

ECON 3080-100: Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory

Lecture: ECON 119, MTWRF 1:10pm—2:45pm

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Office hours: MTWR 3:00pm-4:00pm or by appointment

Course description and objectives

The course is designed to deepen students' understanding of the economy through engagement with mathematical and graphical models. We will model each the labor market, the goods market, and the asset market and explore how economic shocks and government policy affect their respective equilibria. The interactions between these markets and the role of these interactions in determining economic growth and business cycles will also be explored. The course will emphasize the application of macroeconomic theory to current events and macroeconomic trends. Upon successful completion, students should be equipped with the necessary theoretical knowledge, mathematical tools, and vocabulary to analyze and discuss real world phenomena.

Requirements and prerequisites

For enrollment, a satisfactory completion of ECON 2020 Principles of Macroeconomics and MATH 1300 (or an equivalent course in calculus) are required. Various topics covered throughout the course require the students to be able to perform basic algebra and differentiation, so if a student feels uncertain regarding their own mathematical abilities despite the fulfillment of the prerequisites, they are advised to contact the instructor in advance so that the situation can be remedied as soon as possible.

Notable dates (tentative)

- Last day to drop a class without penalty: Thursday, June 5
- Exam 1: Friday, June 6
- Exam 2: Thursday, June 12
- Homework 1 due: Friday, June 13
- Homework 2 due: Wednesday, June 18
- Juneteenth (No class): Thursday, June 19
- Exam 3: Friday, June 20
- Homework 3 due: Thursday, June 26
- Exam 4: Friday, June 27
- Final Exam: Thursday, July 3
- Deadline to post final grades: Sunday, July 6

Course structure

Lectures: The course follows an in-person format, and as such for successful completion attendance is inevitable. The instructor will deliver all lecture materials by annotating the slides posted before class, and while lecture notes will be posted afterwards, all students are expected to follow on their own in class either by annotating their own copies or taking notes in another way. The study of economics is a dynamic subject that revolves around processes and progressions, thus attempts to study using only stationary materials—such as the textbook or the posted slides—without meaningful lecture attendance and participation tend to result in failure.

Case study classes: As economics is a social science that is dedicated to the exploration of real-world phenomena, there will be four case study classes held throughout the term, each scheduled for the end of a key section. For each of these classes, students are expected to bring a news media article relevant to the most recent material. The first half of the class period will be spent discussing the macroeconomic theory underlying these articles and answering students' questions regarding these topics. In the second half of the class period, the instructor will facilitate a case study based on a previously selected news article. The article will be announced in advance and all students will be expected to read it in order to meaningfully contribute. Beyond the discussion, each of these case studies will also feature a worksheet with practice questions that the students will be expected to complete individually, in pairs, or in small groups during class. Again, while the slides and the answer key will be posted after class, students are expected to follow along to maximize the benefits of the exercise.

Homework: To further practice the material, a homework assignment will be posted on Canvas following three of the four case study classes. These assignments will consist of similar questions and exercises as the worksheet presented during the case study class and will be graded for accuracy. The homework assignments are open book but and while students are encouraged to work together on them, each student is expected to submit their own work. The submission deadlines for all homework assignment are generously set, so late submissions will NOT be accepted.

Office hours and communication: The instructor hosts a set of office hours every week with the goal of providing struggling students with extra support and resources. This practice is meant to encourage students to seek help immediately if they struggle with a given portion of the material. Failure to do so will have lasting effects on class performance due to the highly layered nature of economics. Office hours are set and posted on Canvas at the beginning of the term, however, should a student experience a scheduling conflict, often other time slots might be available by appointment. To schedule an extra appointment or to contact the instructor, students can use either their university email addresses or the messaging function of Canvas. While the instructor is committed to efficient communication and will generally attempt to reply within a 24-hour period, messages sent outside of business hours or during the weekend might be subject to longer response periods.

Examinations: 4 midterm exams and one final exam will be given in class on the dates presented above. On the one hand, each of the midterms will focus on the material covered since the most recent exam and will not be cumulative. On the other hand, the final exam given

at the end of the term will be cumulative and students will be expected to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the material for its successful completion.

Since the exams are designed to holistically inform the instructor regarding the students' progress, the exams are meant to be difficult, and perfect grades are rarely achieved. To balance this feature against the institutional grading policy, the lowest midterm grade will be dropped, and each exam will be assessed a flat curve that raises the average grade to 75%. In case the unadjusted average exceeds 75%, no curve will be given.

Note that the use of a calculator (NOT a cell phone) is permitted for all exams.

Resources: All relevant resources including lecture notes, recitation worksheets, homework and exam answer keys will be posted on the course's Canvas page under the *Modules* tab, however, the most valuable resource is the student's own written notes.

Required materials: All students are expected to attend class equipped with a set of writing instruments and a calculator (NOT a cellphone). Acceptable examples of writing instruments include pens or pencils with a notebook, or a tablet with a smart stylus. While laptops are permitted for viewing posted materials, they are not suitable for meaningful note taking. Additionally, as the science of economics is grounded in the real world, all students are expected to keep up with current events. There are many different news organizations and publications that are suitable to accomplish this goal, and the students are welcome to use their preferred source. If the student has no preference, they are encouraged to activate a free subscription using their institutional email address to one of the many publications that the college provides access to.

Optional materials: The University provides access to the textbook supplementing the course via the *Materials* tab on the Canvas page at a discounted price. Should the student plans not to use the textbook, they need to make sure to opt out by the deadline to avoid any unwanted charges. The textbook is considered merely supplementary material for this course, and thus its use will not make up for a lack of attendance or insufficient notes. Note that since owning the textbook is optional, older editions are also permitted which can be accessed at a significantly lower price point.

Grading

The weights for the final grade are as follows:

- The three best midterm exams: 15% each, in total 45%
- The three homework assignments graded for accuracy: 10% each, in total 30%
- Final exam: 25%.

Make-up exams are not given. If the student misses a midterm exam, that exam automatically becomes the lowest, and as such dropped. If a student needs to miss an additional exam due to extenuating circumstances, the weight of that exam is automatically distributed between the remaining two exams. Any further missed exam will result in an automatic zero grade. Missing the final exam will also result in an automatic zero grade. Note that once an exam is started, it counts towards the final grade and the student cannot opt out later!

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

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](#).

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.

ACCOMMODATION 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 the instructor of record immediately. Also 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' 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, please contact the instructor of record for such accommodations.

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.