

ECON 3080-002 Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory

Spring Semester 2025
University of Colorado Boulder

This course meets T&Th at 9.30-10.45AM in CLUB 4. Attendance is required.

Course Homepage: <https://canvas.colorado.edu/courses/118166>

Instructor: Anja Gruber anja.gruber@colorado.edu https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/4608807288	Office Hours: T 12-2PM Econ 309A or by appointment.
Course correspondence and email policy: I will post all course materials, updates, and reminders on the canvas course homepage and may occasionally send important updates via your @colorado.edu. You should contact me via email with any questions or concerns. I respond to all emails within 24 hours. Please send me a second email if you have not heard back after 24 hours using your @colorado.edu address.	

Course Objective

This course examines the behavior of the economy through the application of mathematical and graphical models to real world issues. We will consider linkages between the U.S. macro economy and international economies, as well as the role of government policy in the economy and its capacity to influence key macroeconomic variables through fiscal and monetary actions directed towards the operation of labor markets, firm and household investment and consumption decisions, education, and the regulation of financial capital markets. We will emphasize the application of theoretical models to current macroeconomic issues and incorporate a data driven approach to foster our understanding of macroeconomic indicators.

Required Text

Macroeconomics (12th edition) by Gregory Mankiw, including access to the Macmillan Achieve Platform. You have day-1 access to the e-book and homework platform through CU's Book Access. You will not be charged any additional fees for the material in this course, unless you have opted out of the Book Access Program.

Course Expectation

I expect that you will attend each class well prepared and ready to contribute to the classroom discussion in a meaningful way. To do so, you need to make a habit of following current events and foster your curiosity for understanding what is going on in the world. Passive consumption of the learning content (i.e. simply listening to lectures) will not be sufficient to master the concepts. Lectures are based on the expectation that you have already read and thought about the assigned readings. I expect students to only use a laptop if they feel this cannot be avoided. Use of cell phones is strictly prohibited during class.

Recommended Resources

I strongly encourage you to subscribe to a news publication (i.e. WSJ or NYT). Free student access packages are available through CU. A list of resources can be found on Canvas.

Course Website

All lecture slides and course assignments, as well as the syllabus and any additional resources can be found on Canvas. I view these resources as complementary to the content covered in class, not as a replacement for attending class. All of your course grades will be posted to Canvas to allow you to have a sense of your standing in the course throughout the semester. Please do not send me messages through Canvas or comment on assignments through Canvas – I may not see those. Email me instead.

Course Assignments and Grading

4 of 6 Article Reviews	20%
<p>You will write 4 news article (or podcast) reviews throughout the semester, submitted as a discussion post through Canvas by the date specified on the syllabus. Your post should include a brief review of the article, an explanation as to how it relates to our class discussion, and a brief insight into why you chose the article. You may also want to explain how the article aids your understanding of an issue covered in class or point out any limitations or interesting aspects of the article. Detailed instructions, an example, and the grading rubric can be found on Canvas. Minimum 250 words. Reputable news sources only. For full credit, you must also provide a short but thoughtful response to one of your classmate's posts.</p> <p>You can complete 5 article reviews, and I will count your 4 highest scores. If you complete more than 5 reviews, I will not grade those.</p>	
12 of 13 Weekly Homework Assignments	20%
<p>Completed through the Macmillan Achieve Platform through Canvas (under "Assignments").</p> <p>3 attempts per question, no time limit.</p>	
2 Midterm Exams	30%
<p>60 minutes, 30 multiple choice questions.</p> <p>I will replace your lower midterm exam score with the score of the final exam if you score higher. No make-up exams will be provided.</p>	
Final Exam	30%
<p>Cumulative. Takes place on the day/time assigned by the registrar's office (see schedule).</p> <p>75 minutes, 30 multiple choice questions and 3 short-answer questions.</p>	

Final Grade Allocation

A: ≥ 94 , A-: 90-93.9, B+: 87-89.9, B: 83-86.9, B-: 80-82.9, C+: 77-79.9, C: 73-76.9, C-: 70-72.9, D+: 67-69.9, D: 63-66.9, D-: 60-62.9, F: < 60 . Final grades are based on the percentage of possible points you achieved in the course. I may curve individual assignments or provide extra credit opportunities to the entire class. I will round up to the next higher letter grade if you are within 0.1 percentage points of reaching a final course grade. No individual extra credit opportunities will be awarded.

Assignment Deadlines and Late Assignments

Homework assignments and article reviews are due on Sunday at 11:59PM. You can submit assignments late and will lose 20% for every 24 hours that an assignment is submitted past the due date. Exam dates are not flexible, and make-up exams will not be provided. If you need to miss a midterm exam for any reason, I will count your final exam score as the score for this midterm.

Classroom Behavior

Both students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote or online. Those who fail 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 policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

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. See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

Accommodation for Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to me at least two weeks prior to the first midterm exam. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services](#). 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 and contact me via email.

Preferred Student Names and 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 policy may include: plagiarism, 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 the Honor Code (honor@colorado.edu; 303-492-5550). Students found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](#).

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner violence (dating or domestic violence), stalking, or protected-class discrimination or harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or cureport@colorado.edu. Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](#), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#). Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, dating and domestic violence, stalking, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

Mental Health and Wellness

I am 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.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Day	Content Covered	Reading	Due on Sunday 11.59PM at the end of the week
1	1/14	T	1-Course Introduction and Overview	Ch1-2	HW1
	1/16	Th			
Long-Run Classical Theory					
2	1/21	T	2-National Income	Ch3-4	HW2, Article Review 1
	1/23	Th			
3	1/28	T	3-Monetary System	Ch5,20	HW3
	1/30	Th			
4	2/4	T	Flex Day		Article Review 2
	2/6	Th	4-Inflation	Ch6	
5	2/11	T	5-Open Economy	Ch7	HW4
	2/13	Th			
6	2/18	T	6-Labor Markets	Ch8	HW5, Article Review 3
	2/20	Th			
7	2/25	T	Midterm 1		HW6
	2/27	Th			
Growth Theory					
8	3/4	T	7-Capital Accumulation and Growth	Ch9	HW7
	3/6	Th			
9	3/11	T	8-Population Growth and Technological Progress	Ch10	HW8, Article Review 4
	3/13	Th			
10	3/18	T	9-Growth and Policy	Ch11	HW9
	3/20	Th			
	3/25	T	Spring Break		
	3/27	Th			
Short-Run Business Cycle Theory					
11	4/1	T	10-Economic Fluctuations	Ch12	HW10
	4/3	Th			
12	4/8	T	Midterm 2		Article Review 5
	4/10	Th	11-IS-LM Model	Ch13-14	
14	4/15	T	12-AS and Inflation-Unemployment Trade-Off	Ch16	HW11
	4/17	Th			
15	4/22	T	13-Topics in Macroeconomics	Ch19,21	HW12, Article Review 6
	4/24	Th			
16	4/29	T	14-Semester Review		HW13
	5/1	Th			
	5/6	T	4.30PM Final Exam		

Please note that this syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be announced on the Canvas Course homepage.