Economics 3080
Intermediate Macroeconomics
Spring 2026 Syllabus, Part 1

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Office Hours: T/Th **10:45**–11:45, **1:15**-1:45, **3:30**–4:00 and by appointment.

NOTE: YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY GET AN F IF YOU MISS MORE THAN 7 DAYS OF CLASS AND YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY LOSE A THIRD OF A GRADE (e.g., B TO B-) IF YOU MISS MORE THAN 5 DAYS OF CLASS. CLICKERS HAVE BEEN GETTING MORE RELIABLE, BUT IF YOU HAVE ANY DOUBT THAT YOUR CLICKER IS WORKING ON A PARTICULAR DAY, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SIGNING THE PAPER ROLL SHEET THAT DAY.

Any form of cheating will result in an automatic F. You are allowed to use artificial intelligence for doing the Achieve assignments, but I strongly recommend that you try hard to answer each question without that help first. That is crucial for learning what you will need to learn to do well on the exam. **No use of electronics during class except as a clicker or for note-taking.**

Description
Macroeconomics is the study of how all the different aspects of the economy interact to determine outcomes for the economy as a whole.
- *Why study macroeconomics?* Because macroeconomics has to pull everything together, it can strengthen a wide variety of skills: advanced reading skills, judging whether something is a big or a small effect, and the use of concepts specific to macroeconomics as well as concepts from international finance, industrial organization, labor economics, development economics and other fields of economics.
- *Why studying macroeconomics is hard:* It is a lot easier to tell stories related to personal experience in microeconomics than macroeconomics.
- *How to connect to macroeconomics:* Read the news and talk to fellow students, other friends and family about economic events. Macroeconomics is central to a lot of news!

Prerequisites
Economics 3080 builds on the understanding you gained 2010 and 2020, Principles of Micro and Macro. There is no official recommendation on this, but I personally recommend that you take Economics 3070 before taking Economics 3080.

Course Readings, Achieve Assignments and Course Squarespace Website

- **Textbook: Mankiw, N. Gregory, *Macroeconomics* (12th edition, 2024).**

Inclusive Access through Canvas, under "Macmillan Learning". Here's the guide for students signing up through Inclusive Access. The main priority is making sure you sign up using your student email by going through the course shell on Canvas. If you sign up outside of your Canvas course, you'll be asked to pay and won't get the Inclusive Access price. When signing up correctly, you should not receive a prompt for payment in Achieve; you paid through Inclusive Access.

- **Achieve Learning Curve and Quizzes:** These will be the primary way you are tested on the textbook material. The two midterm exams and the final may have only about one question per chapter on material in the textbook that I don't elaborate on in class.

- **Wall Street Journal**—Should be free through the university's subscription: go to https://education.wsj.com/search/ If that doesn't work and you need to buy a subscription, google "wall street journal student digital pack" ($1 a week for 15 weeks). I will expect you to be able to make sense of newspaper articles about macroeconomic news.

- **Handouts, Exercises and Blog Posts** on https://blog.supplysideliberal.com/intermediate-macro: There have been big changes in macroeconomics that are not yet reflected in standard textbooks. Blog posts cover material I would put into a textbook and are free. Key examples of things missing from standard macro textbooks are (a) how to use logarithms in macroeconomics, (b) how monetary policy is conducted now, (c) negative interest rate policy and (d) increasing returns to scale.

I recommend that you bookmark https://blog.supplysideliberal.com/intermediate-macro

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Course Requirements and Grading

Achieve Quizzes	10%
i-clicker (attendance and substance)	10%
1st Midterm:	20%
2d Midterm:	25%
Final exam:	35%

Assignments posts will always be due by 11 PM on their due date. The first Achieve assignment is due soon (11 PM Jan. xx)   **iclicker.com/student** join code: https://join.iclicker.com/DQTO

The course will be graded on a curve based on overall points. (By Econ. Dept. policy, the average grade must be approximately a B-.) If an exam is especially difficult, I'll add extra bonus points for everyone who takes it. Some exams might have bonus questions that give an extra point for attempting them even if you get them wrong. *Because I use a curve rather than absolute percentages, I can't use the automatic grading in Canvas.*

ALSO: IF YOU MISS MORE THAN 7 CLASSES, YOU GET AN AUTOMATIC FAILING GRADE and if you miss more than 5 classes, you will lose one third of a grade (e.g. C goes to C-).

Honor Code Policy: A determination of cheating or plagiarism will result in an automatic failing grade.

EXAM SCHEDULE
Midterm exams will be held in class on Thursday, February 5, and Thursday, March 12.   The final exam for this class is on Monday, April 27 from 1:30 PM to 4:00 PM, in our regular room.

Attendance at all the exams is required—there will be no make-up exams. *Please talk to me now if you need alternate exam arrangements!*

Brief Course Outline: I want you to understand 21st-century macroeconomics, not macroeconomics as it used to be. I also want to make sure this course is relevant to economic policies being debated in the real world. Existing textbooks fail to get students up to speed on critical aspects of modern macroeconomics and often do not discuss current policy debates adequately. In that kind of situation, many professors assign their own textbook or have students buy two books. Instead, I supplement the first ten chapters in Mankiw's textbook with material I have created and posted free on the course website and on my blog. You can see my teaching philosophy for this course in detail, in the assigned blog post "**On Teaching and Learning Macroeconomics**." There you will see that another key part of my philosophy is the importance of teaching critical reading in conjunction with macroeconomics itself. Students often get frustrated with the expectation that they become able to do critical reading, because many other classes do not expect it, but this is a skill you can master. For more on the critical reading expectations in this course, see "**Critical Reading: Apprentice Level**." Critical reading is too difficult to expect you to do it on the textbook chapters. Instead, I only expect you to do critical reading on the (typically shorter) items of supplementary material. It is great to disagree with what you read; but you need to know where you agree and where you disagree.

Order of Topics. Part 1: Models (Chapters 1,7,logarithms,5).
Part 2: The Real World (Chapters 2,3,4,6,8, increasing returns to scale).
Part 3: Bringing in Growth Theory & Dynamics, and Putting It All Together (Chapters 9,10,11)

Syllabus, Part 2: Required Syllabus Statements: Go to
https://www.colorado.edu/academicaffairs/about/policies-customs-guidelines/required-syllabus-statements