

# **INTERMEDIATE MACROECONOMIC THEORY**

**ECON 3080-002 | SPRING 2015 | MWF 12:00pm – 12:50pm | EDUC 155**

## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

### **Instructor Information**

Instructor: Seamus X. Li  
Email: [seamus.li@colorado.edu](mailto:seamus.li@colorado.edu)  
Office: ECON 206  
Office hours: Monday 02:00pm – 03:00pm  
Wednesday 02:00pm – 03:00pm  
Appointments outside regular office hours are available on a limited basis.

### **Course Website**

Desire2Learn (D2L): <https://learn.colorado.edu/>  
Item scores and supplemental course material will be posted on D2L.

### **Course Description**

Macroeconomics is the study of the aggregate economy. The course is roughly divided into two parts. First, we will learn tools to analyze long-run patterns of economic growth, labor markets, and price changes. Next, we will deal with the short-run and discuss monetary policy, fiscal policy, and how they relate to current economic issues.

In general, we will be using many simple equations to build “toy models” of the economy. By playing with these, we can gain deeper intuition into the highly complex economic interactions that create real problems and benefits for people worldwide. Some of the most important national and international political issues concern the potential costs and benefits of economic policy (in)action. While these models don’t give easy, perfect answers, from them you will have a stronger understanding of the mechanisms and chains of causality that underlie these issues.

### **Texts**

Charles I. Jones (2013). *Macroeconomics*, W. W. Norton & Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition.

You are welcome to use any other editions of this book; however you may need to come to office hours or consult a classmate with the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition to determine how the chapters line up. If I assign any problems directly from the textbook, I will reproduce them in full.

### **Prerequisites**

Economics: ECON 1000 or ECON 2020 or equivalent from another institution  
Mathematics: ECON 1078 and 1088, or MATH 1300, or MATH 1310, or MATH 1081, or MATH 1080, 1090 and 1100, or APPM 1350, or equivalent from another institution

The Department of Economics strictly enforces these prerequisites. In this course we will use calculus intensively. It is assumed that every student has a working knowledge of basic algebra, calculus, and graphing skills. Relevant math techniques will be briefly reviewed when necessary, but you are responsible for the math requirements of this course.

## Grading

Your course grade will be based on the higher of the following two calculations of your final score. The higher score will be automatically chosen.

Method I		Method II	
Problem Sets	25%	Problem Sets	25%
Midterm I	20%	Higher Midterm	30%
Midterm II	20%	Final Exam	35%
Final Exam	25%	Attendance	10%
Attendance	10%		

*Problem Sets.* There will be five problem sets throughout the semester. You may work in groups, but you must turn in your own individual work. The problem sets will be graded primarily on completion. *Late work will not be accepted and will receive a zero for the assignment.*

*Midterm Exams.* There are two midterm exams. The midterms are not thematically cumulative and will test your understanding of the topics covered in the weeks preceding each exam. If you miss a midterm, your final score will be calculated according to Method II. As such, *under no circumstances will an early or make-up midterm be given.*

*Final Exam.* The final exam is cumulative. The final cannot be dropped due to University policy. If you require accommodation for the final exam due to a scheduling conflict, it is your responsibility to inform me in a timely manner pursuant to the University's final exam policy, which can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/final-examination-policy>

*Attendance.* Attendance will be taken each lecture. You can have up to three absences without your grade being negatively affected. Depending on the total number of lectures, each additional absence will reduce your final score by roughly between a quarter and a third of a percentage point.

*Extra Credit.* Extra credit opportunities may become available during the course of the semester at the instructor's discretion. However, any extra credit opportunity will be made available to all students and will not be given on an individual basis.

*Letter Grade.* Curving may be applied at the instructor's discretion but it should not be expected. Your final score will be rounded *up* to the nearest integer and your course grade is determined by the following schedule:

Percentage	Grade	Percentage	Grade
94-100	A	73-76	C
90-93	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
83-86	B	63-66	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-
77-79	C+	0-59	F

## **Tentative Exam Dates**

Midterm I	Friday	02/20/2015	Regular class time
Midterm II	Friday	04/03/2015	Regular class time
Final Exam	Tuesday	05/05/2015	1:30pm – 04:00pm

All exams will take place in the regular classroom unless otherwise instructed. Other important dates can be found on the CU Academic Calendar:

<http://www.colorado.edu/academics/academic-calendar>

## **Office Hours**

Office hours are great for having your questions answered in a one-on-one, interactive setting, and I highly encourage you to utilize this resource. If you are unable to visit during the regularly scheduled office hours due to a scheduling conflict, I will be happy to meet with you at an alternative time, subject to availability.

## **Email Policy**

While I strive to be as accessible to you as possible through multiple communication channels, including the email, please observe the following policy regarding sending emails:

- I will be using your CU email address for class emails, please make sure you check your CU mailbox frequently for updates.
- Always refer first to the syllabus for questions regarding class policy. If the answer to your question can be found in the syllabus, you will likely be referred back to it.
- Some questions are better answered in person, especially questions regarding the course material. Please use the office hours as the first resource for any help you need on understanding the course material.
- Under no circumstances can I provide information about your performance on individual assignments or overall grade over the email due to Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) regulations, since emails are not considered a secure electronic medium. Scores that you have earned on individual assignments are posted on your D2L account.

## **Electronic Device Policy**

Cellphones are to be on mute during lectures. You are welcome to use a laptop or a tablet computer for note taking and accessing learning materials online. However, if you are found to be using your electronic device in a disruptive manner, you will be asked to turn it off.

## **Disability Accommodations**

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and

<http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>

### **Classroom 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 they and their students express opinions.

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance, 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 preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at [http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student\\_cod](http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_cod)

### **Religious Observance 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 contact me at the beginning of the term so we can make proper arrangements.

### **Honor Code**

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](mailto: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 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://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>

### **Discrimination & Harassment Policy**

The University of Colorado Policy on Sexual Harassment applies to all students, staff and faculty. Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual attention. It can involve intimidation, threats, coercion, or promises or create an environment that is hostile or offensive. Harassment may occur between members of the same or opposite gender and between any combinations of members in the campus community: students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Harassment can occur anywhere on campus, including the classroom, the workplace, or a residence hall. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been sexually harassed 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 resources available to assist individuals who believe they have been sexually harassed can be obtained at: <http://www.colorado.edu/odh/>