Economics 2020-010
Principles of Macroeconomics
Spring 2006 Syllabus

Instructor: Josh Sidon
Class Time: MWF 9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. in HLMS 201
Office Hours: MW 10 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. and by appointment
Office: Economics 12 (basement)
Email: sidon@colorado.edu
Class Website: http://ucsu.colorado.edu/~sidon/teaching.html

TA: Kelsey Wittenberger
TA Email: wittenbk@colorado.edu

Textbook:

Course Description:
This course is the second of two principle economic courses intended to introduce basic concepts in economics. The first course, Principles of Microeconomics, primarily considers the interaction, expected outcomes, and consequences of individual economics agents participating in a market setting.

This course, Principles of Macroeconomics, considers the economy as a whole. Specific topics we will cover include gauging the overall performance of the economy as well as discussing the phenomena of inflation and unemployment. We will also take time to investigate determinants that influence overall economic performance both in the short and long run. A related discussion looks at the role, if any, the government plays in influencing economic performance. Finally, we will take a look at the relationship between separate economies.
Grading:

Final grades will come from up to five sources (each worth 100 points):

1. Recitation (rec)
2. In-class exercises (lecture)
3. Exam 1 (E1)
4. Exam 2 (E2)
5. Final Exam (Final)

Final grades will reflect the highest of the following four options:

1. \((\text{rec} \times \frac{1}{12}) + (\text{lecture} \times \frac{1}{6}) + (E1 \times \frac{1}{4}) + (E2 \times \frac{1}{4}) + (\text{Final} \times \frac{1}{4})\)

2. \((E1 \times \frac{1}{3}) + (E2 \times \frac{1}{3}) + (\text{Final} \times \frac{1}{3})\)

3. \((\text{rec} \times \frac{1}{9}) + (\text{lecture} \times \frac{2}{9}) + (E1 \times \frac{1}{3}) + (\text{Final} \times \frac{1}{3})\)

4. \((\text{rec} \times \frac{1}{9}) + (\text{lecture} \times \frac{2}{9}) + (E2 \times \frac{1}{3}) + (\text{Final} \times \frac{1}{3})\)

Observe that the final will count under all options.

Grading Scale:

I will generally follow the scale below. However, there will be some subjectivity in assigning grades. Students who participate in extra credit opportunities, regularly attend class, and/or seek extra help through office hours may get bumped to a higher grade. These cases are solely at my discretion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your score</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Your score</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>92% to 100%</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>72% to 77%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90% to 91%</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>70% to 71%</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88% to 89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>68% to 69%</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82% to 87%</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>62% to 67%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80% to 81%</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>60% to 61%</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78% to 79%</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>Below 59.5%</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exams:

Exams are not cumulative, but the material does build on itself so it is important to understand all of the concepts as we go. Note: the final exam will not be cumulative. No makeup exams will be given. No exams will be given early. If you miss either Exam I or II for any reason, then that
exam will automatically count as your dropped score (see above). Missing both Exams I and II OR the final will result in a failing grade for the course. There are no exceptions to this rule.

**In-class Exercises:**
After each topic there will be an in-class exercise. This will consist of working in groups to answer primarily short answer questions. For each exercise you participate in you will receive either a 2 or 3 depending on performance. A missed exercise will receive a zero but you will be able to drop the two lowest scores.

**Extra Credit:**
Students can earn extra credit consideration by turning in an article and summary related to a topic covered in class. The summary should be approximately two paragraphs. Content should consist of a quick summary of the article and some discussion on its direct relationship to a course topic.

**Important Dates:**
Drop/Add Dates: [http://registrar.colorado.edu/DropAdd/Default.html](http://registrar.colorado.edu/DropAdd/Default.html)
Classes Start: Tuesday, January 17
Exam 1: Wednesday, February 15 OR Friday, February 17
Exam 2: Wednesday, March 22 OR Friday, March 24
Spring Break: Monday, March 27 through Friday, March 31
Last Day of Class: Friday, May 5
Final: Wednesday, May 10 (1:30am-4:00pm)

**Additional Notes:**
- It is expected that you understand CU Honor Code and abide by it. Go to [http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/](http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/)

  *Honor Code: “On my honor, as a University of Colorado at Boulder student, I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this work.”*

- If you have a conflict between religious observance dates and course examinations or assignments, you must notify me two weeks in advance so that your needs may be addressed.

- If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter to me from Disability Services (DS) early in the semester so that your needs may be addressed. DS determines accommodations based on documented disabilities (303-492-8671), Willard 322, [www.colorado.edu/sacs/disabilityservices](http://www.colorado.edu/sacs/disabilityservices).
**Tentative Course Outline:**
As the heading suggests, this outline is tentative. Prior to each exam, I will clearly define the material you will be responsible for.

**Weeks 1-5 (Chapters 1 (part), 2 (part), 5-8)**
- Introduction to Economics
- Thinking Like an Economist
- Measuring a Nation’s Income
- Measuring the Cost of Living

**EXAM I:** Wednesday, February 15 **OR** Friday, February 17

**Weeks 6-10 (Chapters 10-13)**
- Unemployment and Its Natural Rate
- The Monetary System
- Money Growth and Inflation
- Open-Economy Macro (Basics)

**EXAM II:** Wednesday, March 22 **OR** Friday, March 24

**Weeks 12-16 (Chapters 13-17)**
- Open-Economy Macro (A Theory)
- AD and AS
- Monetary and Fiscal Policy
- SR Inflation and Unemployment

**FINAL EXAM:** Wednesday, May 10 (1:30pm-4:00pm)