Principles of Macroeconomics - ECON 2020-200
Spring 2026

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Office Hours
T: 1030-1130a in ECON 04D
F: 10-11a in ECON 04D
TH: 1115a-1215p via Zoom
Appointments also available

Lecture: MWF 230-320p in MATH 100
Teaching Assistants:

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 avid Dungeons and Dragons player.

Required Materials

Principles of Macroeconomics 4ed., 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 points 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 Inquizitive assignment for each chapter. Students must obtain the target score for each assignment in order to earn 100%. Inquizitive assignments vary in length (target score) based on the length and depth of the material in the chapter being covered. Inquizitive assignments are always due at 11:59 pm on the due date assigned I will drop the two lowest Inquizitive scores from your final grade calcualtion.

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	0.1%	66	60	6	8%
Inquizitive Assignments	1%	15	13	2	13%
Smartwork Assignments	1.31%	15	13	2	18%
Interactive Assignments	-	At least 2	2	0	8%
Quizzes	5%	6	5	1	25%
Recitation	0.67%	14	12	2	10%
Final Exam	18%	1	1	0	18%
				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 (3%)*

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 4%)*

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

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, mlandin@inverhills.edu

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.

ARTIFICAL INTELLIGENCE

The use of artificial intelligence including, but not limited to, ChatGPT, Dall-E 2, etc., are prohibited for this course. This means that students are not allowed to use artificial intelligence to complete assignments or pass off work as their own. However, artificial intelligence may offer students a quick way to help organize information when studying and preparing for quizzes or exams. The use of AI to develop study plans or tools is allowed. Please keep in mind that the information received from AI text generators is not always accurate or complete and could create further confusion on course concepts. For this reasons, I highly discourage the use of AI tools to study concepts in this course.

If you have any questions about the AI policy in this course, please feel free to talk to me after class or stop by my office hours!

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.

ACCOMMODATUION FOR DISABILITIES, TEMPORARY MEDICAL CONDITIONS, AND MEDICAL ISOLATION

Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so your needs can be addressed. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance.

If you have a temporary medical condition or required medical isolation for which you require accommodation, please contact Disability Services and send an email to me as soon as possible. I am willing to be as flexible as I can be. Also see Temporary Medical Conditions on the Disability Services website.

PREFERRED STUDENT PRONOUNS

CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.

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.
All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution: honor@colorado.edu, 303-492-5550. Students found responsible for violating the Honor Code will be assigned resolution outcomes from the Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution as well as be subject to academic sanctions from the faculty member. Visit Honor Code for more information on the academic integrity policy.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT and/or RELATED RETALIATION

CU Boulder is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. University policy prohibits protected-class discrimination and harassment, sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner violence (dating or domestic violence), stalking, and related retaliation by

or against members of our community on- and off-campus. These behaviors harm individuals and our community. The Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) addresses these concerns, and individuals who believe they have been subjected to misconduct can contact OIEC at 303-492-2127 or email cureport@colorado.edu. Information about university policies, reporting options, and support resources can be found on the OIEC website. Please know that faculty and graduate instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when they are made aware of incidents related to these policies regardless of when or where something occurred. This is to ensure that individuals impacted receive an outreach from OIEC about their options for addressing a concern and the support resources available. To learn more about reporting and support resources for a variety of issues, visit Don't Ignore It.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, since it is online and assignments are open for at least a week, there are no extensions given for assignments for which the due dates fall on holidays. However, if a holiday falls during an exam, please reach out to me as soon as possible (and at least 2 weeks prior to the exam) so that we can schedule an alternative time
See the campus policy regarding religious observances for full details.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The University of Colorado Boulder is committed to the well-being of all students. If you are struggling with personal stressors, mental health or substance use concerns that are impacting academic or daily life, please contact Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS) located in C4C or call (303) 492-2277, 24/7.

Free and unlimited telehealth is also available through Academic Live Care. The Academic Live Care site also provides information about additional wellness services on campus that are available to students.

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.ht ml 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.