

University of Colorado Boulder
Econ 2020-200: Principles of Macroeconomics
Syllabus, Fall 2020

** All time mentioned in this syllabus is Mountain Time, unless stated otherwise*

Introduction

Instructor: Alexander Bentz

Email: alexander.bentz@colorado.edu

Online Office Hours on Zoom: Tuesdays 3:30pm-5:30pm

Please sign up for a time slot through this link: <https://calendly.com/alexander-bentz>

You will get a confirmation email with Zoom link in it. You can cancel or reschedule the meeting through links in this confirmation email.

You are always welcome to contact me through email or come to office hours! However, if the questions have been address 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 really appreciate if you check this syllabus and our Canvas course page before emailing me.**

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

A passing grade (C-) in Principle of Microeconomics (ECON 2010) is required. If you have not satisfied this prerequisite, please contact me immediately.

Recitations

You need to sign up for one of the standard in-person recitation sessions.

Recitations start from the second week of the semester. Information on recitation will be provided by your TA prior to the second week of courses. No students will be required to attend recitation in-person. Everyone will be provided remote alternatives.

Course Description

Macroeconomics is concerned with the behavior of the economy as a whole: understanding it is a necessary condition for households, firms, and policymakers to make more informed decisions. This course is a first step in this direction: during the semester, you will be introduced to the main building blocks of the modern macroeconomic theory.

By the end of the course you will learn how to think as a macroeconomist:

1. how to isolate the main forces behind market outcomes,
2. how to measure them,
3. and how to assess the impact of monetary/fiscal policies and changes in the economic environment on macroeconomic aggregates in the short and long run

In the process you will learn how to boil down complex macroeconomic problems to their essential features, making use of a powerful tool: assumptions.

Required Materials

Textbook and MindTap

Principles of Macroeconomics by N. Gregory Mankiw, 9th edition through MindTap Inclusive Access. Note that MindTap is required for this course. The link for registration to MindTap is on our Canvas course page, under module “Course Information”.

To keep the cost of your course materials as low as possible and access to those materials as convenient as possible, we have collaborated with the CU Book Store and the publisher to deliver those materials through a program called “Inclusive Access”, which will appear on your tuition and fee bill as “Day 1 Digital Access”.

What does this mean for you?

1. You will receive access to all your course materials, digitally, on the first day of classes, through the course Canvas page.
2. You will see a “Day 1 Digital Access” charge on your tuition and fee bill for: \$93.66; This is a guaranteed lowest price, discounted by the publisher, and not available outside this course.
3. You have the option to opt out. This means: you won’t pay for anything, but you lose all access to the course materials, including homework managers like Connect or MindTap.
 - a. You can opt out by: using a link in a reminder email you will receive with the subject heading “Day 1 Digital Access”.
 - b. You must opt out no later than September 9th, otherwise you will be charged for these materials.
4. Please keep in mind that “opting out” means that your access to these materials will be turned OFF, and you will have no way to complete assignments. Although you must have these materials to pass the course, federal law mandates that you have the option of declining these materials. To do so, please visit: www.cubookstore.com/optout.

This course requires the use of MindTap, which either is not fully accessible to users using assistive technology or has not yet been reviewed fully for accessibility. If you use assistive technology to access the course material, please contact your faculty member and Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by e-mail at dsinfo@colorado.edu as soon as possible to discuss other effective means for providing equal alternate access.

Proctorio

To take the midterms and final, you will be required to use Proctorio, an online proctoring service. See the Canvas site for more information. Complete the ungraded practice quiz during the first two weeks of the semester. If you have technical difficulties with the ungraded practice quiz, email me immediately. If you do not complete the ungraded practice quiz at least two weeks prior to the first midterm and have technical difficulties that prevent you from completing the midterms or final, you will receive a zero for that exam. If you have completed the ungraded practice quiz at least one week prior to the first midterm and contact me about technical difficulties prior to the exam due date, I will consider granting an extension.

Class Emails and Announcements

To make sure you receive class emails and announcements:

1. Update Canvas email address: Use the "account" link on the left tool bar to update your email and notification settings. Make sure you have all announcements notify you "immediately" because important course information is shared through announcements.
2. Update University email: <https://oit.colorado.edu/identikey-accounts/students> to make sure that the address is the one you regularly check.

Course Structure

Each week we will unlock one module on Canvas.

A typical module (that is, a module not for an exam week) is structured to simulate what you would be expected to have in a week if we had this course in person: lectures, recitation, and homework.

For each of these modules, you are expected to do the following:

1. Watch the lecture videos, read the textbook, and complete the quizzes embedded into the lecture videos.
2. Finish "Recitation" section.
3. Finish "Homework" section.
4. Contact a TA or the instructor if you have any question about this course (contact information can be found at the beginning of this syllabus).

We will have an exam module for an exam week.

Assignments and Grading

Your final grade is determined as a weighted average among quiz questions embedded into lecture videos (5%), Homework (20%), Recitation (10%), two quizzes (5%), two Midterms (30%) and a Final (30%). Grades will be updated in Canvas throughout the semester.

I will not under any circumstances change or bump up any individual grades at the end of the semester. If you think there is 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.

Lecture Quizzes	5%
Recitation	10%
Homework	20%
Pre-midterm Quizzes	5%
Midterms	30%
Final Exam	30%

Embedded Quizzes. The embedded quizzes will be based directly on content in the lecture videos in each module. For the sake of the final grade, I will drop the three lowest quiz grades. Homework should be submitted online before 11:59pm on the due date.

Homework. Homework consists of fourteen problem sets designed to reinforce your understanding of the material covered in class. Any late submission is associated with a penalty of 50% of the grade (that is you can get at most 10 out of 20). For the sake of the final grade, I will drop the lowest three homework grades.

Quizzes. Quizzes will consist of multiple choice questions that will be similar to those on the midterms. They are designed to help you assess whether you are prepared for the midterms. They will take approximately 15-20 minutes. As with the exams, you will be required to use Proctorio for these quizzes.

Midterms. Midterms will be completed in Canvas and be timed (see "Exams" above for information on proctoring). Calculators are allowed. 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, if you score higher on Midterm II than Midterm I, I will drop your Midterm I and assign 30% of your grade to Midterm II. If you score higher on Midterm I, I will assign 15% of your grade to each midterm.

Final Exam. The Final will be completed in Canvas and be timed. The exam consists of multiple choice questions that cover all the material taught in class (theory and recitations).

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 average will be an 82.

University Policies

Accommodation for Disabilities

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 or injury, see [Temporary Medical Condition](#) under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. 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](#).

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](#).

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.

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 your instructor as soon as possible and no later than September 13th**. I will be happy to accommodate you.

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

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct, intimate partner abuse (including 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, discrimination, harassment, and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

Requirements for COVID-19

As a matter of public health and safety due to the pandemic, all members of the CU Boulder community and all visitors to campus must follow university, department and building requirements, and public health orders in place to reduce the risk of spreading infectious disease. Required safety measures at CU Boulder relevant to the classroom setting include:

- maintain 6-foot distancing when possible,
- wear a face covering in public indoor spaces and outdoors while on campus consistent with state and county health orders,
- clean local work area,
- practice hand hygiene,
- follow public health orders, and
- if sick and you live off campus, do not come onto campus (unless instructed by a CU Healthcare professional), or if you live on-campus, please alert [CU Boulder Medical Services](#).

Students who fail to adhere to these requirements will be asked to leave class, and students who do not leave class when asked or who refuse to comply with these requirements will be referred to [Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution](#). For more information, see the policies on [COVID-19 Health and Safety](#) and [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#). If you require accommodation because a disability prevents you from fulfilling these safety measures, please see the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus.

Before returning to campus, all students must complete the [COVID-19 Student Health and Expectations Course](#). Before coming on to campus each day, all students are required to complete a [Daily Health Form](#).

Students who have tested positive for COVID-19, have symptoms of COVID-19, or have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for or had symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home and complete the [Health Questionnaire and Illness Reporting Form](#) remotely. In this class, if you are sick or quarantined, please email the instructor as soon as possible. I will grant extensions as necessary and will not require documentation of health issues to do so. All requirements in this course can be completed remotely.