

ECONOMICS 2020
Principles of Macroeconomics
Spring 2013

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Office Hours: T,R 11am-12:10pm; T 2:45-5pm; Friday afternoons by appointment

Emails:

Because of the large class size, having to read through excessive and often frivolous emails can take time away from other students' serious concerns. So please try to avoid emailing me questions for which you already have access to the answer (e.g. questions that are answered in the syllabus).

Prerequisites

Students must have completed ECON 2010. I assume that you did not only take the class, but also that you understand and remember the content. The prerequisite must be strictly enforced.

Course Description:

Principles of Macroeconomics (ECON 2020) is a companion course with Principles of Microeconomics. Together the courses introduce you to the "economic way of thinking". The central fact that underlies economics is the fact of "scarcity" in the short run. By this it is meant that our wants exceed the goods freely available from nature in the immediate future – hence choices must be made among the many things we want. This leads to the fundamental economic questions, narrowly defined, which face all societies: What to produce? How to produce? And for whom to produce? But economics really is much broader in scope than this; it is really the study of wise decision-making in all areas of life.

The issues we discuss are complex but they do lend themselves extremely well to critical thinking and rational inquiry, which are the guiding principles of this course. Our goal is to become and remain informed about issues related to economics and, even more importantly, acquire the ability to think about complex issues in a logical objective manner. Thinking critically is what permits us to differentiate between the illogical and the sensible, between the misleading use of statistics and anecdotal evidence, the reasonable presentation of information.

[A more detailed outline of covered material and chapters will be handed out or posted separately.](#)

As well as covering the material in the text, we will discuss current issues and how they relate to the economy. **I will post notes on the course website, but these notes and the book are meant to complement what you learn in class – they are not substitutes for lecture materials!**

Readings: Cowen and Tabarrok; **Modern Principles: Macroeconomics 2nd edition.**

Recitation:

Your TAs will give the recitation grade. They will be based on problem sets, and other assignments that your TAs and I think may be useful. The TAs will explain their grading policy more thoroughly in recitation.

Homework Assignments:

You will be given optional problem sets (on EconPortal) that may be very helpful in your preparation for exams. I will cover all necessary material to complete these problem sets and prepare for exams in class. In addition, I will post some extra study questions before each exam. These will not account for part of your grade, but they may be very helpful. You will also be given assignments in recitation.

In-class Assignments:

There will be 7 in-class assignments during the semester each worth 1% of your total grade (under either option). **If you miss an in-class assignment, you will receive a zero unless you are ill and can provide proof (e.g. a letter from the student health center), or have another valid excuse (e.g. religious observances).** **If you miss an in-class assignment with a valid excuse then the weight of your final will be increased.** In-class assignment dates can be found on the [course outline](#).

Clicker Points:

We will use “clickers” during lectures to answer questions as we cover the material. Much more information on clickers can be found [here](#).

Exams:

There will be four exams, and a cumulative final. Tests will consist of multiple-choice questions and occasionally some longer problems. Exams (other than the final) are not cumulative, but the material does build on itself so it is important to understand all of the concepts as we go. **Exams will be given in class on the days listed. If you miss an exam, then the weight of your final will be increased. There will be NO makeup exams, and NO EXAMS WILL BE DROPPED!!**

Exam Schedule:

Exam I: Thursday, February 7th

Exam II: Tuesday, March 5th

Exam III: Tuesday, April 9th

Exam IV: Thursday, April 25th

Final Exam: Monday, May 6th at 1:30pm in Math 100

If you have three or more final exams scheduled on the same day, you are entitled to arrange an alternative exam time for the **last** exam or exams scheduled on that day. To qualify for rescheduling final exam times, you must provide evidence that you have three or more exams on the same day, and arrangements must be made with your instructor no later than the end of the sixth week of the semester (Friday, February 22, 2012).

It is actually not possible for our exam to be the third one on Monday, May 6th, so our exam time will not be altered for this reason. If you do have 3 or more finals on one day, then you should be sure to talk to your professor for the **last** final scheduled on that day **before** 02/22/12 – I will not allow you to switch the final for this class just because you were late in notifying your other professor.

Grading:

4 Exams (15% each)	60%
Recitation	6%
In-class assignments	7%
Clicker points	7%
Cumulative Final	20%

I adhere strictly to the University guidelines on Incompletes (“An ‘I’ is given only when students, *beyond their control*, have been unable to complete course requirements. A substantial amount of work must have been *satisfactorily completed* before approval for such a grade is completed.”). Bad grades, unsatisfactory performance, too many credit hours, work conflicts, etc. are not reasons for an incomplete.

I am adamant about giving each student an equal opportunity to perform well in the course, so there will be no extra credit opportunities that are not offered to the entire class. *You should focus your efforts on learning the material and doing well on the exams.*

Grading Disputes:

If you have a general grading dispute, see your TA. If you cannot resolve the dispute with your TA, then your TA will contact me. Do NOT email me about a grading dispute.

If you have a dispute on a test, then you must put your issue in writing and submit it to your TA. Subsequently, your entire exam will be regraded. Do NOT email me about a grading dispute – CU policies state that grades cannot be discussed over email and I cannot respond to any grading questions over email!

Grading Scale:

<u>Your score</u>	<u>Grade</u>
92% to 100%	A
90% to 91%	A-
88% to 89%	B+
82% to 87%	B
80% to 81%	B-
78% to 79%	C+
72% to 77%	C
70% to 71%	C-
68% to 69%	D+
62% to 67%	D
60% to 61%	D-
Below 59.5%	F

Additional Notes:

(1) *If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to your professor a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner (for exam accommodations provide your letter at least one week prior to the exam) so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by e-mail at dsinfo@colorado.edu.*

If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Injuries under Quick Links at Disability Services website (<http://disabilityservices.colorado.edu/>) and discuss your needs with your professor.

(2) *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. For this class, please try to let me know early in the semester if you think you will have any conflicts. I will strictly adhere to all university policies. See full details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html
A comprehensive calendar of the religious holidays most commonly observed by CU-Boulder students is at <http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/>*

(3) *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 differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code*

(4) *The University of Colorado Boulder (CU-Boulder) is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. The University of Colorado does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status in admission and access to, and treatment and employment in, its educational programs and activities. (Regent Law, Article 10, amended 11/8/2001). CU-Boulder will not tolerate acts of discrimination or harassment based upon Protected Classes or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. For purposes of this CU-Boulder policy, "Protected Classes" refers to race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or veteran status. Individuals who believe they have been discriminated against should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://hr.colorado.edu/dh/>*

(5) *All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://honorcode.colorado.edu>*