

# ECON 2020-500

## PRINCIPLES OF MACROECONOMICS

Spring 2020

---

<b>Instructor:</b>	Ali E. Almelhem	<b>Time:</b>	TTh & 2:00 – 3:15pm
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:alal7557@colorado.edu">alal7557@colorado.edu</a>	<b>Room:</b>	HUMN 1B50
<b>Office Hours:</b>	MW 2:00 – 3:30pm or by appointment	<b>Office:</b>	ECON 304

---

---

<b>Teaching Assitant:</b>	Alexander Bentz	<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:Alexander.Bentz@colorado.edu">Alexander.Bentz@colorado.edu</a>
<b>Office Hours:</b>	TTh 9:00 – 11:00am	<b>Office:</b>	ECON 309B
<b>Teaching Assitant:</b>	Brian Flaxman	<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:Brian.Flaxman@colorado.edu">Brian.Flaxman@colorado.edu</a>
<b>Office Hours:</b>	MW 10:00 – 12:00pm or by appointment	<b>Office:</b>	ECON 309C
<b>Teaching Assitant:</b>	Mengqi Zhang	<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:Mengqi.Zhang@colorado.edu">Mengqi.Zhang@colorado.edu</a>
<b>Office Hours:</b>	TTh 10:50 – 12:20pm Th 3:30 – 4:30pm	<b>Office:</b>	ECON 309C

---

“Macroeconomics is the analysis of the economy as a whole, an examination of overall supply and demand. At the broadest level, macroeconomists want to understand why some countries grow faster than others and which government policies can help growth.”

## 1 Course Description

Macroeconomics is the study of the aggregate economy. This course covers the fundamentals of macroeconomic theory and their application. This includes measuring national production, unemployment, business cycles and the impact of monetary/fiscal policy. Some of the most important national and international political issues concern the potential costs and benefits of economic policy (in)action. My goal is to provide students with both a comprehensive understanding of the theory used for analyzing macroeconomic events, as well as the economic policies adopted by various nations.

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: how to isolate the main forces behind market outcomes, how to measure them, 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 end you will have the technical tools and knowledge necessary to intelligently read about and discuss current and past macroeconomic events.

## 2 Prerequisites

**ECON 2010:** Principles of Microeconomics

Please inform me immediately if you do not meet these requirements. Failure to do so may result in your withdrawal from the course.

Students should also feel comfortable with algebraic concepts including fractions, graphing, and solving basic linear equations. If you have difficulty with these concepts, please see your teaching assistant in office hours.

## 3 Course Information

**Canvas Website:** <https://canvas.colorado.edu/>

**Mindtap Website:** <https://www.cengage.com/dashboard/#/course-confirmation/MTPQGSLNFK7D/initial-course-confirmation>

The course syllabus, supplementary materials, and homework links will be posted on Canvas. Please check the course webpage frequently as I will be updating it with materials. You are responsible for checking the canvas and cengage webpage regularly to avoid missing any assignments or announcements.

**Required Textbook:** *Principles of Macroeconomics* by N. Gregory Mankiw, 9th edition with MindTap Access. (8th edition is also fine)

**Recommended:** I highly recommend you read a reputable news source daily. The Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Financial Times, Foreign Policy and The Economist are all good sources. If you don't want a paid subscription, you can create your own RSS feed from a number of free websites (ex. Project Syndicate, Brookings). Keeping up with economics, business and political news (both domestic and international) is an excellent way to apply what you learn to the "real" world. It will help you understand the course material better, and you will make better sense of the world around you.

## 4 Course Policies

### General policies

- *No makeup homework assignments or exams will be given.*
- It is the student's responsibility to inform me of any accommodations two weeks before an exam.
- Please allow 24 hours for me to respond to emails. I will not discuss grades over email per FERPA guidelines.
- You will only be allowed the use of a basic statistical calculator during an exam (graphing calculators and laptops are not allowed on exams).

## Exams

- **Midterm Exams:** The midterm exams are not cumulative. I do not give makeup exams nor do I give exams early/late. No cell phones or graphing calculators are permitted for the exams. Please bring a basic calculator or be prepared to do calculations with pen and paper.
- **Midterm Grades:** Your lowest midterm will count for 15% of your final grade while the other midterm will count for 25%. I hope this will help students to not get discouraged if they "bomb" a midterm, as they can still achieve a good grade in the course if they pick up the slack.
- **Final Exam:** The final exam is cumulative. The final exam date and location is on Buff Portal. 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. Also, if you have two final exams scheduled to meet at the same time you are entitled to arrange an alternative examination time for the later course. To qualify for rescheduling final exam times, you must provide evidence that you have three or more exams on the same day or two exams meeting at the same time, and arrangements must be made with your instructor no later than the late drop deadline.

## Lectures

In some cases lecture will extend beyond the content of the textbook, so it is strongly encouraged you attend lecture. My lecture notes will not be available, so if you do miss a class you should plan on getting notes from a classmate. Lectures are intended to cover material from the book and connect the concepts to real world examples, providing additional in class practice when appropriate.

## Recitation

You are expected to attend your recitations. Recitation grades are completely up to your Teaching Assistant (TA). Your TA is your first line of defense for homework and exam preparation. Use them wisely.

## Homeworks

Homeworks are dispensed through Cengage online learning website. You will need to purchase access to the website to submit HWs. There will be weekly HWs due each Monday at 2:00am (if you like to work late on Sundays)

## 5 Grades

- **Distribution:** Below is the weight given to each of the components in this class:

Lowest Midterm	15%
Highest Midterm	25%
Final Exam	30%
Recitation	10%
Mindtap Homework	10%
Lecture Clicker Questions	10%

- **Reporting:** Grades will be uploaded to Canvas as assignments are graded.
- **Curving:** Midterms *may* be curved individually, and a curve *may* be applied to the overall course grade to conform to departmental standards. I will automatically increase final course grades that are 0.5% below any grade cutoff after any final grading curve has been applied.
- **Letter Grade Cutoffs:** Below is the letter grade you will receive for the final score given in the class:

$\geq 93$	A	87-89.9	B+	77-79.9	C+	67-69.9	D+	$\leq 59.9$	F
90-92.9	A-	83-86.9	B	73-76.9	C	63-66.9	D		
		80-82.9	B-	70-72.9	C-	60-62.9	D-		

- **Grade Adjustments:** Other than the 0.5% bump discussed above, *I will not grant any request to increase your grade to meet a certain cutoff.* You will receive the grade that *you* earned throughout the course. If you are concerned about your grade(s) you should immediately come talk to me. I will do everything I can to help you be successful in this course.

## Cheating

If you are caught cheating in any fashion (on exams or homework) you will be given an *F* for the semester and your case will be reported to the Honor Code Council for review.

## 6 Tips for Success

Things that I think generally help you do well in my class:

- Skim the book chapter after class. Recall the concepts which seemed difficult prior to class, those that are still difficult, and those that seem easy.
- Do the homework as we cover the material in class. Do not wait until the day/day before it is due. If you work as we go, the homework will naturally build from lecture materials, and won't take as long as if you wait to tackle it at midnight.

- Use office hours effectively. This means coming prepared with specific questions either from lecture, homework or other sources.
- Use the economics tutoring lab, and/or hire a private tutor.
- Come to class. This seems like a no-brainer, but it always amazes me how many students skip every lecture, only to be lost come exam time.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions, or to ask for help!
- Finally, don't cheat. If you don't know the material, own up to it, and take the grade you earn.

## 7 University Policies

- **DISABILITY POLICY:** I am committed to providing everyone the support and services needed to participate in this course. If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to your instructor a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner 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.
- **HONOR CODE:** 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. Incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from myself and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion).
- **RELIGIOUS OBSERVATION POLICY:** Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments, or required attendance. If you have a conflict, please make arrangements with me no later than the first week of the semester.
- **CODE OF BEHAVIOR POLICY:** Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty has the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which we express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences or race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance and nationalities.
- **DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT POLICY:** CU Boulder's policy on Discrimination and Harassment can be found on the university website. The policy on Sexual Harassment and on Amorous Relationships applies to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH and the campus discrimination and harassment resources can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>.

## 8 Tentative Schedule

The following is a *tentative* schedule for each week. I like to keep my options: there is a good chance these weeks will bleed into each other. The readings are from *Principles of Macroeconomics*, by Gregory Mankiw (9th edition).

Week	Date	Content
1	Jan 14, 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chapters: 1, 2:</b> 10 Principles of Economics, Thinking Like an Economist</li> </ul>
2	Jan 21, 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chapter 3, 4:</b> The Gains from Trade, Markets Forces of Supply and Demand</li> </ul>
3	Jan 28, 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chapter 10:</b> Measuring a Nation's Income</li> </ul>
4	Feb 4, 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chapter 11:</b> Measuring the Cost of Living</li> </ul>
5	Feb 11, 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chapter 12:</b> Production and Growth</li> <li>• <b>Thursday - Midterm 1</b></li> </ul>
6	Feb 18, 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chapter 13:</b> Saving, Investment, and the Fiancial System</li> </ul>
7	Feb 25, 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chapter 14:</b> The Basic Tools of Finance</li> </ul>
8	Mar 3, 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chapter 15:</b> Unemployment</li> </ul>
9	Mar 10, 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chapter 16:</b> The Monetary System</li> </ul>
10	Mar 17, 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chapter 17:</b> Money Growth and Inflation</li> </ul>
11	Mar 24, 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Spring Break No Class</b></li> </ul>
12	Mar 31, Apr 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chapter 18:</b> Open Economy Macroeconomics: Basic Concepts</li> <li>• <b>Thursday - Midterm 2</b></li> </ul>
13	Apr 7, 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chapter 19:</b> A Macroeconomic Theory of the Open Economy</li> </ul>
14	Apr 14, 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chapter 20:</b> Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply</li> </ul>
15	Apr 21, 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chapter 21:</b> Monetary and Fiscal Policy</li> </ul>
16	Apr 28, 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chapter 22:</b> Inflation and Unemployment Tradeoff</li> </ul>
17	May 5, 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Finals Week</b></li> <li>• <b>Final Exam: Check Buff Portal</b></li> </ul>