



Principles of Macroeconomics - ECON 2020-100
Fall 2026

Instructor: Dr. Mark Valkovci
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Zoom contact: Available via Canvas
Lecture: TTH 330-445p in CHEM 140
Teaching Assistants:

Office Hours

T: 12-1p in ECON 04D
W: 1-2 p in ECON 04D
F: 12-1p via Zoom
Appointments also available

INSTRUCTOR BIO:

Dr. Mark Valkovci received his Doctorate in Economics from the University of Colorado Boulder in 2021. In his research he explores the economic impacts of environmental and labor policies, the political economy of pollution, climate change and many other topics. Mark enjoys teaching macroeconomics and environmental economics due not only to his personal interests in those areas, but also because the connections between the economy and the environment grow ever-more-important for the global society. In his free time, Mark enjoys being a huge nerd by reading books/comics, binge watching the shows/movies, and playing the board/video games of many fandoms. His favorite fandom is Star Wars, but he also loves Critical Role and is an avid Dungeons and Dragons player.

Required Materials

Principles of Macroeconomics 5ed., Dirk Mateer and Lee Coppock Online edition. Norton Publishing

Top Hat Education account (we will set it up on the first day of class)

***These materials are provided by CU Book Access. There is no need to purchase the textbook or any other materials for this course independently. We will review accessing the material on the first day of class.

The CU Book Access program is a program that sets the flat rate of \$269 (plus tax) for course materials upfront, giving undergraduate students a predictable cost that won't fluctuate with the market. The program gives all undergraduate students access to their required textbooks and coursepacks for one low cost, no matter what their course of study. If you have questions about CU Book Access go to <https://www.cubookstore.com/bookaccess> or contact the bookstore.

Recommended Materials

These materials ARE NOT REQUIRED. However, components of the course were developed using these resources. You may find it helpful to acquire some of these materials (or share with fellow students!) in order to gain additional perspective on numerous microeconomic topics.

Klein and Bauman *The Cartoon Introduction to Economics Volume 1: Microeconomics*

A free pdf copy of this book is available on Yoram Bauman's website. If you have trouble locating it, please let me know and I would be happy to send you a link.

Sydsæter, Hammond, Strøm and Carvajal *Essential Mathematics for Economic Analysis 5th ed.*

Again, I want to stress that these are **not** required materials! Only purchase them if you feel that you need the additional help that these books provide.

COURSE WEBSITE:

Canvas is our class website:

- Login using your University of Colorado Boulder identikey and password
<https://canvas.colorado.edu/>
- Under Course List, click “ECON 2020-310R: Principles of Macroeconomics”
 - Navigate to the recitations homepage in Canvas to find homework assignments, worksheets, and helpful video guides as well as to keep up-to-date with upcoming assignments
- Note: All email correspondence will be through your CU Boulder email address.
 - Do not use the Canvas email or messages, it is not checked.

CLASS CONTACT EMAILS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

To make sure you receive class emails and announcements:

1. Develop a routine of checking Canvas daily
2. (Optional): Update Canvas email address: Use the “account” link on the left toolbar to update your email and notification settings. Make sure you have all announcements notify you “immediately” because important course information is shared through announcements
 - a. Announcement will also appear on the Canvas course homepage every time you enter the course site
3. Update University email: <https://oit.colorado.edu/identikey-accounts/students> to make sure that the address is the one you regularly check

COURSE CONTENT:

This course covers the fundamentals of macroeconomics theories and principles as well as their practical application. By analyzing national production, unemployment, business cycles, and the impacts of monetary and fiscal policies, you will learn vital tools in understanding the macroeconomy. Since economics is essentially a mathematically-based manner of thinking and problem solving, you will learn how to relate mathematical and economics concepts in order to measure changes in welfare and utility, among other things. My goal for this course is to introduce to you the primary theories and concepts being practiced today and to use real-world examples as much as possible to illustrate the impacts of different economic policies.

PREREQUISITES:

There are no prerequisites for this course. However, economics typically involves a substantial amount of mathematical analysis. You should be comfortable with all levels of algebra for this course. In the first week, we will do a quick algebra review, and I will post additional exercises on Canvas for you to practice. If you feel you need additional practice or help with the mathematical side of this course, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or one of the instructional assistants for help!

COURSE STRUCTURE:

This course utilizes Mateer and Coppock's *Principles of Macroeconomics* using Norton's online Inquisitive and Smartwork platforms. Additional context, examples, and practice will be provided through other materials and posted on Canvas. There are several important aspects of the course structure.

Attendance

Attendance is a required part of the course and represents 8% of your overall grade in the course. Attendance will be taken through the Top Hat platform (which we will go over on the first day of class). Each lecture day students can earn up to 2 attendance points. 1 point comes from entering the attendance code. The other point comes from answering the majority of in-class question (defined by at least 50% of the questions asked in class) that day. Students can use their phones or laptops to log into Top Hat to register for attendance as well as answer the in-class questions.

Quizzes

First, there are no midterm examinations in this course. In place of midterms, I institute biweekly quizzes. These quizzes are much shorter and lower impact (each worth a smaller percent of your overall grade) than your typical midterm. It also allows for more frequent feedback and practice of the concepts.

Quizzes will be held in class every other Friday starting on January 30th. Any changes to the quiz schedule will be made at least two weeks in advance. For the purpose of calculating your course grade, I will drop your lowest quiz score.

The quizzes for this class are scheduled as follows:

Quiz 1: Friday, January 30th

Quiz 2: Friday, February 13th

Quiz 3: Friday, February 27th

Quiz 4: Friday, March 13th

Quiz 5: Friday, April 3rd

Quiz 6: Friday, April 17th

Recitation

Recitations are a required part of the course. Each week, your TA will walk students through guided worksheets designed to reinforce class concepts and practice numerical calculations. Recitation grades are based on attendance and the completion of short recitation quizzes taken at the end of each recitation. Recitation quizzes will appear on Canvas and will be open during the last ten minutes of recitation. Recitation quizzes are graded for correctness. This means that each week your overall grade in recitation will be determined 50% from attendance and 50% from your quiz score. For the purpose of calculating your course grade, I will drop the two lowest recitation scores.

There are two sources of grades that require Norton access for completion, homework assignments and chapter readings (assessed through Inquisitive).

Inquisitive (Reading) Assignments

The pre-lecture Inquisitive assignments are reading comprehension-based adaptive assignments. There is one Inquisitive assignment for each chapter. Students must obtain the target score for each assignment in order to earn 100%. Inquisitive assignments vary in length (target score) based on the length and depth of the material in the chapter being covered. Inquisitive assignments are always due at 11:59 pm on the due date assigned. I will drop the two lowest Inquisitive scores from your final grade calculation.

Homework (Smartwork)

Homework assignments are available on Norton and linked through the Canvas course page. Each homework assignment carries the same weight, although the length of individual assignments may vary slightly. Each question

within the homework assignment allows for three attempts. I take the highest attempt for each question and, therefore, the assignment overall. *Homework assignments are always due by 11:59 pm on the due date assigned.*

Interactive Assignments

Throughout the semester, there will be several interactive assignments designed to reinforce the material and provide students a chance to engage critical thinking skills and apply in-class concepts to real-world situations. Details for access, completion, and grading will be given on a per-assignment basis. The typical interactive assignment will consist of an online game or simulation that students must complete along with a short reflection paper.

Final Exam

The University requires final examinations for each course. The final examination in this class is mandatory and worth 18% of your final grade in the course. The final exam will take place in-person in our normal classroom. For a schedule of final exams, please consult the registrar's website or your BuffPortal. University policy allows you to change the date or time of the final exam **ONLY IF** you have at least 3 final exams scheduled for the same day. If this is the case, please let me know no later than April 10th so that accommodations may be made.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

See the table below for a quick breakdown of class assignments and grade weights.

Assignment Group	Individual Item Weight	Number of Items	Number of Graded Items	Number of Items Dropped for final grade calculation	Total Weight of Assignment Group
Attendance	0.32%	27	25	2	8%
Inquisitive Assignments	1%	15	13	2	13%
Smartwork Assignments	1.2%	15	13	2	18%
Interactive Assignments	-	At least 2	2	0	6%
Quizzes	6.25%	5	4	1	25%
Recitation	0.83%	14	12	2	10%
Final Exam	20%	1	1	0	20%
				Total	100%

*Some assignment loads and weights may change depending on the amount of material covered in the class. For example, the number of Inquisitive and Homework assignments corresponds to the total number of chapters covered throughout the semester. If we do not cover all chapters, the remaining assignments will be dropped and the individual weights will be recalculated. The total weight for each assignment group is set in stone and will not change.

Opportunities for Bonus Points

There are several opportunities for bonus points that reflect a semester-long commitment to completing coursework and going above and beyond.

1. *Perfect Recitation Attendance (2%)*

Recitations are a required part of the course and I drop two recitation quizzes from your grade calculation. However, each student that attend **ALL** fourteen recitation sessions will receive a 2% bonus on their final exam score.

2. *Perfect Inquisitive Assignment Completion Rate (2%)*

Inquisitive assignments are the courses “reading” assignments. The design of Inquisitive is to allow students to take low-stakes assessments and earn the maximum number of potential points on each assignment. Students who receive 100% on **all** Inquisitive assignments will also earn an additional 3% bonus to their grade

3. *Practice Final Exam (up to 2%)*

Toward the end of the semester, a practice final exam will be made available on Canvas. The practice final is graded 50% for completeness and 50% for correctness. The practice final will appear as a Canvas quiz. Students who complete the practice final can earn up to 4% bonus on the final exam (partially determined by their score on the practice final).

Course Grading Scale

Grading Scale	
A	≥ 93%
A-	90-92.99%
B+	87-89.99%
B	83-86.99%
B-	80-82.99%
C+	77-79.99%
C	73-76.99%
C-	70-72.99%
D+	67-69.99%
D	63-66.99%
D-	60-62.99%
F	<60%

COURSE POLICIES

WAITLISTS

Many large lectures have waitlists that can range from a few to several dozen students. Your waitlist position for this course is determined by both availability in the main lecture hall as well as in your selected recitation section.

Attempting to change your recitation section will result in you automatically being moved to the last spot on the waitlist. The waitlist automatically freezes on August 28th. If you are not fully enrolled in the class by this date (which will occur automatically) you will not be enrolled in the course. This policy is designed to be fair to students as there is no way to manually add students on an objective basis.

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY

No late submissions are accepted in this course for any assignment or quiz. Exceptions may be made in the case of medical or family emergencies only and in these cases, the student must contact the instructor *prior to the assignment due date*.

NETIQUETTE

All students should be aware that their behavior impacts other people, even online. I hope that we will all strive to develop a positive and supportive environment and will be courteous to fellow students and your instructor. Due to the nature of the online environment, there are some things to remember.

1. Always think before you write. In other words, without the use of nonverbals with your message, your message can be misinterpreted. So please think twice before you hit submit.
2. Keep it relevant. There are places to chat and post for fun everyday stuff. Do not stray from the discussion in the assigned questions.
3. Never use all caps. This is the equivalent of yelling in the online world. It is not fun to read. Only use capital letters when appropriate.

Make sure that you are using appropriate grammar and structure. In other words, I don't want to see anyone writing "R U" instead of "are you". There are people in the class that may not understand this type of abbreviation, not to mention it does nothing to help expand your writing and vocabulary skills. Emoticons are fine as long as they are appropriate. A smile ☺ is welcome, anything offensive is not.

4. Treat people the same as you would face-to-face. In other words, it is easy to hide behind the computer. In some cases, it empowers people to treat others in ways they would not in person. Remember there is a person behind the name on your screen. Treat all with dignity and respect and you can expect that in return.
5. Respect the time of others. This class is going to require you to work in groups. Learn to respect the time of others in your group and your experience will be much better. Always remember that you are not the only person with a busy schedule, be flexible. Do not procrastinate! You may be one that works best with the pressures of the deadline looming on you, but others may not be that way. The same is true for the reverse. The key to a successful group is organization, communication and a willingness to do what it takes to get it done.

Website: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

Compiled by Melissa Landin, Instructor, Dept. of Communication, Inver Hills Community College,
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CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote, or online. Failure to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation, or political philosophy.

For more information, see the [classroom behavior policy](#), the [Student Code of Conduct](#), and the [Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance](#).

Students causing serious disruptions, creating unsafe or intolerant learning environments, or repeated disruptions will be removed from the classroom, Canvas course, and online homework platform. Any remaining assignments will be given a grade of zero.

ADMINISTRATIVE DROPS

In line with University policies and standards, any students that do not attend any lectures, complete assignments, or email me by the end of the first full week of classes may be administratively dropped from the course to make room for participating students on the waitlist. Once a student is administratively dropped from the course, it will not be possible to re-enroll in the course.

CLASSROOM DECORUM

The classroom is designed to be a safe space for all students to learn and grow. As such, students will always treat each other, the instructional assistants, and the instructor with respect and dignity. Any language, behavior, or actions that is deemed to be inappropriate by the instructor or instructional assistants will result in immediate removal from the lecture and potential submission of a report to the University. It is okay to have differing opinions, but it is imperative to treat everyone with the same level of respect that you would expect to receive.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The use of artificial intelligence is allowed on a limited basis in this class. It is encouraged to help students walk through problems, offer alternative methods, and generate additional practice problems. It is **not** to be used for homework assignments, quizzes, or any written assignments to be submitted. The use of AI as a learning tool will be covered in the first of week of classes. If you are unsure of whether or not you are allowed to use AI, please ask the instructor or an IA for help

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

REQUIREMENTS FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Members of the CU Boulder community and visitors to campus must follow university, department, and building health and safety requirements and all public health orders to reduce the risk of spreading infectious diseases.

The CU Boulder campus is currently mask optional. However, if masks are again required in classrooms, students who fail to adhere to masking requirements will be asked to leave class. Students who do not leave class when asked or who refuse to comply with these requirements will be referred to Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution. Students who require accommodation because a disability prevents them from fulfilling safety measures related to infectious disease will be asked to follow the steps in the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus.

For those who feel ill and think you might have COVID-19 or if you have tested positive for COVID-19, please stay home and follow the [further guidance of the Public Health Office](#). For those who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms and have not tested positive for COVID-19, you do not need to stay home.

Honor Code

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code may include but are not limited to: plagiarism (including use of paper writing services or technology [such as essay bots]), cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. Understanding the course's syllabus is a vital part of adhering to the Honor Code. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution: StudentConduct@colorado.edu. Students found responsible for violating the Honor Code will be assigned resolution outcomes from Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution and will be subject to academic

sanctions from the faculty member. Visit [Honor Code](#) for more information on the academic integrity policy.

Accommodation for Disabilities, Temporary Medical Conditions, and Medical Isolation

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or DSinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) on the [Disability Services website](#). If you have a temporary illness, injury or required medical isolation for which you require adjustment, please contact your TA or instructor as soon as possible. Excused absences and potential extensions for missed assignments are only available if students communicate their illness or emergency prior to the due date of the assignment.

Accommodation for Religious Obligations

Instructional faculty members must make every reasonable effort to accommodate all students who have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignment deadlines or required attendance due to a religious observance. Whenever possible, students must notify the instructional faculty member at least two weeks in advance of the expected exam, assignment deadline, or attendance conflict to request an accommodation for religious observance. If the start date of the course is less than two weeks before the date of requested accommodation, students must notify the instructional faculty member on the start date of the course. See the [Student Academic Accommodations for Religious Observances Policy](#) for more information.

In this class, all religious and cultural observances represent excused absences from class. However, since all assignments are available for at least one week prior to the due date, extensions will not be given to assignments (Inquizitive, Smartwork) that are missed due to religious observances.

Student Names and Pronouns

CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information does not always align with how they identify. If you wish to have a name other than your legal name appear on your instructors' class rosters and in Canvas, or if you wish to choose pronouns to appear on your instructors' class rosters and in Canvas, visit the [Registrar's website](#) for instructions on how to change your personal information in university systems.

Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote, or online. Failure to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, marital status, political affiliation, or political philosophy.

Additional classroom behavior information

- [Student Classroom and Course-Related Behavior Policy](#).
- [Student Code of Conduct](#).
- [Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance](#).

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation

CU Boulder is committed to fostering a productive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. University policy prohibits protected-class discrimination and harassment, sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner abuse (dating or domestic violence), stalking, and related retaliation by or against members of our community on- or off-campus. Denial of an approved accommodation for disability, religious observance, or pregnancy or pregnancy related medical conditions may be discriminatory.

The Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) addresses these concerns, and individuals who have been subjected to misconduct can contact OIEC at 303-492-2127 or email OIEC@colorado.edu. Information about university policies, OIEC reporting options, and OIEC support resources including confidential services can be found on the OIEC website.

Faculty and graduate instructors are required to inform OIEC when someone discloses misconduct regardless of when or where it occurred. This is to ensure that those impacted receive outreach from OIEC about resolution options and support resources. To learn more about reporting and support options for a variety of concerns, visit the Don't Ignore It page.

Mental Health and Wellness

The University of Colorado Boulder is committed to supporting students' mental health and overall wellbeing. If personal, academic, or emotional challenges are affecting your wellbeing or success, Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS), is here to help. CAPS offers counseling, referrals, psychiatric care, crisis support, and much more. Visit CAPS in the C4C, or call (303) 492-2277, 24/7.

I am a big proponent of mental health and mental health awareness. Mental health is equally important (and inextricably related to) physical health. As a result, mental health is prioritized in this course. Students are able to use mental health for excused absences due to sickness (no explanation required). Please note, continued use of this policy will require a meeting with the instructor to ensure this policy is not abused.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

What are the basic computer specifications for Canvas?

- Visit the official [Canvas Computer Specifications Page](#) for the latest list of recommended system requirements.

Which browsers does Canvas support?

- Visit the [Supported Browsers Page](#) for the detailed list of internet browsers in Windows, MacOS, iOS and Android.

Skill Requirements

- Students also need to possess basic computer skills, such as:
 - How to use a web browser and word processor
 - How to send and receive email
 - How to locate a file and attach it to an email or upload a file into a course
 - How to copy and paste
 - Must know basic typing skills and keyboard commands
 - Must know basic computer terminology

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

- Canvas technical support. If you are experiencing issues with Canvas please contact:
 - CU Boulder's Help desk at 303-735-4357 (5-HELP) or help@colorado.edu. 5-Help will answer your call: Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from noon to 6:00 p.m., Closed during [University Holidays](#)
 - On your computer, click the “help” (?) icon on the left side of Canvas, once logged in
 - Within the Canvas App, you can search the Canvas support guides, Report a Problem or chat with Canvas Support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- MyLab tech support:
 - https://help.pearsoncmg.com/ccng/ccng_instr/ccng_xmel_instr_help_support_bridge.html or <https://support.pearson.com/getsupport/s/>

COURSE WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Any student who wishes to withdraw from the course must submit a request directly to [Continuing Education](#). For complete information, please visit their website at <https://ce.colorado.edu/resources/topics/dates-and-deadlines-general-info/>

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

A variety of instructional support services, such as writing center, guidance on personal or educational issues, tutoring questions and library resources are available to the students. For more information about their services, visit their websites linked under modules in Canvas.