

ECON 3080 Syllabus
Intermediate Macroeconomics
Spring 2015

Instructor: Alex Hill
Office: ECON 309B
Office Hours: Monday 12:15-1:15 PM, Tuesday 12:15 – 1:15 PM
Email Address: Alexander.m.hill@colorado.edu
Lecture: MWF 10:00-10:50 PM HUMN 1B90

Grading

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

Grading Explanation

The midterm exams for this course will be in class on March 2 and April 10 and the final is on Sunday, May 3 from 7:30 PM to 10:00 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 3rd 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. Once again, this policy is not meant to be harsh but to give you the proper incentives to succeed in this course.

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 19th and early 20th 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. Be able to speak about economics without saying stupid things
5. Be inspired to take more economics
6. 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

You will not need your laptop or cellphone for this class, so keep both in your bag.

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 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.

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. 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_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; 303-735-2273). 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/>.

Course Schedule (Subject to Change)

Date	Section	Topic	Assignment	Reading
12-Jan	Intro to Econ			
14-Jan	Intro to Econ			
16-Jan	Review of Principles	Math Review		
19-Jan	No Class			
21-Jan	Review of Principles	Economists, National Income Accounting, GDP		Jones 2.2, 2.3, 3.3
23-Jan	Review of Principles	Inflation and Unemployment		Jones chs. 7-8
26-Jan	Review of Principles	Government and Deficits		Jones ch. 17
28-Jan	Bank Runs and the Fed	Banks and Money		
30-Jan	Bank Runs and the Fed	Lender of Last Resort and the Fed	HW 1	
2-Feb	Bank Runs and the Fed	The Fed and the Great Depression		
4-Feb	Macro History	US Post WWII Macro History		
6-Feb	Macro History	International Macro History		
9-Feb	Economic Growth	Thinking about Growth		
11-Feb	Economic Growth	Production Functions, TFP and Solow		Jones ch. 4
13-Feb	Economic Growth	Solow Problems		Jones ch. 5
16-Feb	Economic Growth	Modern Growth Theory		Jones ch. 6
18-Feb	Economic Growth	Romer Problems		
20-Feb	Economic Growth	Growth Accounting		Krugman
23-Feb	Economic Growth	More Solow and Romer Problems		
25-Feb	Economic Growth	More Solow and Romer Problems	HW 2	
27-Feb	Review			
2-Mar	Midterm 1			
4-Mar	Business Cycle	Introducing the Business Cycle		Jones ch. 9
6-Mar	Business Cycle	IS Curve and Multipliers		Jones ch. 11
9-Mar	Business Cycle	MP Curve and IS-MP problems	Summary	Jones ch. 12
11-Mar	Business Cycle	The Phillips Curve and Problems		
13-Mar	Business Cycle	AS-AD		Jones ch. 13

16-Mar	Business Cycle	Examples Using Setup		
18-Mar	Business Cycle	The Great Recession		Jones ch. 10
20-Mar	Business Cycle	The Great Recession		Jones ch. 14
23-Mar	No Class			
25-Mar	No Class			
27-Mar	No Class			
30-Mar	Business Cycle	Liquidity Trap		
1-Apr	Business Cycle	Short Run Model Problems		
3-Apr	Business Cycle	Short Run Model Problems	HW 3	
6-Apr	Catch up			
8-Apr	Review			
10-Apr	Midterm 2	Academic Macro Battles		
13-Apr	Rational Expectations	Academic Macro Battles		
15-Apr	Rational Expectations	Introducing Neoclassical Model		Jones ch. 15
17-Apr	Rational Expectations	Neoclassical Model Problems		
20-Apr	Rational Expectations	Neoclassical Model Problems		
22-Apr	Miscellaneous	Deficits and Debt, Secular Stagnation		
24-Apr	Miscellaneous	Gold Standard and Supply Side Economics	HW 4	Eichengreen
27-Apr	Review			
29-Apr	Review			
1-May	Review			
3-May	Final	7:30 PM-10:00 PM		