ECON 3080-581 Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory

University of Colorado Boulder
Department of Economics
Summer 2025

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Office Hours: T,W,Th 9:00 - 10:30 on Zoom

Course home page: https://canvas.colorado.edu/

Course Description: This course will provide students with the tools to analyze the macroeconomy using mathematical and graphical models. The course is divided into two parts. First, we will study theories of the economy in the long run, paying attention to issues including the determinants of economic growth, inflation and the money supply, exchange rates, and unemployment. We will then turn our attention to the economy in the short run, studying the business cycle and stabilization policy. Throughout, we will emphasize the application of theoretical models to the study of current economic issues and consider the goals and effectiveness of several economic policies.

Prerequisites:

- ECON 2020

- ECON 1088 or MATH 1081 or MATH 1300 or MATH 1310 or APPM 1350.

Required Textbook: Mankiw, N. Gregory, Macroeconomics (12th edition) + Achieve Essentials.

- Homework assignments will be completed in Achieve. As such, please ensure you have access to Achieve, either through the CU Book Access program, or by purchasing directly from the publisher if you choose to opt out of CU Book Access.

Supplemental Readings and Data Exercises:

- Supplemental readings and other material will be provided through the Canvas system. Unless marked as optional these are REQUIRED readings. (I will test you on these). You will need to activate the University provided subscription to the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times.

Instructional Methodology and Delivery: This course is completely asynchronous and entirely online using the CU Canvas system. There are no real-time meetings. This course will use a combination of readings, online discussion, and other web-based resources available through Canvas. You will submit assignments online in accordance with the course outline.

Course Outline: The course content is broken into 14 lecture modules. We will cover 1 - 2 modules per week. The weekly class schedule titled "Course Outline" can be found under the "Syllabus" link on Canvas. In the event that there is a change to the schedule as listed in the syllabus, students will be notified via an announcement on Canvas.

Grading Policies:

Type of Assessment	Times Offered	Number Counted	Points per Assignment	Grade Points	Grade Percentage
Connections	14	12	10	120	12
Prep	14	12	15	180	18
Problem Sets and Exercises	11	10	40	400	40
Midterm	1	1	150	150	15
Final Exam	1	1	150	150	15

Letter Grade Distribution:

93.00 - 100.00	A		73.00 - 76.99	C
90.00 - 92.99	A-		70.00 - 72.99	C-
87.00 - 89.99	B+		67.00 - 69.99	D+
83.00 - 86.99	B		63.00 - 66.99	D
80.00 - 82.99	B-		60.00 - 62.99	D-
77.00 - 79.99	C+		0.00 - 59.99	F

Types of Assessments:

- **Connections:** Connections and Check-Ins are opportunities for you to make connections with the instructor and with your peers: meet and greet with the instructor, raise a discussion question, answer a discussion question, make concept maps, lead a study group, help a classmate with exam prep and so on. These are usually due Monday and Wednesday 11:59 pm. Budget about 30 minutes per connection activity.

- **Prep:** Prep activity revolves around math or writing about economics being used that week or concepts necessary to be successful in that module. Each Prep Assignment is worth 15 points. These are open book and open note. There will be 14 Prep activities, in total, and the lowest of these prep assignments will be dropped from your final grade calculation. These are usually due Tuesday and Thursday 11:59 pm. Credit is awarded only when completed by the due date. Budget about 30-60 minutes per prep.

- **Problem Sets and Exercises:** Each module there is a 40-point problem set, discussion, or data exercise assignment. There will be 11 Assignment activities, in total, and the lowest of these will be dropped from your final grade calculation. Budget around 2-3 hours per module assignment. These are usually due Wednesday and Friday 11:59 pm and credit is awarded only when completed by the due date.

  Problem Sets will include a combination of multiple choice, calculations, and short answer questions and will be open book and open notes. Take these seriously to prepare for exams. You will only be allowed one take per set.

Exercises will require you to manipulate and interpret data/theory related to the macroeconomic issues. These data exercises will be accessed through Canvas, Econ Low Down or FRED.

- **Exams:** There are two exams. The exams will be multiple choice, calculations, and short answer questions and will be closed book, and completed on Canvas in a proctored setting.

  Scheduled Times for Exams:

  - **Midterm:** June 26 - 29 (Thursday - Sunday)
  - **Final:** July 24 - 27 (Thursday - Sunday)

  You will need to plan for proctored examinations in this course. Proctors oversee exams according to University of Colorado Boulder guidelines to ensure academic integrity.

  Proctoring Options:
  If you are in Boulder or nearby, you can take your exam:

  1. With an online-class instructor at the Department of Economics. There is no cost for using this option. This option is only at selected times during the exam period. A sign-up sheet will be sent before exams.
  2. At the University Testing Center on-campus in Boulder, CO. There may be a cost for using the testing center. This option is only available M-F during regular business hours.
  3. With Proctorio or a comparable online proctoring service as determined by the Online Economics Dept. Online proctoring is a service that uses a webcam and microphone to ensure academic integrity. To use this service, you must have access to a computer with a webcam and a microphone. There is no cost for using Proctorio.

  If you outside of Boulder, you can take your exam:

  1. At an accredited college or university testing center in your town or nearby. There may be a cost for using this testing center.
  2. With Proctorio or a comparable online proctoring service as determined by the Online Economics Dept. Online proctoring is a service that uses a webcam and microphone to ensure academic integrity. To use this service, you must have access to a computer with a webcam and a microphone. There is no cost for using Proctorio.

  The course on Canvas has more detailed information about proctoring. If you are in a rural area or on a military base, you may need to be approved to use a person as a proctor and information is provided on Canvas for this approval process.

  Practice Exams: There will be two practice exams, one before each exam that you can take 3 times as part of the prep for that module.

- **Learning Curves:** Each chapter has an associated Learning curve activity on Achieve. You complete this activity by answering questions until you reach the target score. Once you reach the target score, you receive full credit (a grade of 100%) for completing the activity. Budget about 60 minutes per Learning assignment. These are not graded but are a great study tool. As you can do these over multiple days, I encourage you to start earlier in the week. You can turn reflection on these as part of check-ins.

- **Extra Credit:** I typically offer up to 50 points of extra credit (= maximum 5% of the course grade) during the semester for completing certain activities. These extra credit opportunities will be available to all and announced on Canvas. Extra class activity points will also roll over for extra credit (max 50 points).

Course Policies:

- **Announcements:** Please monitor Canvas for course announcements. I send a course announcement start of every module-and more as required. Please check the course "announcements" section, and your official "Colorado.edu" email account in a timely fashion. You should choose to have canvas "notify" you immediately for course announcements.

- **Email:** In addition to office hours, please always feel free to reach out via email. Please use my colorado.edu email address. I will try to respond to all emails by the end of the following business day. According to FERPA, I am not allowed to discuss grades via email. If you have any questions or concerns about your grade, please come see me during office hours.

- **Late Work:** Late work can be submitted up to 2 days after the due date, with a 10% penalty per day. If you have a valid, appropriate reason, I may waive the penalty. Personal vacations, trips, or travel delays are not valid reasons to waive the late submission penalty. You can still submit late work within the 2-day window, but the 10% penalty per day will apply. I drop the lowest assignment grades in each category (except exams). This allows you to miss a whole module for one-off events without significantly impacting your grade. For example, minor illnesses or unforeseen situations won't hurt you, thanks to the drop policy. **Late Work is not accepted for Exams, Connections - Check Ins, and some time bound Assignments. They must be turned in on time!**

- **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/.

- **ChatGPT, AI help:** New AI tools like ChatGPT can be an amazing assistant much like a calculator. The best way to use is it for idea generation, synthesis, rephrasing, essentializing and gathering information about the typical understanding of a topic. However, it should be you that guides, verifies, and crafts your ultimate answers, so please don't just cut, and paste without understanding. The material generated by these programs may also be inaccurate, incomplete, or otherwise problematic. Be aware that use may also stifle your own independent thinking and creativity. In short:

  1. You may not use AI-based tools to cheat on assessments.
  2. You may not submit any work/answers generated by an AI program as your own.
  3. You may use AI programs e.g., ChatGPT to help generate ideas and brainstorm.
  4. If you include "any" material generated by an AI program must be clearly marked as such, including the specific tool(s) used. For example, if you use ChatGPT, you must cite "ChatGPT. (YYYY, Month DD of query). "Text of your query." Generated using Open AI. https://chat.openai.com/"
  5. You must be transparent in how you used the AI-based tool, including what work is your original contribution. An AI detector such as GPTZero may be used to detect AI-driven work.
  6. You must ensure your use of AI-based tools does not violate any copyright or intellectual property laws.
  7. Lazy use of AI (cutting and pasting without analyzing content) will result in a "0".

University Policies:

- **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. Understanding the course's syllabus is a vital part in adhering to the Honor Code.

All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution: StudentConduct@colorado.edu. 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.

- **Accommodation for Disabilities, Temporary Medical Conditions, and Medical Isolation:** If you qualify for accommodations 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 accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the Disability Services website. 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.

  If you have a temporary illness, injury or required medical isolation for which you require adjustment, please make arrangements with me before the relevant due dates.

- **Accommodation for Religious Obligations:** Campus policy requires faculty to provide reasonable accommodations for students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Please communicate the need for a religious accommodation in a timely manner. If you have a conflict, please make arrangements with me no later than the first week of the semester. See the campus policy regarding religious observances for full details.

- **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.

- **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, marital 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.

- **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 abuse (dating or domestic violence), stalking, and related retaliation by or against members of our community on- and off-campus. The Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) addresses these concerns, and individuals who have been subjected to misconduct can contact OIEC at 303-492-2127 or email CUreport@colorado.edu. Information about university policies, reporting options, and OIEC support resources including confidential services can be found on the OIEC website.

  Please know that faculty and graduate instructors are required to inform OIEC when they are made aware of incidents related to these concerns regardless of when or where something occurred. This is to ensure that individuals impacted receive outreach from OIEC about their options and support resources. To learn more about reporting and support for a variety of concerns, visit the Don't Ignore It page.

- **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.

Course Schedule:

Week	Date	Modules	Chapters	Assignments (due)
1	Jun 2 - 8	1-2	1-3	Connection 1 (M) Prep 1 (T) Connection 2 (W) Prep 2 (Th) Exercise 1 (F)
2	Jun 9 - 15	3-4	4,7	Connection 3 (M) Prep 3 (T) Exercise 2 (W) Connection 4 (W) Prep 4 (Th) Exercise 3 (F)
3	Jun 16 - 22	5-6	5,6	Connection 5 (M) Prep 5 (T) Exercise 4 (W) Connection 6 (W) Prep 6 (F) Exercise 5 (F)
4	Jun 23 - 29	7		Connection 7 (W) Prep 7 (Th) **Midterm** (F-Sun.)
5	Jun 30 - July 6	8-9	8,12	Connection 8 (M) Prep 8 (T) Exercise 6 (W) Connection 9 (W) Prep 9 (Th) Exercise 7 (Sun.)
6	July 7 - 13	10-11	13,14	Connection 10 (M) Prep 10 (T) Exercise 8 (W) Connection 11 (W) Prep 11 (Th) Exercise 9 (F)
7	July 14 - 20	12-13	9,10	Connection 12 (M) Prep 12 (T) Exercise 10 (W) Connection 13 (W) Prep 13 (Th) Exercise 11 (F)
8	July 21 - 27	14		Connection 14 (W) Prep 14 (Th) **Final** (F-Sun.)