

## PRINCIPLES OF MACROECONOMICS 2020-010 SPRING 2009 SYLLABUS

**Instructor:** Andrew Meyer

**Office location:** ECON 12A

**Office Hours:** M 10:00 am-11:00 am and W 12:00 pm-2:00 pm and by appointment

**Email:** [meyerag@colorado.edu](mailto:meyerag@colorado.edu) (This is the best way to contact me.)

**Office Phone:** 303-735-1727

**Course Website:** <https://webfiles.colorado.edu/meyerag>

**Lecture Times:** MWF 9:00-9:50 in HLMS 201

**Teaching Assistant (TA):** Maryam Kabiri

**TA email:** [maryam.kabiri@colorado.edu](mailto:maryam.kabiri@colorado.edu)

**TA website:** <http://webfiles.colorado.edu/kabiri/www/>

**Required Text:** Krugman, Paul and Robin Wells. *Macroeconomics*. Worth Publishers. 2006.

An electronic version of the textbook is included with your Aplia subscription. If you would like a physical copy of the textbook I suggest you first look online for used copies. The best strategy for doing well in this class involves keeping up to date with your textbook readings.

**Course Description:** Macroeconomics is the study of the economy as a whole. It examines the aggregate behavior of the economy. This is different from microeconomics, which is the study of individual and firm behavior. We will study the principles of macroeconomics with special emphasis on how government policy affects macroeconomic goals such as price stability and full employment. The main goal of this class will be to improve your economic literacy and help you understand the actions of policymakers and economic institutions such as Congress, the president, and the Federal Reserve. To facilitate this, a portion of the course will focus on reading and discussing articles relevant to macroeconomics.

**Prerequisites:** ECON 2010 (Principles of Microeconomics) is required for all students in this class. Students should be familiar with the economic concepts of supply, demand, and elasticity. High school level algebra knowledge is assumed and students should be comfortable using graphs, tables, and equations.

**Course Topics:** (This schedule is tentative and subject to change.):

Week	Textbook Chapters	Topics
1	2	Introduction
2	6	The Big Picture
3	7	Tracking the Macroeconomy
4	9	Savings and Investment
5	11	Income and Expenditure
6, 7	10	Aggregate Supply and Aggregate Demand
8	12	Fiscal Policy
9	13	Money and Banking
10, 11	14	Monetary Policy
12, 13	15	Labor Markets
14	16	Inflation
15	8	Long-Run Growth

**Lectures:** In lecture, new material will be presented. This material will be based upon the textbook, but may differ in emphasis. There may be some material on the exams that is covered only in lecture and not in the textbook. Should you miss a lecture, you should get lecture notes from another student in the class.

Also, we will begin lecture most days by spending a few minutes on current events that pertain to macroeconomics. I will ask for volunteers to give a quick explanation of a current event. If nobody has an event to discuss we will continue on with the lecture material. As a class, we will discuss the issue and determine the relevant economic principles involved as well as the policy implications. The material from these discussions is fair game for exams.

**Grading:** Your course grade will be based on six different components. The weights of these six components are shown in parenthesis.

- 1) Aplia Homework (15%): There will be homework assignments for each chapter. The purpose of these assignments is to review the concepts learned in class and prepare for the exams. Late homework assignments will not be accepted and you will not receive any credit for turning in homework late. Weekly homework assignments are found on the Aplia website. Aplia site requires a separate registration process. Here are the steps:

1. Connect to <http://econ.aplia.com>
2. Complete the Configuration Test and make adjustments to your configuration if necessary
3. Return to the Sign In page and click "Register Here"
4. You will be prompted to enter your e-mail address and select a password
5. You will then be asked to enter your course key, which is: **7AUC-Z9F6-MPZ9**

You will only need to register once. After the registration process is complete, you will not need to enter the course key again. For technical problems or problems signing in, please send Aplia an e-mail by clicking on the "Help" link in the upper-right corner of any page or by e-mailing [support@aplia.com](mailto:support@aplia.com). *Do not email me or your TA about technical problems with Aplia. You need to contact Aplia's help.*

**Student benefits:** By completing regular work in association with the lectures, you will better prepare yourself for the lectures and exams in the course. Cramming is not an effective method of learning. Think of the regular assignments on Aplia as a weekly Economics workout. Practicing and applying what you are learning from Aplia and lecture will better prepare you for class.

**Aplia assignments:** Many assignments come in pairs of practice and graded problem sets. The practice sets give you immediate feedback about whether your answer is right or wrong and an explanation of the correct answer. They are not counted as part of your homework grade. Use them to check your understanding of the material. If you are confident, you can go directly to the graded problem set, and refer back to the practice set only if you want some additional help.

The graded problem sets have a firm due date. You can change your answers as many times as you like before the due date has passed. Once the due date has passed, the grade will be recorded and it will not be possible to change your answers or complete the assignment at this point. In other words, Aplia assignments must be completed by the due date. The software does not care whether you have an excuse or not. These assignments are posted weeks in advance. Do them early to avoid any emergencies preventing your completion before the due date. After the due date, you will be able to see the correct answers and the explanations for graded problems.

The cost of Aplia is **\$70** per student for this class for the semester. You may register and use the website until **02/01/2009** without paying the fee. If you are considering dropping this course during the drop/add period, do not make a payment until you are sure. You will need to pay the full amount before the end of the grace period to continue using the site. You may pay online with a credit card or personal check, or you can mail a check or money order to the address provided on the Aplia site.

Disclaimer: I am not financially affiliated with Aplia and receive no monetary benefit from requiring this material.

- 2) Article Analyses (10%): Throughout the semester we will be discussing articles in class. There will be approximately one article per chapter. You must do 8 of the 11 articles. You are required to turn in word-processed (double spaced, 12 pt. font, 1 to 2 pages, 1 inch margins) analyses of the articles that we are discussing in class. On the course website, you will find a link for the reading list as well as a list of questions that I want you to address for each article. Check back often as the list will be constantly updated throughout the semester. Write a summary of the article and answer the questions in paragraph form. Include a second page of relevant graphs if requested. The analyses are due at the beginning of class on the day of the discussion. Each article will be worth 10 points. Five points is for the summary and five points is for answering the questions and including any relevant graphs. I will not accept e-mailed articles as being present for the discussion is part of the assignment. You will not receive any credit for turning in summaries after the discussion, or for turning in hand-written or emailed summaries.
- 3) Recitation (20%): What happens in recitation is decided by your recitation instructor. Your TA will inform you of the manner of assessment in recitation. The purpose of recitation is to review and reinforce the material that is presented in lecture in a smaller group setting. Attending recitation is required and expected. Recitations begin during the second week of class.
- 4) Midterm I Exam (20%): Wednesday, February 18th. Questions will be multiple choice and short answer.
- 5) Midterm II Exam (20%): Friday, April 3rd. Questions will be multiple choice and short answer.
- 6) Final Exam (35%): Monday, May 4, 7:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Half of the final will be on the material since the midterm. The other half will be cumulative and include material from the entire semester. Questions will be multiple choice and short answer.

To make this add up to 100%, I'll automatically drop the lowest of your Recitation, Midterm 1, or Midterm 2 scores when determining your grade. You will not be able to drop your Final Exam score.

Example:        60% on Aplia  
                    100% on article analyses  
                    80% on midterm 1  
                    65% on midterm 2  
                    85% in recitation  
                    5 points of extra credit earned during the semester  
                    75% on the final exam  
                    Final grade is calculated as  $.15*60+.1*100+.2*80+.2*85+.35*(75+5) = 80\% = B-$

Extra Credit: There will only be a few extra credit opportunities during the semester, and they will be unannounced before class and will only be available during class. Each extra credit opportunity is worth between 0 and 3 percentage points to be added to your final exam score that will count toward your final grade. No other extra credit opportunities will be offered.

Make-ups for any exam are allowed only under compelling circumstances. Under such a compelling circumstance, you are always required to make prior arrangements before the exam, usually one week in advance. In the case that you miss a midterm exam that you cannot make-up, the lowest midterm or recitation grade is dropped. This is another good reason to attend recitation—it serves as an insurance policy in case you get sick or miss an exam for some other unexpected reason.

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

93.00 – 100.0 % ... A  
90.00 – 92.99 % ... A-  
88.00 – 89.99 % ... B+  
83.00 – 87.99 % ... B  
80.00 – 82.99 % ... B-  
78.00 – 79.99 % ... C+  
73.00 – 77.99 % ... C  
70.00 – 72.99 % ... C-  
68.00 – 69.99 % ... D+  
63.00 – 67.99 % ... D  
60.00 – 62.99 % ... D-  
59.99 – 0.00 % ... F

**Important Dates:**

Classes Start: Monday, January 12th  
Recitations Start: Monday, January 19th  
Exam 1: Wednesday, February 18th  
Spring Break: March 23-27  
Exam 2: Friday, April 3rd  
Final Exam: Monday, May 4, 7:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

**Additional Notes:** If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services (DS) early in the semester so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, (<http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>).

Disability Services letters for students with disabilities indicate legally mandated reasonable accommodations. Other letters/requests you may receive from agencies such as the Wardenburg Student Health Center, or other health providers, such as physicians or counselors, are recommendations you may choose to follow to assist students but are not necessarily legal mandates. The syllabus statements and answers to Frequently Asked Questions can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>.

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. In this class, reasonable accommodations will be made for students that notify me adequately in advance of conflicts. Students can see full details at [http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac\\_relig.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html).

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 have 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> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/>

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](mailto: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). *In this class, the minimum sanction for violations of the honor code will be a 0 score for the work in question.* 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/>.

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs 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>

Be aware of the Drop/Add deadlines ([http://registrar.colorado.edu/students/registration/registration\\_packet/drop\\_add.html](http://registrar.colorado.edu/students/registration/registration_packet/drop_add.html) ).

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. To qualify for rescheduling final exam times, you must provide evidence that you have three or more exams on the same day, and arrangements must be made with your instructor no later than the end of the sixth week of the semester. For the complete final examination policy, see the University of Colorado at Boulder Catalog (<http://www.colorado.edu/catalog> ).