

**Economics 2020 Principles of Macroeconomics
Spring 2009 University of Colorado at Boulder**

Instructor: Samuel Raisanen

Office: Econ 14 (In the basement of the Econ Building, across from the men's room)

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Office hours: Tuesday 9:15-11:15, Thursday 1pm-3pm, By Appt.

Course website: <http://www.aplia.com>

Lecture: Tuesday-Thursday, 11:30 am-12:15pm in MCDB A2B70

Teaching Assistants (TA): Catherine Massey, Jieun Chang, Song Sim

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Required Text: • **Krugman, Paul and Wells, Robin, (2006), Macroeconomics, Worth Publishers** – I would suggest looking for used/new copies online before buying at the bookstore to compare prices. Also, the best strategy for doing well in class and understanding the material is to read the corresponding textbook chapters before class.

Course Description: Macroeconomics is the economics field of study that considers aggregate behavior, and the study of the sum of individual economic decisions. This is in contrast to microeconomics, the study of the economic behavior of individual consumers, firms, and industries. We will study the principles of macroeconomics with special emphasis on government policy and goals such as economic growth, price stability, full employment and the attainment of a sustainable balance of payments. The main goal of this class will be to improve your economic literacy and help you informatively question 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 articles with economic relevance for class discussion

Prerequisites: Principles of Microeconomics (Econ 2010) and high school algebra. Students should be familiar with the economic concepts of supply, demand, elasticity and be comfortable using equations, graphs, and tables.

Lectures: In lecture, new material will be presented that will follow topics from the textbook, but may differ in emphasis. Students are expected to attend all lectures. Besides all the obvious reasons to attend lecture, some exam questions may not be covered in the text but only covered in lecture. In the off chance that you miss a lecture, you should try to get lecture notes from a fellow student, if they are willing to share. I don't give students my notes as they are only outlines of topics to discuss and will not be of much help to you. Lectures will also include group discussions of assigned articles. Since article analysis will be part of the exams missing lectured discouraged.

Recitation:

Attending recitation is required. Recitation will focus on problem solving and serves to bridge the gap between the lecture material, homeworks, and exams. It will be an opportunity to ask questions in a smaller setting than the lecture and will compose a small portion of your final grade.

Homework: Homeworks can be found on the Aplia website: <http://www.aplia.com>. There are 12 homework assignments worth 15% of your total grade. The schedule for the homeworks and Aplia information can be located below.

Article Analysis: Over the course of the class we will be analyzing a number of articles related to the material covered. There will be approximately an article per chapter, 11 in all. As an

incentive to read the articles 10% of the grade will be determined by preparing a short summary and answering a few questions for a number of articles. You must do 8 of the 11 articles. I will give a number of questions to consider for each article. Write a summary of the articles and answer the questions in paragraph form. Include a second page of relevant graphs if requested. The article analysis must be a page typed, double spaced, 12 point Time New Roman font, with 1 inch margins to receive credit. The summaries will be worth 2 points each and are *due in class on the day we discuss the article*. The first point is for the summary and the second is for answering the questions and including the relevant graphs. If I feel you are putting in less than full effort less than full credit will be awarded. I will not accept e-mailed articles as being present for the discussion is part of the assignment. The articles will be posted online a few days prior to their due date.

Grading: There will be 2 midterm exams worth 20% each, 12 graded Aplia homework worth 15% total, recitation worth 10% (as determined by the TAs), articles worth 5%, and a final exam worth 30%.

Final 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

These grades are the grades I will guarantee. I reserve the option to curve the final grades upward.

Examinations: The three exams will take place during regular class time in the regular class room on the dates listed below. The multiple-choice portion of the exams will be graded by Scantron, so be sure to remember a #2 pencil. You'll also want to bring a calculator (no cell phone calculators). The format of questions will be multiple choice and short answers. Exam questions will be based on material covered in the book, lecture, and in the problem set. Questions will test your memory and understanding of the definitions and concepts covered, and your ability to synthesize the material and apply the concepts in a new context. I'll talk more about each exam as the exam date approaches.

Since this is a large class, **make-ups for any exam are allowed only under compelling circumstances**. Under such a compelling circumstance, you are almost always required to make prior arrangements before the exam, usually one week in advance. In the event that a make-up exam is warranted and is not able to be completed before other exams are returned, I may choose to increase the weight of your final instead.

Aplia Website: Weekly homework assignments are found on the Aplia website. These assignments will collectively count for **15%** of your grade. The 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: **34SR-XT5A-Z2RB**

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.

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.

Important Dates:

Classes Start: Tues, January 13th

Recitations Start: Monday, January 19th

Exam 1: Tuesday, February 17th

Exam 2: Thursday, April 2nd

Final Exam: Mon. May 4, 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Course Outline:

	Course Content		Homework
Week of	Tuesday	Thursday	Due @ 11 pm
Jan 13	Intro, Ch 2	Ch 6	Sunday (Ch 2)
Jan 20	Ch 6 (Article)	Ch 7	Sunday (Ch 6)
Jan 27	Ch 7 (Article)	Ch 9	Sunday (Ch 7)
Feb 3	Ch 9 (Article)	Ch 11	Sunday (Ch 9)
Feb 10	Ch 11	Article and Review	Sunday (Ch 11)
Feb 17	Exam I	Ch 10	
Feb 24	Ch 10	Ch 10 (Article)	
Mar 3	Ch 12	Ch 12 (Article)	Wednesday (Ch 10)
Mar 10	Ch 13	Ch 13 (Article)	Wednesday (Ch 12)
Mar 17	Ch 14	Ch 14	Wednesday (Ch 13)
Mar 24	Spring Break		
Mar 31	Ch 14 (Article)	Exam II	Wednesday (Ch 14)
Apr 7	Ch 15	Ch 15	
Apr 14	Ch 15 (Article)	Ch 16	Sunday (Ch 15)
Apr 21	Ch 16 (Article)	Ch 8	Sunday (Ch 16)
Apr 28	Ch 8 (Article)	Review	Wednesday (Ch 8)
Final Exam: Mon. May 4, 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.			

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; 303-725-2273). 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). 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/>

Expectations of Classroom Behavior:

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/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

Absences:

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. Please notify me as soon as possible so that the proper arrangements can be made. Students can see full details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

Disabilities Statement:

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 may be addressed.

Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities.

Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>.

Time extensions for exams must be approved by me prior to the exam. If you have not talked to me personally prior to the exam you will not be granted an extension.

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>