inquiry, which are the guiding principles of this course. Our goal is to become and remain informed about issues related to economics and, even more importantly, acquire the ability to think about complex issues in a logical objective manner. Thinking critically is what permits us to differentiate between the illogical and the sensible, between the misleading use of statistics and anecdotal evidence, the reasonable presentation of information.

The topics covered in this course can be divided into three main categories: Fiscal Policy, Monetary Policy, and Open-Economy Macroeconomics. Macroeconomics cannot be well understood without some grounding in microeconomics, if you have not had met the prerequisite for this class you should see me during the first week of classes.

A more detailed outline of covered material and chapters will be handed out or posted separately.

As well as covering the material in the text, we will discuss current issues and how they relate to the economy. I will post some summary outlines on the course website, but these very brief outlines and the book are meant to complement what you learn in class – they are not substitutes for lecture materials!

Grading:

Four Hourly Exams       68% (17% each)  
Cumulative Final Exam    22%  
Recitation               8%  
Knowledge of syllabus    2%

Your TAs keep your grades, so you should ask your TA if you have any grading issues. If you have a grading dispute, see your TA. If you cannot resolve the dispute with your TA, then your TA will contact me. Do NOT email me about a grading dispute.
Recitation:
Your TAs will give the recitation grade. They may be based on problem sets, quizzes and/or other assignments that your TAs think may be useful. The TAs will explain their grading policy more thoroughly in recitation.

Exams:
There will be four exams (all in class) and one cumulative final. Tests will consist of multiple-choice questions and occasionally some longer problems. No alternate exams will be given. You must take your exam at the scheduled time and place. If you miss an exam FOR ANY REASON, the weight of your final will be increased. Do not miss the final!! You may NOT drop an exam after it is turned in – to allow this would be unfair to other students.

Incompletes, Extra Credit, etc.
I adhere strictly to the University guidelines on Incompletes (“An IF is given only when students, beyond their control, have been unable to complete course requirements. A substantial amount of work must have been satisfactorily completed before approval for such a grade is completed.”). No IWs will be given! Bad grades, unsatisfactory performance, too many credit hours, work conflicts, etc. are not reasons for an incomplete.

I am adamant about giving each student an equal opportunity to perform well in the course, so there will be no extra credit opportunities that are not offered to the entire class. You should focus your efforts on learning the material and doing well on the exams.

Grading Scale:
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<tr>
<th>Your score</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>92% to 100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>90% to 91%</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>88% to 89%</td>
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<td>82% to 87%</td>
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<td>60% to 61%</td>
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<td>Below 59.5%</td>
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Additional Note: You cannot get credit for both Economics 1000 and Economics 2010/2020.

Exam Schedule:
Exam I: Tuesday, February 1st
Exam II: Tuesday, March 1st
Exam III: Tuesday, April 5th
Exam IV: Thursday, April 21st
Final Exams:
2020-200: Saturday, April 30th at 10:30am in MCDB A2B70
2020-500: Tuesday, May 3rd at 10:30am in MCOL W100

You must take exams with your class!! You may not take the exam with the other section!! Do not make any other plans at the time of your final!!!
Additional Notes:

Honor Code
All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Additional information on the Honor Code can be found at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html and at http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode

Disabilities
If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter to the instructor from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, or www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices

Religious holidays
A comprehensive calendar of the religious holidays most commonly observed by CU-Boulder students can be found at http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/. Review this list and the class syllabus. After reviewing the syllabus, please see the instructor if you believe that you need an accommodation for religious reasons. The instructor should be notified within the first two weeks of classes. Campus policy regarding religious observances states that faculty must make reasonable accommodation for them and in so doing, be careful not to inhibit or penalize those students who are exercising their rights to religious observance. For more information see http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

Code of Behavior
Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which students express opinions. See policies at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

Policy on Sexual Harassment
The University of Colorado Policy on Sexual Harassment applies to all students, staff and faculty. Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual attention. It can involve intimidation, threats, coercion, or promises or create an environment that is hostile or offensive. Harassment may occur between members of the same or opposite gender and between any combination of members in the campus community: students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Harassment can occur anywhere on campus, including the classroom, the workplace, or a residence hall. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been sexually harassed should contact the Office of Sexual Harassment (OSH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the OSH and the campus resources available to assist individuals who believe they have been sexually harassed can be obtained at: http://www.colorado.edu/sexualharassment/