

ECON 3080 Syllabus  
Intermediate Macroeconomics  
Fall 2016

Instructor: Alex Hill  
Office: ECON 309B  
Office Hours: Tuesday 10PM-11PM, Thursday 12:15–1:15 PM  
Email Address: Alexander.m.hill@colorado.edu  
Lecture: TTh 11-12:15 PM ECON 117

**Grading**

Final/Midterms	25 points each
Attendance	15 points
Homework	10 points

**Grading Explanation**

The midterm exams for this course will be in class and are tentatively scheduled for October 11 and November 17. The final is on December 13 from 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM. Each of these tests is worth 25 percent of your final grade and will consist of a mixture of short answer and multiple choice. There will be no makeup exams given, but you are allowed to not take a midterm and have your final count for double (50 percent of your grade instead of 25 percent). This policy is only applicable for those who are missing a midterm due to a documented illness, medical emergency or death in your immediate family. These are the only acceptable reasons for missing a midterm. Additionally, you must take the final. If you have 3 or more finals on the same day, you can arrange to take the last final at an alternate time. **However, you must notify me of this no later than six weeks into the semester and provide proof that it is your 3<sup>rd</sup> or more exam on that day.**

Attendance in lecture is mandatory. You are allowed to drop 3 of your attendance days, so you can see this as 3 allowed absences from class in case of illness, travel, etc. Once you have exceeded your allotment of 3 allowed absences, your attendance score will decline at a quadratic rate. So, if you miss 1 day beyond the 3 allowed absences, you will lose 1 point off your attendance grade, 2 days = 4 points off your attendance grade, 3 days = 9 points off your attendance grade, and so on. This is a lesson in economics you should be familiar with at this point in your academic career: people respond to incentives. I want to provide you with the correct incentives to achieve in this class and one of those is class attendance. I will begin taking attendance on Wednesday, January 21. If you miss the first two weeks following this date, you will be administratively dropped from the class.

Homework will consist of 4 written assignments and a summary of an article. Your grade will be out of ten on each of these assignments, with your homework grade in this class being an average of all 4 written assignments and the summary. There are no excused homework assignments. Any questions you have about the homework assignments should be directed to me via email or in office hours. All homework is due in class on the date specified. I encourage all of you to come to my office hours at least a few days prior to the due date with any questions.

Attendance is 15 percent of your grade and will be taken at the beginning of class, so please arrive on time. Attendance is taken by signing your name on an attendance sheet. Anyone who arrives late to class will not be given the opportunity to sign the sheet without a valid excuse.

### **Goals for Course**

Many intermediate macroeconomics courses across the country are taught in a robotic manner. They focus on memorization and regurgitation of mathematical steps. This course will be much more like an economics course someone would have taken in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. You will encounter some history, a little philosophy, and a lot of intuition. There will be some math but it will not be the only focus. These are my goals for you for this semester:

1. Leave the class with actual tools you can use to get a job.
2. Understand how to collect and use macroeconomic data
3. Learn to identify real economic analysis from “voodoo economics”
4. Become knowledgeable about world and, particularly, US macroeconomic history

### **Recommendations for Success**

1. Print out slides for class. It will be very easy for you to write down what I am saying if you have the main points already on your paper. Slides will be available for all lectures at the start of the semester.
2. Read the book chapters but pay more attention to what I say in class.
3. If you begin to fall at all behind, immediately come to my office hours. Once you fall behind in this class, it will not be easy to catch up.
4. My tests will challenge you but are not designed to be difficult. If you come to class every day, take decent notes, read through the book chapters, and review what you have before the test, you will do great.

### **Office Hours and Email**

I encourage all of you to come to my office hours if you are having any problems with the material covered in class. If you are unable to come to office hours, I check my email several times a day and, in most cases, will respond within a few hours. However, give me 24 hours to respond before emailing again. If you email me over the weekend, give me until end of day Monday. Please do not email me about information that is on the syllabus. I will not respond. Additionally, I will not give out grade information over email or in front of other students, per CU regulations. I am also not allowed to discuss your grade information with your parents without your written consent.

### **Laptops and Cellphones**

Please keep all cellphones put away during class. Laptop use is allowed but you must sit at the front of the class if you wish to use one.

### **Students with Disabilities**

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me 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: 303-492-8671, Center for Community N200, and <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see guidelines at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/go.cgi?select=temporary.html>.

Disability Services' letters for students with disabilities indicate legally mandated reasonable accommodations. The syllabus statements and answers to Frequently Asked Questions can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>.

### **Religious Observance Policy**

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 class, if you have a conflict, please contact me at the beginning of the term so we can make the proper arrangements. See full details at [http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac\\_relig.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html).

### **Classroom Behavior Policy**

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 differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities. 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\\_code](http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code).

### **Discrimination and Harassment Policy**

The University of Colorado at Boulder Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures, the University of Colorado Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedures, and the University of Colorado Conflict of Interest in Cases of Amorous Relationships Policy apply to all students, staff, and faculty. Any student, staff, or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of sexual harassment or discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127, or the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>

### **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); 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion) and will receive a failing grade for the course. 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/>.

### Course Schedule (Subject to Change)

Date	Section	Topic	Assignment	Reading
23-Aug	Intro to Econ			
25-Aug	Review of Principles	Math Review		3.3,3.5
30-Aug	Review of Principles	GDP/Inflation		2.2,2.3,8.2-8.4
1-Sep	Review of Principles	Unemployment/Government		7.2-7.7,8.5,17
6-Sep	Bank Runs and the Fed	Banking and Finance		16.3
8-Sep	Bank Runs and the Fed	Banking Problems and the Fed	HW 1	10.4,12.7
13-Sep	International Macro	Exchange Rates and Crises		18.6-18.8,19
15-Sep	Post WWII Macro			
20-Sep	Economic Growth	Intro to Growth/Cobb Douglas		4.2-4.4
22-Sep	Economic Growth	Solow Model	Krugman	5
27-Sep	Economic Growth	Solow Model		5
29-Sep	Economic Growth	Romer Model		6
4-Oct	Economic Growth	Romer Model/Growth Finale		6
6-Oct	Review		HW 2	
11-Oct	Midterm II			
13-Oct	The Business Cycle	Short Run Review		9.2
18-Oct	The Business Cycle	IS-MP		9.3,11
20-Oct	The Business Cycle	IS-MP		12.2
25-Oct	The Business Cycle	Phillips Curve/AS/AD		12.3, 13.2-13.6
27-Oct	The Business Cycle	Volcker, Liquidity Trap		12.4
1-Nov	Policy Response	Keynesian Response	HW 3	
3-Nov	Policy Response	Rational Expectations		
8-Nov	Policy Response	Consumption Model		15.2-15.3
10-Nov	Miscellaneous topics	Supply Side, Gold Standard		
15-Nov	Review		HW 4	
17-Nov	Midterm II			
22-Nov	No class			
24-Nov	No class			
29-Nov	Great Depression			
1-Dec	International/Euro			19.4, 19.6-19.7
6-Dec	Great Recession			14.2-14.3
8-Dec	Review			
13-Dec	Final			