

ECON 3080 Sec. 003 MWF 12:00 – 12:50 PM Room: HUMN 1B90

Instructor: Yuwei Jia, ECON 306, yuwei.jia@colorado.edu

Office Hours: T,TH 11:15 AM – 12:15 AM, and by appointment

Textbook:

Required: Charles I. Jones. Macroeconomics, W. W. Norton & Company. Third or fourth edition are fine. DO NOT get first. Our class will follow the fourth edition. We will cover chapter 2-14, chapter 19, and chapter 20.

Recommended: I highly recommend you read a reputable news source daily. The Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Financial Times and The Economist are all good sources. Keeping up with economics, business and political news (both domestic and international) is an excellent way to apply what you learn to the “real” world. It will help you understand the course material better, make you a much better guest at dinner parties, and give you a way to show your annoying cousin how much smarter you are at Thanksgiving. An ability to read articles and glean economic intuition and information will also be necessary for homework assignments.

Website: N/A

Prerequisites:

1. ECON 1000 or ECON 2020 or equivalent from another institution
2. 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. There will be no math review section for this course, so make sure you are comfortable with required calculus techniques.

Course Description:

Macroeconomics is the study of the aggregate economy. We will explore the determinants of long term trends, short term fluctuations (business cycles), and the roles that consumers, firms, and governments play in the economy. Over the course of the semester we will cover long run growth, aggregate demand and supply, unemployment and wages, inflation, monetary and fiscal policy, as well as applying the tools of analysis to the recent recession. In addition, we will look at the microeconomic underpinnings of portions of the theory. In the end you will have the technical tools and knowledge necessary to intelligently read about and discuss current and past macroeconomic events.

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.

Lectures:

It is strongly encouraged you attend lecture. My lecture notes will not be available, so if you do miss a class you should plan on getting notes from a classmate.

Grade Policy:

Midterm 1 20%	Friday Sep. 29, class time, lecture room
Midterm 2 20%	Friday Oct. 20, class time, lecture room
Midterm 3 20%	Wednesday Nov. 15, class time, lecture room

(The lowest midterm score will be dropped.)

Final 30%	Sunday Dec.17, 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM, classroom TBD
Homework 20%	
Project (Presentation + report) 10%	

Exams:

The midterm exams will not be cumulative beyond the cumulative nature of the material. The final is cumulative, but focuses on the final portion of class. I do not give make-up exams nor do I give exams early/late. Any unexcused absence on an exam day will result in the final exam being re-weighted to include the midterm missed. Finally, no cell phone or graphing calculators are permitted for exams. Please bring a basic calculator or be prepared to do calculations with pen and paper.

Exam dates are firm. Topic coverage is subject to change.

Don't cheat. If you don't know the material, own up to it, and take the grade you earn.

If you have three or more final exams scheduled on the same day, you are entitled to arrange an alternative exam time for the last exam or exams scheduled on that day. Also, if you have two final exams scheduled to meet at the same time you are entitled to arrange an alternative examination time for the later course. To qualify for rescheduling final exam times, you must provide evidence that you have three or more exams on the same day or two exams meeting at the same time, and arrangements must be made with your instructor no later than the late drop deadline.

Homework:

A certain amount of practice is necessary for a success in this course. I will post weekly homework at Thursday night, and a hard copy is due at the beginning of next Monday's class. No late assignments will be accepted, but one lowest assignment will be dropped from your grade. I encourage you to work in small groups on these assignments, though I require everyone to turn in their own copy. Make sure you include all your co-workers' name on your hard copy.

Project:

You will need to work in groups (4-5 classmates) to give a 10 mins presentation on the topic of economic recession (which in our textbook is chapter 10 and 14), and each group will turn in a study report after the presentation. Presentations will take place in the week after fall break, and the report is due on Monday, Dec.4th.

Detailed instructions of this project will be sent out in class.

Email:

Please use email wisely. I will do my best to respond to emails in a timely fashion, usually less than 24 hours. If your question has to do with clarification, it may be difficult to explain fully over email, so I will suggest coming to office hours. If I feel the entire class could benefit from the clarification, I will do so in lecture. Finally, I will be hesitant to answer emails which ask something administrative which is included on the syllabus, i.e. "When is the exam?", or "Are any assignments dropped?". Also, I'm not allowed to discuss your grades via emails, so to check your grades throughout the semester, you will need to come to my office. It's a good habit of keeping track of your grades, and leave both of us enough time to make corrections if any mistakes/errors occur.

Extra Help:

Do not hesitate to come to my office during office hours or by appointment to discuss a homework problem or any aspect of the course. You also may want to consider the free tutoring lab offered by the department. Once the tutoring schedule is posted, I will email the class. If you want to hire an outsider tutor (for a fee), you can find a list of such people through the department website. Once the list is published, I will send this information via email.

University Policies:

Disability Policy: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter from Disability Services to me 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>

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 semester so we can make proper arrangements.

Classroom Behavior: Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty has the professional responsibility to treat students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which students express opinions. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html>.

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; 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).

Sexual Harassment: 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 Sexual Harassment (OSH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the OSH and the campus resources available to assist individuals who believe they have been sexually harassed can be obtained at: <http://www.colorado.edu/sexualharassment/>