
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

INTERMEDIATE MACROECONOMIC THEORY

ECON 3080 ONLINE SYLLABUS, SUMMER 2021

INSTRUCTOR: ALEXANDER BENTZ

Email alexander.bentz@colorado.edu

Office Hours

- Online Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-2:30pm and Thursdays 10-11:30 am. Make an appointment here: <https://calendly.com/alexander-bentz> (you will receive a Zoom link).

INSTRUCTOR BIO

Alexander Bentz is a PhD student at CU Boulder. His research focuses on how neighborhood and community factors as well as school funding influence childhood academic achievement. In his free time, he enjoys rock climbing, baking bread, and traveling in the Rockies and beyond.

TERM START: June 1, 2021

TERM END: July 25, 2021

COURSE WEBSITE

Canvas is our class website:

- Login using your University of Colorado Boulder identikey and password <https://canvas.colorado.edu/>
- Under Course List, click "ECON 3080-581: Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory"
- Note: all email correspondence will be through your CU Boulder email address.
 - *Do not use the Canvas email or messages, it is not checked.*

COURSE DESCRIPTION

From General Catalog: 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.

In this course we will study models of aggregate output, unemployment, prices, interest rates, inflation, and economic growth, in the short-run, the medium-run, and long-run, with applications to the U.S. economy, monetary and fiscal policy issues. *We will* think critically, construct arguments, and solve problems using the theory and data that economists use. An important outcome of the course is the development of coherently understanding and analyzing important practical economic issues.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

Requires prerequisite courses of ECON 2020 (Principles of Macroeconomics)

AND

ECON 1088 or MATH 1081 or MATH 1300 or MATH 1310 or APPM 1350 (all min grade C-) (Math/Calculus courses)

AND

Restricted to students with 22-180 units completed. Contact me as soon as possible if you have not completed these courses prior to the beginning of this course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- By the end of the course you should be able to: Apply algebraic, graphical and calculus tools to macroeconomic theory
- Apply macroeconomic principles, theories and models to critically analyze and explain economic situations encountered in the real world that involve macroeconomics.
- Synthesize the information given in each section to explain key concepts and set up and solve problems that utilize the macroeconomic principles.
- Acquire the ability to think about complex economic issues in a logical objective manner, so that you discriminate between correct solutions to macroeconomic problems, and common misconceptions.
- Evaluate different economic arguments and interpret the reasons why some are well-founded, while others are not.
- Communicate the results of macroeconomic analysis in a clear and professional way.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

Textbook (required): Mankiw, N. Gregory, Macroeconomics, 10th edition with Sapling Learning. Sapling Learning is where you will read your textbook and complete some graded assignments. You will access this through our course website on Canvas.

Day 1 Digital Access: *To keep the cost of your course materials as low as possible and access to those materials as convenient as possible, we have collaborated with the CU Book Store and the publisher to deliver those materials through a program called “Day 1 Digital Access”, which will appear on your tuition and fee bill as “Day 1 Digital Access”.*

What does this mean for you?

- *You will receive access to all your course materials, digitally, on the first day of classes, through the course Canvas page.*
 1. *You will see a “Day 1 Digital Access” charge on your tuition and fee bill for: **\$92.06***
 - *This is a guaranteed lowest price, discounted by the publisher, and not available outside this course*
 2. *You have the option to opt out. This means: you won’t pay for anything, but you lose all access to the course materials.*
 3. *You can opt out by: using a link in a reminder email you will receive with the subject heading “Day 1 Digital Access”.*
 - *You must opt out no later than June 4th, otherwise you will be charged for the materials.*
- *Please keep in mind that “opting out” means that your access to these materials will be turned **OFF**, and you will have no way to complete assignments.*

SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS

Supplemental readings and other materials will be provided in Canvas system. Unless marked as optional these are REQUIRED readings. You will be tested on these.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY AND DELIVERY

This course is delivered via distance education format using the CU Canvas system. The asynchronous format will use a combination of readings, online discussion, and other web-based resources. Asynchronous learning does not require real-time (or synchronous) interaction; instead, content is available online for you to access when it best suits your schedule, and assignments are completed prior to the deadlines listed in the schedule. You will interact with other students using the communication functions provided by Canvas and with the instructor via email or Zoom. You will submit assignments using Canvas.

COURSE PRESENTATION AND PROCEDURES

There will be 16 modules corresponding to the 8 weeks of the course (2 modules per week). You should proceed through two modules per week, which will be comprised of readings from the course texts, supplemental class notes, graded discussion questions, homework and quizzes, exams, and various outside sources of information such as additional readings and video content, among other content. To give you some flexibility during this fast-paced term, you will always have the opportunity to work on at least two modules at a time (the next module will be open before the current one is due).

Module assignments will be due on Tuesdays/Wednesdays and Fridays/Sundays.

COURSE OUTLINE

Review the separate weekly class schedule found on Canvas under “Syllabus” link.

EVALUATION AND GRADING

Course grades will be determined by the completion of assignments, exams, and discussions, as shown below:

Assignment*	Points per Assignment	Frequency	GRADE PERCENTAGE
Learning Curves	5	15	7.5%
Module Preps	5	5	2.5%
Problem Sets	30	10	30%
Discussion/Data Exercises	20	5	10%
Proctored Midterm Exam	200	1	20%
Proctored Cumulative Final Exam	250	1	25%
Practice Exams	25	2	5%
TOTAL			100%

*Keep a copy of all work created for the course, including work submitted through Canvas.

COURSE GRADING CRITERIA

Grade	Percentage Grade	Equivalent Points	Indicates
A	93-100	930 – 1000	Excellent
A-	90-92.99	900 – 929	
B+	87-89.99	870 – 899	
B	83-86.99	830 – 869	Above Average
B-	80-82.99	800 – 829	
C+	77-79.99	770 – 799	
C	73-76.99	730 – 769	Average
C-	70-72.99	700 – 729	

D+	67-69.99	670 – 699	
D	63-66.99	630 – 669	<i>Below Average</i>
D-	60-62.99	600 – 629	
F	0-59	600 or lower	<i>Failure</i>

There is +/- grading in this class.

ASSESSMENTS

- **LEARNING CURVES:** There will be a graded Learning Curve assignment for each chapter covered. These assignments require you to work through the textbook chapter and answer basic questions about the material covered with use of the textbook. These will help prepare you to complete the problem sets and do well on the exams.
- **MODEL PREP:** There will be Model Prep activities that will revolve around math or economics being used that week. There will be five (5) Model Prep activities in total. These model prep assignments are open book and open notes as well and are due by **Tuesday** or **Friday** by midnight.
- **PROBLEM SETS:** Most modules ends with a problem set due by **Wednesday or Sunday** midnight. There are ten (10) Problem sets each worth 30 points. The problem sets will include a combination of multiple choice, calculations, and short answer questions and will be open book and open notes. Your lowest two scores of the problem sets will be dropped from your final grade calculation.
- **DISCUSSION/DATA EXERCISES:** Formal class discussion and data exercises help extend economic analysis by relating actual events to the theories presented in class. There will be five (5) discussions or data exercise postings, each worth 20 points and I will drop your lowest score. These are open book and open notes.
 - **Data exercises** will require you to manipulate and interpret data related to the macro economy. These data exercises will be accessed through Canvas and you will have to scan your completed problem set in order to submit the problem set on Canvas. These are due on **Wednesday or Sunday**.
 - **Discussions** will occur asynchronously; I will post a discussion question and you will respond to the questions at your convenience prior to the due date. I will post a discussion question and you (or your group, if discussion is assigned as a group activity) will respond to the questions at your convenience prior to the due date. There are two parts to this board. Together, both parts, will be worth 30 points.
 - Discuss the issues raised by me- **Original (discussion) Post** - 20 points. ii. Evaluate a fellow student (group's) post – **Peer evaluation** – 10 points, **Sunday** midnight.
 - *A reply that simply agrees or likes the original post will not be considered for full credit.*
 - I closely monitor the discussion boards but grade the board only after the deadline, not before, so everyone has a chance to contribute. It is important that you participate in class discussions to facilitate learning by other students and gain exposure to different viewpoints of other students in the class. It is therefore necessary to participate throughout the week in the discussion questions, and not wait until the last minute to post on discussion topics.
 - A grading rubric is available with each discussion and data exercise. More detailed information will be provided with each assignment.

EXAMS

- **PRACTICE EXAMS** – There will be two (2) practice exams, one before each exam.
- **EXAMS-** There are two (2) exams. The midterm exam is worth 200 points and the cumulative final exam is worth 250 points. The exams will be multiple choice, calculations, and short answer questions and will be closed book. You may use a calculator.
- **SCHEDULED TIMES FOR EXAMS:** Midterm: June 24th – June 27th,

This course requires proctored examinations. Exams are proctored which will require planning on your part. Proctors are individuals who administer the exam process following the guidelines provided by University of Colorado Boulder to ensure academic integrity.

Who can be my proctor?

If you are in Boulder or nearby, you can take your exam:

1. With **Proctorio or a comparable online proctoring service as determined by your instructor**. Online proctoring is a service that uses a webcam and microphone to ensure academic integrity. To use this service, you must have access to a computer with a webcam and a microphone. There is no cost for using this proctor.

If you outside of Boulder, you can take your exam:

1. At an **accredited college or university testing center** in your town or nearby. There may be a cost for using this testing center.
2. With **Proctorio or a comparable online proctoring service as determined by your instructor**. Online proctoring is a service that uses a webcam and microphone to ensure academic integrity. To use this service, you must have access to a computer with a webcam and a microphone. There is no cost for using this proctor.

Please see Canvas for detailed information about proctoring, including the contact information for the UTC, Proctorio, and a nationwide list of accredited college or university testing centers. If you are in a rural area or on a military base, you may need to be approved to use a person as a proctor and information is provided on Canvas for this approval process.

EXTRA CREDIT

Up to 50 points of extra credit may be available (= maximum 5% of the course grade) during the semester for completing certain activities. These extra credit opportunities will be determined by the instructor, will be available to all, and announced on Canvas.

1. Additional extra credit **may be** available during the semester for completing certain activities, such as listening and commenting on a podcast, commenting on class café discussions, etc.

POLICY ON DUE DATES

Each module you will complete a series of critical thinking questions that reflect material from the various delivery formats and required readings. It is your responsibility to turn in each assignment on the required date. **Late assignments are not accepted for exams. "Weekly Work" (e.g., Problem Sets, Discussion Postings, Data Exercises) can be turned in up to three days late. The grade penalty for his late work is they will be reduced by 20%.** The exceptions that may be considered is due to sickness, university excused function, or circumstances beyond the students' control. The instructor reserves the sole right to determine what grounds constitutes a reasonable excuse for missing or submitting a late work assignment and the right to require the student to submit proper verification of such excuse.

EXPECTATIONS OF INSTRUCTOR

I take my role as your instructors very seriously, and, in fact, I care about how well you do in this course and that you have a satisfying, rewarding experience. To that end, it is our commitment to you to respond individually to the work you submit in this class and to return your work in a timely manner. If, however, due to unforeseeable circumstances, the grading of your work takes longer than the times I have listed here, I will keep you informed of my progress and make every effort to return your work with feedback as soon as I can.

Communication – I want you to succeed. Do not hesitate to contact me about anything related to the course that is not covered in this syllabus

E-mail

Instructor Alexander Bentz alexander.bentz@colorado.edu

- All e-mail sent to me should contain the following: Course Name and Number (i.e., ECON 3080), Your Name, Short Description of your question. I will respond to email within 12-24 hours. I always respond to email. If you have not had a response within 24 hours, please follow up. Be sure to use your CU email address because sometimes gmail and yahoo email accounts are filtered into my spam folder.

Office Hours

- Online Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-2:30pm and Thursdays 10-11:30 am. Make an appointment here: <https://calendly.com/alexander-bentz> (you will receive a Zoom link).

General Course Announcements

- Announcements: Please check the “announcements” section on Canvas often.

COURSE POLICIES

NETIQUETTE

All students should be aware that their behavior impacts other people, even online. I hope that we will all strive to develop a positive and supportive environment and will be courteous to fellow students and your instructor. Due to the nature of the online environment, there are some things to remember.

1. Always think before you write. In other words, without the use of nonverbals with your message, your message can be misinterpreted. So please think twice before you hit submit.
2. Keep it relevant. There are places to chat and post for fun everyday stuff. Do not stray from the discussion in the assigned questions.
3. Never use all caps. This is the equivalent of yelling in the online world. It is not fun to read. Only use capital letters when appropriate.
4. Make sure that you are using appropriate grammar and structure. In other words, I don't want to see anyone writing “R U” instead of “are you”. There are people in the class that may not understand this type of abbreviation, not to mention it does nothing to help expand your writing and vocabulary skills. Emoticons are fine as long as they are appropriate. A smile 😊 is welcome, anything offensive is not.
5. Treat people the same as you would face-to-face. In other words, it is easy to hide behind the computer. In some cases, it empowers people to treat others in ways they would not in person. Remember there is a person behind the name on your screen. Treat all with dignity and respect and you can expect that in return.
6. Respect the time of others. This class is going to require you to work in groups. Learn to respect the time of others in your group and your experience will be much better. Always remember that you are not the only person with a busy schedule, be flexible. Do not procrastinate! You may be one that works best with the pressures of the deadline looming on you, but others may not be that way. The same is true for the reverse. The key to a successful group is organization, communication and a willingness to do what it takes to get it done.

Website: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

Compiled by Melissa Landin, Instructor, Dept. of Communication, Inver Hills Community College, mlandin@inverhills.edu

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

What are the basic computer specifications for Canvas?

- Visit the official [Canvas Computer Specifications Page](#) for the latest list of recommended system requirements.

Which browsers does Canvas support?

- Visit the [Supported Browsers Page](#) for the detailed list of internet browsers in Windows, MacOS, iOS and Android.

Skill Requirements

- Students also need to possess basic computer skills, such as:
 - How to use a web browser and word processor
 - How to send and receive email
 - How to locate a file and attach it to an email or upload a file into a course
 - How to copy and paste
 - Must know basic typing skills and keyboard commands
 - Must know basic computer terminology

Technical Support

- Canvas technical support. If you are experiencing issues with Canvas please contact:
 - CU Boulder's Help desk at 303-735-4357 (5-HELP) or help@colorado.edu. 5-Help will answer your call: Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from noon to 6:00 p.m., Closed during [University Holidays](#)
 - On your computer, click the “help” (?) icon on the left side of Canvas, once logged in
 - Within the Canvas App, you can search the Canvas support guides, Report a Problem or chat with Canvas Support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

ACCOMMODATION FOR DISABILITIES

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

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 race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. 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. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

HONOR CODE

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code (honor@colorado.edu); 303-492-5550). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](#).

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND/OR RELATED RETALIATION

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct intimate partner abuse (including dating or domestic violence), stalking, protected-class discrimination or harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or cureport@colorado.edu. Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](#), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

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. Because of the flexibility of timing of completion of assignments in this class, you must contact the instructor in at least two weeks in advance if you anticipate a religious holiday may impact your completion of coursework.

For more information on the religious holidays most commonly observed by CU Boulder students consult the [online interfaith calendar](#).

PREFERRED STUDENT NAMES AND PRONOUNS

CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.

COURSE WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Any student who wishes to withdraw from the course must submit a request directly to [Continuing Education](#). For complete information, please visit their website at <https://ce.colorado.edu/resources/topics/dates-and-deadlines-general-info/>

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

A variety of instructional support services, such as writing center, guidance on personal or educational issues, tutoring questions and library resources are available to the students. For more information about their services, visit their websites linked under modules on Canvas.

REQUIREMENTS FOR COVID-19

As a matter of public health and safety due to the pandemic, all members of the CU Boulder community and all visitors to campus must follow university, department and building requirements, and public health orders in place to reduce the risk of spreading infectious disease. Required safety measures at CU Boulder relevant to the classroom setting include:

- maintain 6-foot distancing when possible,
- wear a face covering in public indoor spaces and outdoors while on campus consistent with state and county health orders,
- clean local work area,

- practice hand hygiene,
- follow public health orders, and
- if sick and you live off campus, do not come onto campus (unless instructed by a CU Healthcare professional), or if you live on-campus, please alert [CU Boulder Medical Services](#).

Students who fail to adhere to these requirements will be asked to leave class, and students who do not leave class when asked or who refuse to comply with these requirements will be referred to [Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution](#). For more information, see the policies on [COVID-19 Health and Safety](#) and [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#). If you require accommodation because a disability prevents you from fulfilling these safety measures, please see the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus.

Before returning to campus, all students must complete the [COVID-19 Student Health and Expectations Course](#). Before coming on to campus each day, all students are required to complete a [Daily Health Form](#).

Students who have tested positive for COVID-19, have symptoms of COVID-19, or have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for or had symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home and complete the [Health Questionnaire and Illness Reporting Form](#) remotely. In this class, if you are sick or quarantined, please let me know via email or by calling/texting.