

**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:** After the first 2 days of class, **YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY GET AN F IF YOU MISS MORE THAN 7 DAYS OF CLASS AND YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY LOSE A THIRD OF A GRADE (e.g., B TO B-) IF YOU MISS MORE THAN 5 DAYS OF CLASS. IF YOU HAVE ANY DOUBT THAT YOUR CLICKER IS WORKING ON A PARTICULAR DAY, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SIGNING THE PAPER ROLE SHEET THAT DAY.** Your TA, Xiang Chi, will keep the role sheet (if Xiang Chi is not there, I will keep the role sheet).

***Plagiarism or any other form of cheating will also result in an automatic F.***

**No use of electronics is allowed during class. Xiang will help enforce this policy.**

### Description

Macroeconomics is the study of how all the different aspects of the economy interact to determine outcomes for the economy as a whole.

- *Why study macroeconomics?* Studying macroeconomics is essential for understanding economic events in the news and economic policy debates—including when people are wrong.
- *Why studying macroeconomics is hard:* Macroeconomics is harder to relate to your own personal experience than microeconomics.
- *How to connect to macroeconomics:* Read the news and talk to your fellow Buffs and others about politics.

### 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

- **Handouts, Exercises and Blog Posts** on <https://blog.supplysideliberal.com/intermediate-macro>
- **Wall Street Journal**—Should be free through the university's subscription: go to <https://education.wsj.com/search/> If that doesn't work and you need to buy a subscription, google "wall street journal student digital pack" (\$1 a week for 15 weeks)
- **Textbook:** (online access is included in your Sapling registration) **Mankiw, N. Gregory, *Macroeconomics*** (10<sup>th</sup> edition, 2019).
- **Sapling Online Pre-Class and Post-Class Homework for the Mankiw textbook is open for student registration.** *Instructions for signing up are on the course squarespace website* <https://blog.supplysideliberal.com/intermediate-macro> NOTE: This homework is your "takehome exam" for much of the material in the textbook chapters. So it is important. It counts as much as a midterm.

I recommend that you bookmark both the Squarespace website and the Sapling website to make it easy to return to (note: the URL will look different due to security measures).

### Course Requirements and Grading

Sapling Assignments	15%
i-clicker:	10%
weekly blog posts	15%
1 <sup>st</sup> Midterm:	15%
2d Midterm:	15%
Final exam:	30%

Assignments and blog posts will always be due by 11 PM on their due date. For the benefit of students who join the class late, the official due date for the first 4 assignments has been delayed until 11 PM on Thursday, January 23. Your first blog post will be due at 11 PM Sunday, January 26. Don't wait until the last minute! I'll give more instructions on this in the Wednesday, January 22 class. The course website <https://blog.supplysideliberal.com/intermediate-macro> has additional written instructions.

The course will be graded on a curve based on overall points. (By Econ. Dept. policy, average grade must be B-/C+.) Don't worry if an exam seems hard—it probably seems hard to your classmates as well. In that situation, *the curve is your friend*. Also, exams may be hard, but you will know what is coming.

**ALSO: IF YOU MISS MORE THAN 7 CLASSES, YOU GET AN AUTOMATIC FAILING GRADE and if you miss more than 5 classes, you will lose one third of a grade.**

**Honor Code Policy:** A determination of cheating will result in an automatic failing grade.

### EXAM SCHEDULE

Midterm exams will be held in class on Wed., February 19, and Wed., April 1. The final exam for this class is on Sunday, May 3, from 7:30 PM to 10:00 PM, in our regular room.

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

**TA—Xiang Chi:** [Xiang.Chi@colorado.edu](mailto:Xiang.Chi@colorado.edu)

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

**Brief Course Outline:** I want you to understand 21<sup>st</sup>-century macroeconomics, not macroeconomics as it used to be. I also want to make sure this course is relevant to economic policies being debated in the real world. Existing textbooks fail to get students up to speed on critical aspects of modern macroeconomics and often do not discuss current policy debates adequately. In that kind of situation, many professors assign their own textbook or have students buy two books. Instead, I supplement the first ten chapters in Mankiw's textbook with material I have created and posted free on the course website and on my blog. A few examples: the use of logarithms in macroeconomics and the combination of increasing returns and imperfect competition as a foundation for macroeconomics. You can see my teaching philosophy for this course in detail, as well as other topics I focus on in the materials I have created in the assigned blog post "[On Teaching and Learning Macroeconomics](#)." There you will see that another key part of my philosophy is the importance of teaching writing and critical reading in conjunction with macroeconomics itself. Students often get frustrated with the expectation that they become able to do critical reading, because many other classes do not expect it, but this is a skill you can master. For more on the critical reading expectations in this course, see "[Critical Reading: Apprentice Level](#)." Critical reading is too difficult to expect you to do it on the textbook chapters. Instead, I only expect you to do critical reading on the (typically shorter) items of supplementary material. It is great to disagree with what you read; but you need to know where you agree and where you disagree.

**Syllabus, Part 2: Required Syllabus Statements: Go to**

<https://www.colorado.edu/academicaffairs/policies-customs-guidelines/required-syllabus-statements>