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# UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

## ECON 3080: INTERMEDIATE MACROECONOMIC THEORY

### SYLLABUS, F2025

(SEC 003)

INSTRUCTOR: PROF. SIDONIA MCKENZIE

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Office Hours

- Office: ECON 04C
- Office Hours: WF 3-4 pm

TERM START: August 21, 2025

TERM END: December 5, 2025

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Section 002: MWF 11:15 - 12:05

Section 003: MWF 1:25 - 2:15

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

- ✚ *From General Catalog:* Introduces theories of aggregate economic activity including the determination of income, employment, and prices; economic growth; and fluctuations. Macroeconomic policies are explored in both closed and open economy models.
- ✚ In this course we will study models of aggregate output, unemployment, prices, interest rates, inflation, and economic growth, in the short-run, the medium-run, and long-run, with applications to the U.S. economy, monetary and fiscal policy issues. *We will* think critically, construct arguments, and solve problems using the theory and data that economists use. An important outcome of the course is the development of coherently understanding and analyzing important practical economic issues.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

- ✚ Use algebraic, graphical, and calculus-based tools to analyze macroeconomic theory.
- ✚ Apply macroeconomic models to interpret real-world issues such as output, unemployment, inflation, interest rates, and economic growth.
- ✚ Think critically and objectively about complex economic problems, distinguishing between valid arguments and common misconceptions.
- ✚ Evaluate competing economic perspectives and explain why some are more compelling or empirically supported than others.
- ✚ Communicate your macroeconomic reasoning and analysis clearly, both in writing and verbally,

in ways that reflect professional standards.

- ✚ Foster a collaborative learning community. Work with classmates to tackle challenging problems, support one another's growth, and develop confidence in thinking like an Economist.

## COURSE PREREQUISITE

Required prerequisites: ECON 2020 (Principles of Macroeconomics) **and** ECON 1088 or MATH 1081 or MATH 1300 or MATH 1310 or APPM 1350 (math and Calculus) (all min grade C-). Restricted to students with 22-180 units completed.

## COURSE WEBSITE

Our course is on Canvas. You will access your textbook (Sapling Learning), class discussions, notes, any further additional readings and most importantly your grades via Canvas. Please check Canvas frequently for any relevant notifications/changes that may occur throughout the course. To access Canvas:

- Login using your CU-Boulder identikey and password at Canvas - <https://canvas.colorado.edu>
- Under Course List, click "**Econ 3080-002 or 003: Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory**"

## COURSE MATERIALS

- E-Textbook (required): Mankiw, N. Gregory, *Macroeconomics*, 10<sup>th</sup> edition.
- Purchase options:
  - i. Macmillan Learning (link on the left navigation menu in Canvas course) (\$99.99)  
or
  - ii. CU bookstore (Order Textbooks) (\$108.99).

## SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS

Supplemental readings and other materials will be provided in Canvas system, via the CU Library electronic reserve, or by links to websites.

## COURSE PRESENTATION AND PROCEDURES

There will be 15 instructional modules corresponding to the 14 weeks of the course (one module per week except during the final week). There are also three exam modules (two for our midterms and one for the final exam). You should proceed through one module per week, which will be comprised of readings from the course texts, supplemental class notes, assignments, and quizzes, exams, and various outside sources of information such as additional readings and video content, among other content. During the midterm and final weeks, we will cover exam review and preparation modules in the first part of the relevant weeks.

## EVALUATION AND GRADING

Course grades will be determined by the completion of assignments, exams, and discussions, as shown below:

Assignments	Frequency	Percentage
Biweekly Problem Sets*	7	20%
Quizzes**	5	10%
Attendance/Class Participation <sup>+</sup>	39	10%
Midterm Exam I	1	20%
<b>Friday, October 3 at 1:25 pm</b>		
Midterm Exam II	1	20%
<b>Friday, November 14 at 1:25 pm</b>		
Cumulative Final Exam	1	20%
<u>Thursday, Dec. 11 at 1:30–4 p.m.</u>		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100%</b>

\*The lowest two problem set scores will be dropped. Assignments are typically due on Fridays at 11:59 pm.

\*\*The lowest quiz score will be dropped. Quizzes are typically due on Fridays at 11:59 pm.

<sup>+</sup> Attendance is an important part of your success in this course. Regular participation helps you keep pace with the material and engage fully with the learning process. Attendance will be taken near the end of each class. With advance notice, you may miss up to three class sessions without penalty to your attendance grade.

## COURSE GRADING CRITERIA

Grade	Percentage Grade	Indicates
<b>A</b>	>90	<i>Excellent</i>
<b>A-</b>	88 - 89.99	
<b>B+</b>	85 - 87.99	
<b>B</b>	82 - 84.99	<i>Above Average</i>
<b>B-</b>	78 - 81.99	
<b>C+</b>	75 - 77.99	
<b>C</b>	72 - 74.99	<i>Average</i>
<b>C-</b>	69 - 71.99	
<b>D+</b>	65 - 68.99	
<b>D</b>	63 - 64.99	<i>Below Average</i>
<b>D-</b>	60 - 62.99	
<b>F</b>	<60	<i>Failure</i>

*There is +/- grading in this class.*

**Exams** – Midterms and the Final Exam will be conducted in person, during which the use of technology, will be prohibited.

**Practice Quizzes** – There are roughly 7 weekly practice quizzes to help you prepare for midterm and final exams.

## RESPONSIBILITY

As the instructor of the course, I take responsibility for providing timely and consistent uploads of the relevant course content and resources that will facilitate the achievement of the course objectives. I am committed to a fair, equitable, and transparent grading process to help you achieve mastery of the course content and motivate you. To this end, I will maintain a flexible schedule to provide academic assistance and adjust, where feasible, to the vicissitudes of life.

I reserve the right to resolve any remaining ambiguities and revise the course schedule and other pertinent aspects of the course as needed.

You are responsible for taking the initiative to participate in all aspects of the course that will enable your successful completion. This is not a self-paced course! You have to complete the weekly readings and problem sets and study for the quizzes and exams. If you are looking for a class you can visit for a few minutes each week, read chapters at the last second, and still pull an A or Pass, then this class is definitely not it. However, if you are looking for a course that helps you gain a deeper understanding of how people interact and manage their scarce resources across various facets, then this is that course and so much more! If you put in the effort, I think your hard work will pay off, and you will leave the class knowing way more than you did coming in. This can be a really rewarding class! We all have to make decisions at one point; the materials taught in this course can help you beyond your university life by exposing you to tools that will help you make sense of this complex world.

## LATE WORK POLICY

All assignments must be submitted on the required due date. Late work will not be accepted for assignments, problem sets, or exams. Exceptions may be considered only in cases of university-approved functions or circumstances beyond the student's control.

The instructor reserves the right to determine what constitutes a reasonable excuse for late or missed work and may require proper documentation or verification.

## CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Both students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person 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](#).

## ACCOMMODATION FOR DISABILITIES

If you qualify for testing accommodation 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 accommodation based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodation is located on the [Disability Services website](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or [dsinfo@colorado.edu](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu) for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) on the Disability Services website.

## 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' classrosters. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## 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.

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

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## 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, [visit the campus resources website](#).