

**Economics 2020-030 Principles of Macroeconomics  
Spring 2010**

**University of Colorado at Boulder**

**Instructor:** Samuel Raisanen

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**Lecture:** TR, 2:00-3:15 pm in HELMS 199

**Office hours:** Tuesday 12-1:45, Wednesday 3-4:30

**Course website:** We will be using CU Learn to manage the course this semester:

<http://culearn.colorado.edu>. This will be set up as soon as possible.

**Required Text:** • **Krugman, Paul and Wells, Robin, (2009), 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 the Federal Reserve and the World Bank. 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 concepts of supply, demand, and elasticities 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. All students are expected to attend lecture regularly. Besides all the obvious reasons to attend lecture, some exam questions will 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 a discussion of assigned articles. As article analysis will be part of the exams missing lecture is not recommended.

**Recitation:**

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

**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, 12 in all. 10% of the grade will be determined by preparing a short summary and answering a few articles for a number of articles. You must do 10 of the 12 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 needed. The article analysis must be more than one page typed, double spaced, 12 point Time New Roman font, with 1 inch margins to receive credit.

A template will be posted on the course website. The summaries will be credit/no credit and are *due in class on the day we discuss the article*. I will not accept e-mailed articles as being present for the discussion is part of the assignment.

**Grading:** Your course grade will be based on two midterm exams, your recitation grade, and a cumulative final exam. Exam dates are listed below. The breakdown of grades is as follows: 15% for recitation, 10% for article analysis, 20% for each of the two midterm exams, and 35% for the final exam. The final is cumulative and I will let you increase your score on the midterms if you do better on the relevant questions that appear on the final by averaging the two as your midterm grade. (For example if you receive an 70 on the first midterm but score an 80 on the relevant questions on the final then I will increase your first midterm score to an 75.) There will also be one (and only one) opportunity for extra credit toward the end of the course (please don't ask if there will be more extra credit). Exams will not be curved but the course as a whole may be at the end if need be.

Letter grades will be guaranteed 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

**Examinations:** The midterm exams will take place during regular class time in the regular class room on the dates listed below. They will be a combination of multiple-choice questions and short answer questions. You'll probably also want to bring a calculator (*no cell phone calculators*). Exam questions will be based on material covered in lecture, the problem sets, and the article discussions. I'll talk more about each exam as the exam date approaches.

*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. Typically a make-up exam will be administered prior to the actual exam date. Any make-up exam given after the exams have been returned will be a 30 minute oral exam.

**Important Dates:**

Exam 1: Thursday Feb 18<sup>th</sup>

Exam 2: Thursday April 8<sup>th</sup>

Final Exam: Saturday May 1, 4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**If you have 3 finals in a day:** 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 (Friday, February 19, 2010).

**Course Topics:**

Chapter	Other Info (Articles/Exams)
3	Supply and Demand
6	Big Picture
7	Tracking the Economy
9	Savings and Investment
Exam #1	
11	Income and Expenditures
10	Aggregate Supply and Demand
12	Fiscal Policy
Exam #2	
13	Money and Banking
14	Monetary Policy
15	Unemployment and Inflation
Final Exam	

**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 members 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](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](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 and provided the appropriate documentation 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>