

ECON 2020-500: Principles of Macroeconomics

Syllabus

Instructor: Weizhao Sun

Weizhao Sun obtained his master's degree in economics from Duke University in 2019. He is a Ph.D. Candidate in Economics at CU Boulder. He enjoys teaching and received the Best Graduate Teacher award from the CU Boulder Department of Economics in Oct. 2022.

Office: Economics Building, Room 306

Email: weizhao.sun@colorado.edu

Class Schedule: MWF: 9:05-9:55 AM in RAMY C250

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 10:30 – 11:30 and by appointment

Teaching Assistants:

Michael Karas, Michael.Karas@colorado.edu

Office Hours: M 1:45-3:15 PM, W 12:45-2:15 PM, in Room Econ 14.

Peter Megenhardt, Peter.Megenhardt@colorado.edu

Office Hours: M 12:30-2PM, W 12:30-2 PM, in Room Econ 307.

Required Textbook: N. Gregory Mankiw. *Principles of Macroeconomics* (2021) 9th Edition with MindTap Access

Other Required Materials:

Students need to create an iClicker **Account** through their CU campus portal (Instructions are provided on Canvas and in class).

During every lecture, students are required to bring an electronic device (a smartphone, tablet or laptop) to access the iClicker software.

Important: **Students do NOT need an iClicker remote for this course.**

Should students purchase a textbook by themselves? No! This course uses "Day-1 Access" which means that students automatically purchase the textbook and the MindTap access when they are enrolled. **Students should not purchase textbooks by themselves.** If students drop the course before the dropping deadline, students do not pay for the textbook. If students do not drop the course, the cost of the textbook and the MindTap access will be added to the tuition fee.

Prerequisites: Econ 2010 with a minimum grade of C-.

Course Introduction:

This is an introductory class on macroeconomics, which is the study of the performance, structure, behavior and decision-making of an entire economy. The course is designed to provide students with a comprehensive framework for analyzing macroeconomic events and issues. The topics we shall cover throughout the semester include the determination of output, unemployment, inflation, interest rates, exchange rates, business cycles, and long-run economic growth.

The questions of concern will include: Why are some countries rich and others hopelessly poor? What are the sources of economic booms and recessions? Why is there unemployment? What are the sources of inflation? And how do government policies affect output, inflation and unemployment?

Assignments and Grading:

Midterm 1	20%
Midterm 2	20%
Final Exam	30%
MindTap Homework	15%
Recitation Attendance	10%
Required Lecture Attendance	5%
Bonus Lecture Attendance	4%
Total	104%

Exam Dates

Midterm 1: Friday Feb 24th, During Class Time

Midterm 2: Friday, April 7th, During Class Time

Final Exam: Tuesday, May 9th 1:30-4:00pm, in regular classroom.

Exam Details:

All exams are held in the same classroom as the lectures. Midterms are non-cumulative. Each midterm has 25 multiple-choice questions. Students will be provided with practice midterms at the beginning of the semester. Studying the practice midterms is the best way to prepare for the actual midterms.

Final exam is cumulative. It includes 45 multiple choice questions. The Final exam date and time is **May 9th 1:30-4:00pm, in regular classroom.**

Exam Absence:

If a student fails to show up for a midterm exam without an acceptable absence, the student will receive a zero. If students have acceptable excuses for the absences, the weights of the missed exams will be moved to later exams. In any situation, midterm-exam make ups are not

allowed. Final exam make ups are allowed for students with acceptable excuses.

Lecture Attendance: Half of the lecture attendance is required and accounts for 5% of final course grade. There are roughly 35 lectures where attendance will be recorded. 18 are required. Every 3 absences below 18 equal 1% grade drop.

The following table shows a detailed attendance grading rubric.

To take attendance, students should bring electronic devices to class and log into their iClicker account at the beginning of each lecture. Once logged in, wait for the instructor to start recording and then “join” the lecture on their electronic device. Students need to be in the classroom to take attendance. If the students are far away from the classroom, the system will recognize it and will not allow attendance to be taken.

Importantly, students need to allow the app or web browser to access the current location.

Students are responsible for operating their electronic devices correctly and taking attendance. Instructors will help students to ensure their devices work properly at the beginning of the semester.

If students attend 18 lectures, 5% of the lecture attendance grade is earned. If students attend more than 24 lectures, students start to earn a bonus towards their final course grade. A maximum of 9% can be earned from attending lectures. In total, there are 35-36 lectures in which I take attendance. See the table below for details.

Lecture Attendance Grading Rubric											
Lecture Attendance	0-3	4-6	7-9	10-12	12-15	16-18	19-24	25-26	27-28	29-30	>=31
Lecture Grade	0%	1%	2%	3%	4%	5%	5%	6%	7%	8%	9%

Lecture Absence: If students have excuses for lecture absences, please contact the instructor in advance.

Recitation: Recitations are mandatory. Recitation attendance accounts for 10% of students’ final course grades. Recitation materials and grades are fully supervised by the teaching assistants. During each recitation, the teaching assistants will take attendance, and help students regularly review the past material, learn about upcoming MindTap assignments, and review for the exams. **One recitation absence will be dropped.**

If students have excuses for recitation absences, please contact the teaching assistant directly. Recitations start on the second week of the semester.

MindTap Homework: Students **do not need to pay for MindTap separately**. Students automatically purchase the materials when enrolled. **Make sure to register MindTap using CU boulder emails**. After registration, students should have access to MindTap without paying an additional fee. Students are required to use MindTap to complete homework. Homework accounts for 15% of final course grades. MindTap is an online course platform that enables online access to homework, textbooks and study tools. Registration links can be found on the Canvas course page.

Homework assignments are usually due each Sunday at 11:59 pm. There may be one or more assignments due every week. **Three MindTap homework assignments will be dropped when calculating final grades.**

Tentative Course Schedule

<u>Week Starting On:</u>	<u>Contents to Be Covered:</u>
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Jan 17 th	
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	Course Mechanism, and Logistics
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Jan 23 rd	
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	Chapter 1, 2 and 3: Basic Principles of Microeconomics, PPF and Trade
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Jan 30 th	
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	Chapter 4: Basic Concepts of Supply and Demand Chapter 10: Measuring a Nation's Income
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Feb 6 th	
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	Chapter 10 Continued Chapter 11: Measuring the Cost of Living
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Feb 13 th	
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	Chapter 11 Continued Chapter 12: Production and Growth
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Feb 20 th	
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	Wrap-up for midterm 1 Friday, Feb 24th, Midterm 1 Covering Chapters 1-4, 10-12.
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Feb 27 th	
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	Chapter 13: Saving, Investment and the Financial System
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Mar 6 th	Chapter 14: The Basic Tools of Finance
Mar 13 th	Chapter 15: Unemployment
Mar 20 th	Chapter 16: The Monetary System
Mar 27 th	Spring Break
Apr 3 rd	Wrap-up for midterm 2 Friday, Apr 7th, Midterm 2 Covering Chapters 13-16
Apr 10 th	Chapter 17 Money Growth and Inflation
Apr 17 th	Chapter 18 and 19 Open-Economy
Apr 24 th	Chapter 20 Aggregate Demand and Supply
May 1 st	Wrap-Up; May 4 th is the last day of class; May 5 th is the reading day: no lectures and no recitations.
May 9th	Final Exam Tuesday May 9th 1:30-4:00pm, in regular classroom

Classroom Behavior

Both students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote or online. 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 classroom behavior policy, the Student Code of Conduct, and the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance.

Requirements for COVID-19

As a matter of public health and safety, all members of the CU Boulder community and all visitors to campus must follow university, department and building requirements and all public health orders in place to reduce the risk of spreading infectious disease. CU Boulder currently requires COVID-19 vaccination and boosters for all faculty, staff and students. Students, faculty and staff must upload proof of vaccination and boosters or file for an exemption based on medical, ethical or moral grounds through the MyCUHealth portal.

The CU Boulder campus is currently mask optional. However, if public health conditions change and masks are again required in classrooms, students who fail to adhere to masking 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 policy on classroom behavior and the Student Code of Conduct. If you require accommodation because a disability prevents you from fulfilling these safety measures, please follow the steps in the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus.

If you feel ill and think you might have COVID-19, if you have tested positive for COVID-19, or if you are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated and have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, you should stay home and follow the further guidance of the Public Health Office (contacttracing@colorado.edu). If you are fully vaccinated and have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, you do not need to stay home; rather, you should self-monitor for symptoms and follow the further guidance of the Public Health Office (contacttracing@colorado.edu).

If you are sick and cannot come to class, please contact the instructor in advance.

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, 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, 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); 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. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found on the Honor Code website.

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 sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner violence (dating or domestic violence), stalking, protected-class discrimination and harassment, 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. 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 any issues related to these policies regardless of when or where they occurred to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about their rights, support resources, and resolution options. To learn more about reporting and support options for a variety of concerns, 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 case, students should contact the instructors and make him aware of future religious obligations. See the campus policy regarding religious observances for full details.