

ECON 3080-005
Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory
Spring 2016
Syllabus

Lecture:	MW 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM, DUAN G2B47	Office hours:	M 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Instructor:	Bentley Clinton		W 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Office:	ECON 14		and by appointment
Email:	bentley.clinton@colorado.edu		

Course Website

Accessed through D2L (learn.colorado.edu)

Course description

What the website says: Intermediate macroeconomics introduces theories of aggregate economic activity including the determination of income, employment, and prices; economic growth; and fluctuations. Macroeconomic policies are explored in both closed and open economy models. ECON 3070 and 3080 may be taken in any order; there is no recommended sequence.

Prerequisites: i) ECON 1000 or 2020; and ii) either ECON 1078 and 1088, or MATH 1300, or MATH 1310, or MATH 1081, or MATH 1080, 1090, and 1100, or APPM 1350, or equivalent.

What I say: Where microeconomics focuses on individual markets and consumer behavior, macroeconomics is a field that studies the economy as a whole. At this level, economists develop models to better understand the behavior of the aggregate economy in the long and short run. For the models that will be presented in this class, the main players are consumers, firms, and governments. My objective for the course is to introduce you some of the theoretical models used by macroeconomists. I will also provide you with some real-world context and we will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of our theoretical models. I hope you will leave this course with a better understanding of how economists model the macroeconomy, as well as the ability to engage in informed conversation about macroeconomic issues with others, regardless of their knowledge of economic theory.

The models covered in this course require calculus and algebra. Some common tools will be discussed very briefly in the first week of class, but there will be no formal review of the necessary mathematics. It will be assumed that those who remain enrolled in the class after the first week possess the necessary mathematics background.

Textbook

Required: Charles I. Jones (2014). Macroeconomics, W. W. Norton & Company, 3rd Edition.

Philosophy and Expectations

Attendance is mandatory for the first three lectures of the semester. Failure to attend may result in an administrative drop from the course. I will not take attendance after the first three lectures. You are responsible for all material presented in lecture, and I will cover some material outside of the textbook. I therefore encourage you to attend lecture. If you miss a lecture, it is your responsibility to connect with a classmate to get the notes that you missed. Complete lecture notes will not be posted to the class website.

I am happy to answer questions about course material and concepts by email or during office hours. Keep in mind that some of the models that we discuss are easier explained in person than via email. As such, I may ask you to schedule an appointment or come in to office hours to discuss your questions. Please refrain from using email to ask questions that are covered on the syllabus. *I recommend reviewing this syllabus in detail before emailing with an administrative question.*

Grading

Homework:	(18%)	Tentative dates, see schedule below
Midterm 1:	(20%)	Wednesday, February 17
Midterm 2:	(20%)	Monday, April 4
Paper:	(12%)	Wednesday, April 27
Final:	(30%)	Wednesday, May 4, 7:30 PM - 10:00 PM

Tentative Schedule

Week	Topic	Chapter(s)	Description
1	Introduction	1-2	The long run: Macroeconomists are interested in studying long-run trends in the economy. We will examine some fundamental theoretical models, focused primarily on explaining growth trends of long-run output.
2	Production and Growth	3-4	
3	Solow Model	5	
4	Romer Model	6	
5	Labor	7	
6	Inflation	8	
7	Short Run	9	The short run: Theoretical models of short-run economic fluctuations will be studied. We will use these models as a tool to understand the actions of economic policymakers.
8	IS Curve	11	
9	Monetary Policy and Phillips Curve	12	
10	Stabilization and AS-AD Model	13	
11	SPRING BREAK	-	
12	Consumption	16	Other models: Theory related to the neoclassical consumption model, arbitrage, government budget decisions, and trade will reinforce and expand concepts presented earlier in the course.
13	Investment	17	
14	Government	18	
15	The Great Recession	10, 14	
16	Trade, applications, and wrap-up	19-20	

Exams

As we move through the course, concepts from later chapters will build on those learned in prior chapters. With this caveat in mind, the first two exams will not be cumulative. The final exam will be cumulative, though emphasis will be placed on concepts covered after the second exam. There will be no opportunity to make up missed exams. Missed exams will receive a grade of zero. If one midterm is missed due to a valid, excused emergency with proper documentation, your exam grade will be a weighted average of your other midterm and final grade. Please let me know within the first two weeks of the semester if you anticipate any scheduling conflicts.

Exams will require basic calculation. No graphing calculators or cell phone calculators will be allowed during exams. Basic, four-function calculators will be allowed. If you have a question about your calculator, please ask me *before* exam day.

Problem sets

There will be six problem sets due over the course of the semester. Late assignments will not be accepted. Hard copies of these assignments are due at the beginning of class on the listed due date. These problem sets are a tool to help you prepare for the exams. Though each individual is required to turn in their own copy of the problem set, I strongly encourage you to work on these assignments in small groups.

Tentative due dates:

- Problem Set 1: Wednesday, January 27
- Problem Set 2: Wednesday, February 3
- Problem Set 3: Wednesday, February 10
- Problem Set 4: Wednesday, March 9
- Problem Set 5: Wednesday, March 16
- Problem Set 6: Wednesday, April 20

Paper

The paper is a capstone project for the course. I am looking for something no more than a few pages in length that is an exploration of a macroeconomic topic of interest to you. As mentioned previously, the course will provide an understanding of the tools of macroeconomics; this paper is an opportunity to apply these tools. A more detailed description of the assignment and grading rubric will be discussed in the later portion of the semester. I encourage you to discuss possible topics with me at any time during the semester.

Cheating

Cheating will not be tolerated. I won't hesitate to discuss instances of suspected cheating with the Honor Code Council.

Additional Information

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/>.

Discrimination and Harassment

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>.

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.

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. If you have a conflict, please contact me at the beginning of the term so that we can make proper arrangements. See full details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html.