



Principles of Macroeconomics - ECON 2020-200
Spring 2023

Instructor: Dr. Mark Valkovci

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Lecture: MWF 230-320p in MATH 100

Teaching Assistants: To Be Announced

Office Hours

M 12-2p in ECON 04D

T 12-2p via Zoom

Appointments also available

INSTRUCTOR BIO:

Dr. Mark Valkovci received his Doctorate in Economics from the University of Colorado Boulder in 2021. In his research he explores the economic impacts of environmental and labor policies, the political economy of pollution, climate change and many other topics. Mark enjoys teaching macroeconomics and environmental economics due not only to his personal interests in those areas, but also because the connections between the economy and the environment grow ever-more-important for the global society. In his free time, Mark enjoys being a huge nerd by reading books/comics, binge watching the shows/movies, and playing the board/video games of many fandoms. His favorite fandom is Star Wars, but he also spends time exploring the universes of Avatar the Last Airbender, Harry Potter, Doctor Who, Star Trek, Lucifer, Sherlock, and the list grows each year.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

TopHat *Principles of Macroeconomics* Online Course with electronic textbook

*****IMPORTANT*****

You do not need to purchase anything online or from the bookstore for this course. The materials are provided through a program called “Day One Access.” In these types of programs, the bookstore automatically bills you for the materials whenever you enroll in the course. If you drop the course by the drop date you will not be charged for the course materials. The TopHat platform (online homework engine, textbook, and attendance system) will show up as a \$77.25 charge on your tuition bill. If you have any questions please email me or the university bookstore.

Message from the Bookstore

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 bookstore and the publisher to deliver you those materials through a program called “Inclusive Access,” which will appear on your tuition 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, the Canvas course page will become available, through which you will access the digital materials
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 that you won't be charged for the materials, but you will lose all access to the course materials including the homework managers like TopHat.
 - 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 February 1st, otherwise you will be charged for the materials
4. Keep in mind that by opting out you will lose access to all the TopHat materials and assignments. You will have no other way to complete these 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 follow the instructions in the email mentioned above.

COURSE WEBSITE:

Canvas is our class website:

- Login using your University of Colorado Boulder identikey and password
<https://canvas.colorado.edu/>
- Under Course List, click "ECON 2020-200: Principles of Macroeconomics"
 - Navigate to the recitations homepage in Canvas to find homework assignments, worksheets, and helpful video guides as well as to keep up-to-date with upcoming assignments
 - **Canvas is your one-stop-shop to determine the upcoming assignments and assessments in the course. All assessments and due dates can be found in Canvas. The Canvas calendar can be used to check these due dates.**
- Note: All email correspondence will be through your CU Boulder email address.
 - Do not use the Canvas email or messages, it is not checked.

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 toolbar to update your email and notification settings. Make sure you have all announcements notify you "immediately" because important course information is shared through announcements
 - a. Announcement will also appear on the Canvas course homepage every time you enter the course site
2. Update University email: <https://oit.colorado.edu/identikey-accounts/students> to make sure that the address is the one you regularly check

COURSE CONTENT:

This course covers the fundamentals of macroeconomics theories and principles as well as their practical application. By analyzing national production, unemployment, business cycles, and the impacts of monetary and fiscal policies, you will learn vital tools in understanding the macroeconomy. Since economics is essentially a mathematically-based manner of thinking and problem solving, you will learn how to relate mathematical and economics concepts in order to measure changes in welfare and utility, among other things. My goal for this course is to introduce to you the primary theories and concepts being practiced today and to use real-world examples as much as possible to illustrate the impacts of different economic policies.

PREREQUISITES:

There is only one prerequisite for this course, ECON 2010 - Principles of Microeconomics. If you have not *already completed ECON 2010 with a satisfactory grade* you must contact me immediately. Previous economics courses through AP/CHS or other high school programs may allow you to take this class simultaneously with principles of microeconomics, but students who have passed ECON 2010 are given priority when determining the final class

roster. If you fail to notify me before the administrative add/drop deadline, you will be automatically removed from the class roster with *no notice*.

COURSE STRUCTURE:

This course proceeds through the online book in a module format where each module contains one or more chapters of the textbook. These modules will appear in both Canvas and on the TopHat course websites. Each module contains textbook readings, end-of-chapter questions, homework assignments, critical thinking questions, lecture slides and supplemental materials for each chapter contained within the module. There are 16 modules scheduled for the course so we will proceed at a pace of approximately one module per week.

Quizzes

Of primary importance to the structure and layout of the course is the implementation of biweekly quizzes in place of midterms. The timing of the quizzes is set regardless of where we are in the material. (See Tentative Schedule below for Quiz dates) All quizzes will take place on Fridays with the **first quiz occurring on Friday, February 3rd**. All quizzes take place during class and are held in the lecture hall (MATH 100). Quizzes account for a total of 30% of your overall grade in the course. I will drop the lowest quiz for the purpose of calculating your course grade.

Readings

TopHat contains interactive online textbook chapters. This means that in the process of reading the chapters each week, you will be asked to complete questions of varying type and difficulty that relate to the material you are reading. Reading assignments are due before the concepts are discussed in class so that students are familiar with the material that is about to be presented. The in-chapter questions answered during the reading are graded 90% for participation and 10% for correctness (i.e., you can incorrectly answer every single question in the chapter and still earn a score of 90% for the chapter reading). The reading assignments account for 8% of your course grade.

Discussions/In-lecture questions

Most lectures will start off with a series of discussion questions designed to engage students in a guided discourse about the material they have recently read and that we will be discussing in class that day. Discussion questions (open ended/free response) are graded for participation while the in-lecture questions are graded for both participation (50%) and correctness (50%). For the discussion questions, students will be able to write in responses anonymously to open-ended questions that can help guide the course of the lecture and relate the concepts discussed in class to real-world events. The in-lecture questions will appear throughout each set of lecture slides in the form of multiple-choice questions. These multiple-choice questions are graded half on participation and half on answering correctly. Together, the discussion questions and in-lecture questions are worth 6% of your course grade.

Homework

There is one homework assignment corresponding to each chapter. The homework assignments will include a mix of multiple choice, matching, graphing, fill-in-the-blank, and ordering questions to help you practice the most important concepts from the chapter. Homework assignments are always due after we have completed the chapter in class. All homework assignments are due at 11:59 pm (Mountain Time) on the assigned due date unless otherwise specified. Late submissions will not be accepted. Homework assignments account for a total of 12% of your course grade. For the purpose of calculating your course grade I will drop your two lowest homework grades.

Attendance

Attendance for this course is mandatory. Attendance is recorded through the TopHat website during lecture through the use of their attendance technology which you can access through the app on your phone or the TopHat website (if you are using your laptop). You do not need iclickers for this class. You may be excused from class for legitimate reasons such as health concerns, including mental health, family emergencies, and other University approved reasons (e.g., athletes may be excused for sporting events). In order to be excused from class please make sure to email me before the start of class that day. Attendance is worth 8% of your course grade. For the purpose of calculating your course grade, I will drop 5 unexcused absences.

Recitation

Recitations are held once a week starting in the second week of classes. They are led by graduate economic student instructors (teaching assistants) who have expertise in the subject material. Your teaching assistant is an invaluable resource to your success in the course! Recitations are designed to allow students to have an instructor-led review of the most important material covered in classes and occur in much smaller settings (20-30 students) so that everyone has the ability to ask questions. Each week, your TA will lead you through a guided worksheet with practice problems and exercises that you will be able to take home to use as a study tool for the quizzes. Recitation is mandatory and worth 16% of your course grade.

Final Exam

University policy requires the implementation of a final examinations in lecture classes. The final exam in this class is comprehensive and will be conducted on Sunday, May 7th from 11:30am to 2pm. The final exam takes place in the same lecture hall as class and is worth 20% of your course grade.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

Your final grade in this course is determined by a weighted average of attendance, homework, quizzes, recitation, and your final exam score. The final class average will be about 80%.

Assignment Group	Individual Item Weight	Number of Items	Number of Items Dropped from Grade Calculation	Number of Graded Items	Total Weight of Assignment Group
Attendance	0.21%	43	5	38	8%
Homework	0.92%	15	2	13	12%
Reading Assignments	0.62%	15	2	13	8%
Discussions/In-lecture Questions	0.16%	43	5	38	6%
Quizzes	6%	6	1	5	30%
Final Exam	20%	1	0	1	20%
Recitation	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	16%
				Total	100%

I will not under any circumstances change or bump up any individual grades at the end of the semester. Any requests for such will be ignored. However, if you believe an error has been made in the calculation of your grade, please contact me immediately.

Bonus and Extra Credit

Throughout the semester there are several opportunities for extra credit. Most of the manners in which extra credit are offered require continued commitment to the coursework and active participation.

1. Perfect Attendance

Students who attend all lecture periods without using any of the automatic drops, will earn a 3% bonus to their final exam score. PLEASE do not come to class if you are sick.

2. Perfect Reading Assignment Completion Rate

There are 16 Reading Assignments in TopHat (one for each chapter). The reading assignments consist of answering each of the in-book questions that show up throughout the ebook. Students that complete all questions from all chapters without using any of the provided drops will automatically earn 3% bonus on their final exam score.

3. Perfect Practice Test Completion

Each chapter will have an optional “Practice Test” available for any student to complete in order to help reinforce the concepts from class and practice answering questions that will be similar to the questions that appear on the quizzes in class. Each practice test consists of 20 multiple choice questions from the specified chapter. The practice tests must be completed by the assigned due dates in order to be eligible for the bonus at the end of the semester. Students who complete at 16 practice tests will earn 4% bonus on their final exam score.

Together, it is possible to earn 10% bonus added to your final exam score.

Other extra credit assignments may be posted throughout the semester. However, I only offer extra credit to the entire class. I do not, under any circumstances, allow individual students to complete extra credit or bonus assignments.

COURSE RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

Here I discuss the rules and expectations for students throughout the course of the semester. Infractions against classrooms rules can result in lost attendance points, class suspension or expulsion from the course so please make sure to familiarize yourself with the rules.

1. Be kind and respectful to fellow students, teaching assistants and the instructor
 - a. This rule is of utmost importance and includes all forms of communication with other students. This classroom is a safe space for all people and should be treated in such a way. Making any other student well uncomfortable or unwelcome will **not** be tolerated
2. Absolutely no photography, audio, or video recording of lectures is allowed without express **written** confirmation by myself
 - a. Lectures are recorded and posted to Canvas in a manner accessible to everyone
 - b. I own the copyright to my own work and presentations
 - c. Under Colorado Law it is illegal to record (audio or video) of another person without their explicit consent.
3. No inappropriate language
 - a. This applies to verbal and written communication. Lectures will often start with a series of free-response discussion questions in which students can type their own answer. The posts are anonymous to other students but not to me. If I find that you are making inappropriate comments you will lose your ability to answer discussion questions and forfeit those points.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

The next page contains the tentative course schedule for this semester. Please note the individual due dates for each assignment. Some assignments/assessments have common due dates in order to help you form a routine for completing coursework.

Week	Chapters/Concepts	Assignments and Assessments	Assignment Due Dates
Week 1: 1/17 - 1/21	Syllabus TopHat Introduction and Walkthrough Module 1: Demand, Supply and Markets	Complete TopHat registration Module 1 Readings (Ungraded) Module 1 Homework (Ungraded)	Friday, 1/20 Monday, 1/23 Wednesday, 1/25
Week 2: 1/22-1/28	Module 2: Using Supply and Demand Module 3: An Introduction to Macroeconomic Analysis	Module 2 Readings Module 2 Homework Module 3 Readings Module 3 Homework	Wednesday, 1/25 Wednesday, 2/1 Friday, 1/27 Wednesday, 2/1
Week 3: 1/29-2/4	Module 4: Economic Models	Module 4 Readings Module 4 Homework Quiz #1	Wednesday, 2/1 Wednesday, 2/8 Friday 2/3
Week 4: 2/5-2/11	Module 5: The U.S and World Economies	Module 5 Readings Module 5 Homework	Monday, 2/6 Wednesday, 2/15
Week 5: 2/12-2/18	Module 6: Gross Domestic Product	Module 6 Readings Module 6 Homework Quiz #2	Monday, 2/13 Wednesday, 2/22 Friday, 2/17
Week 6: 2/19-2/25	Module 7: Economic Growth	Module 7 Readings Module 7 Homework	Monday, 2/20 Wednesday, 3/1
Week 7: 2/26-3/4	Module 8: Spending	Module 8 Readings Module 8 Homework Quiz #3	Monday, 2/27 Wednesday, 3/8 Friday, 3/3
Week 8: 3/5-3/11	Module 9: Money	Module 9 Readings Module 9 Homework	Monday, 3/6 Wednesday, 3/15
Week 9: 3/12-3/18	Module 10: Aggregate Demand	Module 10 Readings Module 10 Homework Quiz #4	Monday, 3/13 Wednesday, 3/22 Friday, 3/17
Week 10: 3/19-3/25	Module 11: Full-employment and a New Long-run Equilibrium	Module 11 Readings Module 11 Homework	Monday, 3/20 Wednesday, 4/5
Week 11: 3/26-4/1	Spring Break	No Assignments or Assessments	
Week 12: 4/2-4/8	Module 12: Monetary Policy	Module 12 Readings Module 12 Homework Quiz #5	Monday, 4/3 Wednesday, 4/12 Friday, 4/7
Week 13: 4/9-4/15	Module 13: Fiscal Policy	Module 13 Readings Module 13 Homework	Monday, 4/10 Wednesday, 4/19
Week 14: 4/16-4/22	Module 14: Why International Trade?	Module 14 Readings Module 14 Homework Quiz #6	Monday, 4/17 Wednesday, 4/26 Friday, 4/21
Week 15: 4/23-4/29	Module 15: Trade Deficits	Module 15 Readings Module 15 Homework	Monday, 4/24 Wednesday, 5/3
Week 16: 4/30-5/4	Module 16: International Currency Markets	Module 16 Readings Module 16 Homework	*Friday 4/28 *Thursday, 5/4
"Week 17": 5/6-5/10	Final Exam Week	Final Exam	Sunday, May 7, 1130am-2pm

For example, homeworks will always be due on Wednesdays and quizzes will always occur on Fridays. Quizzes will cover chapters which have been completed and for which the homework assignment has already been due so that you have had ample time to practice and master the concepts prior to taking the quiz. **The quiz dates are set in stone. They will not change for any reason.** If the actual schedule of the course does not follow the tentative schedule above, assignment due dates may be subject to change but the quizzes will not. Quizzes will only ever cover the material we have already covered in class.

COURSE GRADING SCALE

Grading Scale	
A	≥ 93%
A-	90-92.99%
B+	87-89.99%
B	83-86.99%
B-	80-82.99%
C+	77-79.99%
C	73-76.99%
C-	70-72.99%
D+	67-69.99%
D	63-66.99%
D-	60-62.99%
F	<60%

UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Preferred Students 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 the instructor's class roster (and TA class rosters). In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.

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 the 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 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 disciplinary action. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important when operating in online environments such as this classroom. For more information, see the policies on classroom behavior and the Student Code of Conduct.

Honor Code

All students enrolled in the University of Colorado Boulder 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, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Council (honor@colorad.edu; 303-492-5550). Students found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Council as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member (me). Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the Honor Code Office Website.

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. See the campus policy regarding religious observances for more details.

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment, and/or Related Retaliation

The University of Colorado 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 at the OIEC website.

Please know that all faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of any incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment, and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.