

Economics 3080

Intermediate Macroeconomics

University of Colorado Boulder
Department of Economics
Econ 109

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Office Hours: MW right after class + MW 2:00-3:00 and by appointment. Email me a previous day or tell me after class if you plan to come in the 2:00-3:00 block of time.

NOTE: No use of electronics will be allowed during class. Our TA, Eric Penner, will help enforce this policy. Also note changes for 2d exam data and addition of writing.

Description

Macroeconomics is the study of how all the different aspects of the economy interact to determine outcomes for the economy as a whole. Studying macroeconomics is essential for understanding economic events in the newspaper and for understanding and going beyond the usual economic policy debates.

Prerequisites

Economics 3080 builds on the understanding you gained 2010 and 2020, Principles of Micro and Macro. There is no official recommendation on this, but I personally recommend that you take Economics 3070 before taking Economics 3080.

Course Readings and Course Squarespace Website

Blog Posts and Handouts on <https://blog.supplysideliberal.com/intermediate-macro>

Wall Street Journal (15 weeks for \$15 or 1 year for \$49)

<https://buy.wsj.com/shopandbuy/order/subscribe.jsp?trackCode=aaqntppp>

Textbook: Mankiw, N. Gregory, *Macroeconomics* (9th edition, 2016).

Launchpad Online Pre-Class and Post-Class Homework for the Mankiw textbook is open for student registration. To register online go to:

<http://www.macmillanhighered.com/launchpad/mankiw9e/4878246>

PLEASE bookmark the page to make it easy to return to.

You have three options to enroll: you can purchase direct access, you can buy an access code, or you can get free 21 day access while deciding.

To navigate and start using LaunchPad please consult the [Get Started guide](#) and/or [view this video](#).

If you have problems registering, purchasing, or logging in, please contact Customer Support. You can reach a representative during the hours of operation listed below by one of the following: through the [online form](#); by chat (via the online form, for student access and payment inquiries); Or by phone at 1 (800) 936-6899. Customer Support Hours of

Operation: Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m., Friday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m., Saturday 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Sunday 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m.

Course Requirements and Grading

Pre-Class and Post-Class Homework on Launchpad:	15%
i-clicker:	10%
weekly blog posts	10%
1 st Midterm:	15%
2d Midterm:	15%
Final exam:	35%

The course will be graded on a curve, following departmental guidelines. So don't worry too much if an exam seems hard—it probably seems hard to your classmates as well.

Exam Schedule

Midterm exams will be held in class on Wed., February 22, and Wed., April 5. The final exam for this class is on Sunday, May 7, from 7:30-10 PM, in our regular room.

Attendance at all the exams is required—there will be no make-up exams.

TA—Eric Penner: eric.penner@colorado.edu

Please address administrative questions (such as the need to alternative exam arrangements) first to Eric.

Honor Code Policy: a determination of cheating will result in an automatic failing grade in the course.

Reading Schedule: The “Learning Curve” pre-class homework deadlines are also the deadlines for reading the relevant chapter.

Course Outline: Overall, I am very sympathetic to Greg Mankiw's approach in the textbook. (I was his first graduate student advisee.) So I will follow the book closely, but hope to add more discussion of macroeconomic policy both along the way and toward the end of the course. There are also a few important concepts I feel need to be added or emphasized more, such as (a) the use of logarithms in macroeconomics, (b) the combination of increasing returns and imperfect competition as a foundation for macroeconomics, (c) the 3 wedges that make more output better than less, and (d) macroeconomic stabilization vs. closing Okun gaps.

Recommended Reading: I tweet almost every day at <https://twitter.com/mileskimball> about Wall Street Journal articles. I blog about macro at <https://blog.supplysideliberal.com/>. It will make your time in class more interesting if in addition to assignments, you look at a few random posts here: <https://blog.supplysideliberal.com/post/2016/12/29/top-150-posts-and-all-columns-on-supplysideliberalcom-ranked-by-popularity-as-of-december-2016>