



University of Colorado Boulder

PRINCIPLES OF MACROECONOMICS

Econ 2020 SYLLABUS, FALL 2019

Instructor: Dr. Sara Avila

Email: sara.avilaforcada@colorado.edu

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Additional ways to contact Dr. Avila:

- **Online Office Hours:** Mondays 10 am-12 pm and Thursdays 10 am -12 pm using Canvas Chat or Zoom
- **On campus Office:** Wednesdays by appointment only. Office location to be updated (please see comments on communication below)

INSTRUCTOR BIO

I am an economics instructor with almost two decades of experience teaching in public and private universities. My research interests are in the fields of environmental and urban economics. I have worked on topics related to air quality, climate change, urban transportation, and biodiversity conservation. I am passionate about building understanding in a diverse environment. I am always learning about better methods to communicate and teach. I am also an avid runner and have a deep affection for the meals that my husband cooks.

Term Start: Sep 3, 2019

Term End: Dec 15, 2019

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: Principles of Macroeconomics"
- Note: all email correspondence will be through your CU Boulder email address.
 - Do not use the Canvas email or messages, it is not checked.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed as an introductory survey of economy-wide issues such as inflation, unemployment, national output, employment, and government deficits and debt. The basic aggregate demand/supply model will be introduced and used to model historical events. Monetary and fiscal policies will be surveyed where both their benefits and shortcomings will be discussed. Alternative economic theories will also be included throughout the course.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

ECON 2010 (Principles of Microeconomics) with a C- or better course grade.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the course, students should:

- identify the data and tools of macroeconomic policy;
- describe the costs and benefits of economy-wide phenomena such as inflation, unemployment, government debt;
- evaluate public policies in an informed and objective manner;
- recognize the institutional surroundings that impact macroeconomic phenomena;
- describe the role of international trade in the macroeconomy; and
- further their analytical, research and writing skills.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

Textbook (required): Schiller and Gebhardt: The Macro Economy Today, 15th edition with access to Connect. Connect is where you will read your textbook and complete some graded assignments. You will access Connect through our course website, Canvas.

Course Website: <https://canvas.colorado.edu/> (Canvas) Grades and any further additional readings will be posted on Canvas. Please check Canvas frequently for any relevant notifications/changes that may occur throughout the course.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

Supplemental readings and other materials will be provided in Canvas system, via the CU Library electronic reserve, or by links to websites.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY AND DELIVERY

This course is delivered via distance education format using the CU Canvas system. This format will use a combination of readings, online discussion, and other web-based resources. You will interact with the instructor and other students using the communication functions provided by Canvas. You will submit assignments in accordance with the course outline using Canvas.

COURSE PRESENTATION AND PROCEDURES

There will be 14 modules corresponding to the 14 weeks of the course (1 module per week). You should proceed through one module per week, which will be comprised of readings from the course texts, supplemental class notes, graded discussion questions, homeworks and quizzes, exams, and various outside sources of information such as additional readings and video content, among other content.

COURSE OUTLINE

Review the separate weekly class schedule found on Canvas under “Syllabus” link.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

This course is designed to engage you through class discussions on the topics covered in the course materials. It is important that you participate in class discussions to facilitate learning by other students and gain exposure to different viewpoints of other students in the class. It is therefore necessary to

participate throughout the week in the discussion questions, not wait until the last minute to post on discussion topics.

EVALUATION AND GRADING

Course grades will be determined by the completion of assignments, exams, and discussions, as shown below:

Assignment	Points per Assignment	Frequency	GRADE POINTS	GRADE PERCENTAGE
Paper	100	1	100	10%
Discussions (post+ response)*	30	5	150	15%
Quizzes*	30	11	330	33%
Practice Midterm Exam	10	1	10	1%
Proctored Midterm Exam	150	1	150	15%
Practice Cumulative Final Exam	10	1	10	1%
Proctored Cumulative Final Exam	250	1	250	25%
TOTAL			1000	100%

Keep a copy of all work created for the course, including work submitted through Canvas.

*The lowest grade of these assignments will be dropped. See below.

COURSE GRADING CRITERIA

Grade	Percentage Grade	Equivalent Points	Indicates
A	93-100	930 – 1000	Excellent
A-	90-92.99	900 – 929	
B+	87-89.99	870 – 899	
B	83-86.99	830 – 869	Above Average
B-	80-82.99	800 – 829	
C+	77-79.99	770 – 799	
C	73-77.99	730 – 769	Average
C-	70-72.99	700 – 729	
D+	67-69.99	670 – 699	
D	63-67.99	630 – 669	Below Average
D-	60-62.99	600 – 629	
F	0-59	600 or lower	Failure

There is +/- grading in this class.

ASSIGNMENTS

Paper (100 POINTS) – There will be one (1) writing assignment focusing on written application of microeconomic topics (1.5- 2 pages in length, single spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font, 1" margins). This writing assignment will be submitted through Canvas.

The evaluation of the assignment be based in part on the following criteria:

- a) The ability to convey a theme or argument clearly and coherently.
 - b) The ability to analyze critically and to synthesize the course material.
 - c) The ability to acquire and apply information from appropriate sources.
 - d) Competence in standard written English (including proper use of syntax, grammar, punctuation and spelling as well as use of appropriate vocabulary, formatting, and references).
- Keep in mind that plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism is defined as the use of another's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgment. Examples of plagiarism include: failing to use quotation marks when directly quoting from a source; failing to document distinctive ideas from a source; fabricating or inventing sources; and copying information from computer-based sources, i.e., the Internet. *For more information, please use the link provided on Canvas.*

Discussions (150 POINTS) – There will be (6) online discussions posts and discussion comments associated with some modules. The discussion will occur asynchronously; I will post a discussion question and you will respond to the questions at your convenience prior to the due date. Each time you participate, you earn up to 30 points. Your lowest discussion (post and comment) is dropped from your final grade calculation. Discussions are open book and open note and will be submitted through Canvas. See the class schedule for due dates of posts and comments. The discussion post is always due on Thursday and the discussion response is always due on Sunday.

Quizzes (330 POINTS) – There will be (12) quizzes associated with most modules each worth 30 points. The format of the quizzes will be multiple choice, calculations, and short answers and will be open book and open notes. Your lowest quiz will be dropped from your final grade calculation. Quizzes will be submitted through Connect. Quizzes are always due on Sunday. You have two attempts at each quiz and the attempt with the highest score counts.

Practice Exams (20 POINTS) – There will be two (2) practice exams.

Exams (400 POINTS) – There will be two (2) exams. The proctored midterm exam is worth 150 points and the proctored cumulative final exam is worth 250 points. The format of the exam will be multiple choice and calculations and will be closed book. The exams are completed on Connect in a proctored setting.

This course requires proctored examinations. Exams are proctored which will require planning on your part. Proctors are individuals who administer the exam process following the guidelines provided by University of Colorado Boulder to ensure academic integrity.

Who can be my proctor?

If you are in Boulder or nearby, you can take your exam:

1. **With me** at the Department of Economics. There is no cost for using this proctor. This option is only on selected days during the exam period.

2. At the **University Testing Center** on-campus in Boulder, CO. There may be a cost for using the testing center. This option is only available M-F during regular business hours.
3. With **ProctorU**. Online proctoring is a service that uses a webcam and microphone to ensure academic integrity. To use this service, you must have access to a computer with a webcam and a microphone. There will be a cost for using the online proctoring services.

If you are outside of Boulder, you can take your exam:

1. At an **accredited college or university testing center** in your town or nearby. There may be a cost for using this testing center.
2. With **ProctorU or a comparable online proctoring service as determined by your instructor**. Online proctoring is a service that uses a webcam and microphone to ensure academic integrity. To use this service, you must have access to a computer with a webcam and a microphone. There will be a cost for using the online proctoring services.

Please see Canvas for detailed information about proctoring, including the contact information for the UTC, ProctorU, and a nationwide list of accredited college or university testing centers. If you are in a rural area or on a military base, you may need to be approved to use a person as a proctor and information is provided on Canvas for this approval process.

EXTRA CREDIT

Up to 50 points of extra credit may be available (= 5% of the course grade).

1. Weekly LearnSmart learning activities on Connect. Each time you complete an assigned LearnSmart activity by the due date, you will receive 3 points extra credit, up to 36 points total (= 12 LearnSmarts * 3 points). You receive the 4 points extra credit upon 100% completion of the activity. If you complete all 12 LearnSmart activities, you will earn an extra 4 points bring the total extra credit to 40 points.
2. An additional 10 points extra credit may be available during the semester for completing certain activities, such as listening and commenting on a podcast, etc. These extra credit opportunities will be determined by the instructor and announced on Canvas.

COMMUNICATION

I am nice and I want you to succeed. Do not hesitate to contact me about anything. Yes, anything.

E-mail

Instructor **sara.avilaforcada@colorado.edu**

- All e-mail sent to me should contain the following: Course Name and Number (i.e., ECON 2020), Your name and short description of your question. I will respond to email within 12-18 hours, but usually within 2-4 hours. I always respond to email. If you have not had a response within 18 hours I did not receive the email. Be sure to use your CU email address because sometimes gmail and yahoo email accounts are filtered into my spam folder.

Mobile: (720) 327-1396

- This is my cell phone number. Call or text anytime between 8am – 9pm MTN. I sometimes have my phone turned off during the middle of the day but leave a message when it is a good time to get a hold of you and I will call you back.

Additional ways to contact Dr. Avila:

- Online Office Hours: Thursdays 10am -12pm using Canvas Chat or Zoom
- On campus Office: (by appointment only) To be updated.

General Course Announcements

- Announcements: Please check the “announcements” section on Canvas often.

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

CU Boulder uses Canvas.

Here is the list of recommended system requirements: [Canvas Computer Specifications Page](#)

Here is the detailed list of internet browsers in Windows, MacOS, iOS and Android: [Supported Browsers Page](#)

Technical Support

- This course is delivered using the Canvas course management system. If you are experiencing issues with Canvas please contact CU Boulder's Help desk at 303-735-4357 (5-HELP) or help@colorado.edu.
 - 5-Help will answer your call: Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from noon to 6:00 p.m., Closed during [University Holidays](#)
- Help Menu in Canvas
 - Within the Canvas App, you can search the Canvas support guides, Report a Problem or chat with Canvas Support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Connect tech support:
 - <http://mpss.mhhe.com/> or <http://bit.ly/StudentRegistration>

COURSE POLICIES.

Course Withdrawal Policy: Any student who wishes to withdraw from the course must submit a request directly to [Continuing Education](#). For complete information, please visit their website at <https://ce.colorado.edu/resources/topics/dates-and-deadlines-general-info/>

POLICY ON DUE DATES

Each lecture you will complete a series of critical thinking questions that reflect material from the various delivery formats and required readings. It is your responsibility to turn in each assignment on the required date. Problem sets, discussion postings, or any activity turned in after the scheduled due

date will be lowered to the next letter grade for each 12-hour period late. The exceptions that may be considered is due to sickness, university excused function, or circumstances beyond the students' control. The instructor reserves the sole right to determine what grounds constitutes a reasonable excuse for missing or submitting a late work assignment, the right to require the student to submit proper verification of such excuse.

NETIQUETTE

All students should be aware that their behavior impacts other people, even online. I hope that we will all strive to develop a positive and supportive environment and will be courteous to fellow students and your instructor. Due to the nature of the online environment, there are some things to remember.

1. Always think before you write. In other words, without the use of nonverbals with your message, your message can be misinterpreted. So please think twice before you hit submit.
2. Keep it relevant. There are places to chat and post for fun everyday stuff. Do not stray from the discussion in the assigned questions.
3. Never use all caps. This is the equivalent of yelling in the online world. It is not fun to read. Only use capital letters when appropriate.
4. Make sure that you are using appropriate grammar and structure. In other words, I don't want to see anyone writing "R U" instead of "are you". There are people in the class that may not understand this type of abbreviation, not to mention it does nothing to help expand your writing and vocabulary skills. Emoticons are fine as long as they are appropriate. A smile ☺ is welcome, anything offensive is not.
5. Treat people the same as you would face-to-face. In other words, it is easy to hide behind the computer. In some cases, it empowers people to treat others in ways they would not in person. Remember there is a person behind the name on your screen. Treat all with dignity and respect and you can expect that in return.
6. Respect the time of others. This class is going to require you to work in groups. Learn to respect the time of others in your group and your experience will be much better. Always remember that you are not the only person with a busy schedule, be flexible. Do not procrastinate! You may be one that works best with the pressures of the deadline looming on you, but others may not be that way. The same is true for the reverse. The key to a successful group is organization, communication and a willingness to do what it takes to get it done.

Website: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

Compiled by Melissa Landin, Instructor, Dept. of Communication, Inver Hills Community College,
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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. 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 preference early in the semester so that I

may make appropriate changes to my records. 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 who are 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](#).

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, 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.

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 Conditions](#) under the Students tab on the Disability Services 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. Because of the flexibility of timing of completion of assignments in this class, you must contact the instructor in at least two weeks in advance if you anticipate a religious holiday may impact your completion of coursework.

For more information on the religious holidays most commonly observed by CU Boulder students consult the [online interfaith calendar](#).

Module (start date)	Chapter Number and Topic	Graded Assignments	Due Date by 11:59pm MST/MDT
1 (9/2)	1 Economics: The Core Issues (p. 1-12) 2 The U.S. Economy: A Global View	LearnSmart module 1 (extra credit) Discussion posting module 1 Quiz module 1 Discussion comment module 1	Thursday 9/5 Thursday 9/5 Sunday 9/8 Sunday 9/8
2 (9/9)	5 National Income Accounting	LearnSmart module 2 (extra credit) Quiz module 2	Thursday 9/12 Sunday 9/15
3 (9/16)	6 Unemployment	LearnSmart module 3 (extra credit) Discussion posting module 3 Quiz Module 3 Discussion comment module 3	Thursday 9/19 Thursday 9/19 Sunday 9/22 Sunday 9/22
4 (9/23)	7 Inflation	LearnSmart module 4 (extra credit) Discussion module 4 Quiz module 4 Discussion comment module 4	Thursday 9/26 Thursday 9/26 Sunday 9/29 Sunday 9/29
5 (9/30)	8 The Business Cycle	LearnSmart module 5 (extra credit) Quiz module 5	Thursday 10/3 Sunday 10/6
6 (10/7)	9 Aggregate Demand	LearnSmart module 6 (extra credit) Quiz module 6 Paper	Thursday 10/10 Sunday 10/13 Tuesday 10/15
7 (10/14)	You may take the PROCTORED midterm exam the day of your choosing Thursday through Sunday.	Proctored Midterm Exam	Thursday 10/17 - Sunday 10/20
8 (10/21)	10 Self-Adjustment or Instability?	LearnSmart module 8 (extra credit) Quiz module 8	Thursday 10/24 Sunday 10/27
9 (10/28)	11 Fiscal Policy	LearnSmart module 9 (extra credit) Discussion posting module 9 Quiz module 9 Discussion comment module 9	Thursday 10/31 Thursday 10/31 Sunday 11/3 Sunday 11/3
10 (11/4)	12 Deficits and Debt	LearnSmart module 10 (extra credit) Discussion posting module 10 Quiz module 10 Discussion comment module 10	Thursday 11/7 Thursday 11/7 Sunday 11/10 Sunday 11/10
11 (11/11)	13 Money and Banks 14 The Federal Reserve System	LearnSmart module 11 (extra credit) Discussion posting module 11 Quiz module 11 Discussion comment module 11	Thursday 11/14 Thursday 11/14 Sunday 11/17 Sunday 11/17
12 (11/18)	15 Monetary Policy	LearnSmart module 12 (extra credit) Quiz module 12	Thursday 11/21 Sunday 11/24
13 (12/2)	17 Growth and Productivity: Long-Run Possibilities	LearnSmart module 13 (extra credit) Quiz module 13	Thursday 12/5 Sunday 12/8
14 (12/9)	You may take the PROCTORED cumulative final exam the day of your choosing Thursday through Sunday.	Proctored Final Exam	Thursday 12/12 - Sunday 12/15