

University of Colorado Boulder  
Econ 1078-001: Principles of Macroeconomics  
Syllabus, Fall 2023

---

## Introduction

### Instructor: Alexander Bentz

Email: [alexander.bentz@colorado.edu](mailto:alexander.bentz@colorado.edu)

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 10-10:11 AM, ECON 309C (3<sup>rd</sup> floor)

**You are always welcome to contact me through email or come to office hours!** However, if the questions have been addressed in this syllabus, I will refer you back to this file, or if questions are about technical problems, I will refer you to the module “Course Information” in our Canvas course page.

I check my emails regularly and will usually respond within 24 hours. **If you have not received a response to your email within 48 hours, please email me again.** Always be sure to use your university email address because sometimes gmail and yahoo email accounts are filtered into the spam folder.

### Prerequisites

None.

### Course Description

In order to succeed in economics, a student must be well-versed in a variety of mathematical concepts. The purpose of the two Math Tools courses (1078 and its counterpart 1088) is to prepare students for the math they will encounter in future economics courses. Math will help you understand and describe the way firms and consumers optimize decisions subject to constraints. It will also provide the building blocks you will use in your statistics and econometrics courses, which will enable you to apply economics concepts to real-world data. These skills are crucial to the study of economics.

**On Math:** I don't believe that you can be “not a Math person”. We all do complicated Math operations every day (e.g., if you've ever ridden a bike). What is different about studying Math is that we will take the time to describe these operations and practice communicating concepts to others. If you keep studying Math, eventually you will struggle. That is an important part of learning. The best part about Math is that you can always return to the basics and rebuild your understanding from there. If you are struggling with concepts in this class, come to office hours ASAP and we will work together to build up your understanding.

### Required Materials

- Textbook: Essential Mathematics for Economic Analysis. Knut Sydsaster and Peter Hammond with Arne Strom. **4th Edition.**
  - Various editions of this textbook are widely available online. Other versions are acceptable; however, chapter numbers may differ. It is your responsibility to match up the chapter topics.

- You will use this textbook in ECON 1088.
- Camera (the camera on a smartphone is fine) or scanner (ask the library) to turn in homework.

## Course Structure

### Assignments and Grading

Your final grade is determined as a weighted average Homework (30%), two Midterms (20% each) and a Final (30%). Grades will be updated in Canvas throughout the semester.

Following department policy, the median grade in the course will be a B-. I will give as many people Bs or above as I am allowed. I will not under any circumstances change or bump up any individual grades at the end of the semester. If you think there are any mistakes, please reach out immediately; however, the grade you earn will be final. **I will not respond to requests to individually bump up grades at the end of the semester.**

Homework	25%
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Exam 3	15%
Final Exam	30%

**Homework.** Math requires practice. Only by writing out your logic can you test your understanding. Homework assignments will require you to write out your work for each problem. *Answers that don't show your work will receive little to no credit.* While HW is an important part of this course, note that you cannot do well in this course without doing well on the exams. Use the time spent on homework to build your understanding of the material. While it might be tempting to cut corners or cheat on homework, that won't do you much good in this course or in the long run.

I will assign 13 weekly **homework due each Monday at the beginning of class.**

I will accept late HW up to 1 day late (for most homework, Tuesday at noon) and assess at 20% late penalty. Please email me late homework. I will not grade homework submitted more than one day late. Missing HW assignments will receive a grade of zero. This is so that I can provide you timely feedback without revealing answers before problems are due. I will post solutions Tuesday afternoon after late submissions are due. I will drop your 2 lowest HW scores, including up to two missed assignments.

**Midterms.** Midterms consist of multiple choice questions that cover all the material covered since the previous midterm. They are not cumulative by design; however, the material in this course naturally builds on previous material. For the sake of the final grade, I will drop your Midterm I score if it lower than the other two scores. That means that if you score lower on the first midterm, your scores on the Midterm II and Midterm III will account for 45% of your grade cumulatively. If you score higher on Midterm I than on either Midterm II or Midterm III, each midterm will account for 15% of your grade as in the table above. Note that the material on Midterm I will likely be much easier for most students than the material on Midterm II and Midterm III.

**Final Exam.** The final consists of multiple choice questions that cover all the material taught in class (cumulative). The format will be similar to the midterms.

**Curves.** I will attempt to adjust midterm scores (depending on the class average) when they are graded so that your Final Grade in Canvas is a pretty good reflection of what it will be at the end of the semester (conditional on your performance for the rest of the semester). The final class median will be an 82.

**Attendance.** Attendance is expected in this course. The material and examples covered in class will directly prepare you for homework and exams. **To incentivize attendance, I will cover one (or more) problem from each homework during class.** This problem and the solutions will not appear on class slides (uploaded to Canvas). Given that homework is a large portion of your grade, attendance will help your homework grade.

## **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](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu) for further assistance.

If you have a temporary medical condition or required medical isolation for which you require accommodation, please email me as soon as possible and I will work with you to determine an appropriate accommodation. You do *not* need to provide details on your medical condition or a “doctor’s note”; however, I will need to know the full extent to which you expect any condition to affect your ability to complete the required coursework. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 email me with details on any conflicts with exam dates within the first two weeks of class. I will be happy to make an accommodation at that time. I will *not* provide any accommodations for religious observance not communicated at the beginning of the semester.

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.