

**Intermediate Macroeconomics  
Econ 3080-003  
Spring 2011**

University of Colorado at Boulder  
Department of Economics

Instructor: Stephen Nicar  
Office: Econ 304  
email: nicar [at] colorado.edu  
Office hours: M, W 1:30 - 2:30 pm, or by appointment

Class time: M, W, F from 3:00 - 3:50 pm  
Classroom: DUAN G125  
Course website: Most material will be posted on CU Learn.

**Final exam: Tuesday, May 3 from 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm**

**Required Text:**

Blanchard, *Macroeconomics*, 5th edition, Pearson/Prentice Hall Publishers.

**Course Description and Objectives:**

Macroeconomics is the study of aggregate economic performance, including both long-run growth and short-run fluctuations (“business cycles”). We will give brief attention to long-run growth issues, but will focus mostly on the standard topics of short-run macroeconomics, including income and employment determination, unemployment and inflation, exchange rates and the balance of payments, and monetary and fiscal policies. We will also discuss the application of macro theories to current issues (and perhaps some alternative theoretical approaches to macroeconomics and controversies about different approaches to macro policy).

**Prerequisites:**

1. Economics prerequisites: ECON 1000 or 2020
2. Mathematics prerequisites: ECON 1078 & ECON 1088 or MATH 1300 or MATH 1310 or MATH 1081 or MATH 1080 & 1090 & 1100 or APPM 1350 or equivalent.

The material covered in this course requires basic calculus. It will be assumed that every student has a working knowledge of calculus, and there will be no formal review of calculus techniques. The mathematics prerequisites will be strictly enforced. In addition, it will be assumed that every student is familiar with the vocabulary and basic concepts of macroeconomics.

## Lectures:

Attendance will be taken daily and if you miss more than 9 class meetings of the scheduled class meetings your course grade will be automatically lowered two levels (e.g. if you get a B+ but have missed 9 or more classes, your grade will be lowered to a B-). These absences are intended to cover both valid (illness, car breaking down, family emergency) and invalid reasons for missing class.

If you miss the first three class meetings, you may be administratively dropped from the class. You are responsible for all information covered in class lectures. I do not post or give out my notes. If you miss a class, you should be able to get notes from one of your classmates. You can come to my office hours to discuss the material you missed, but you must first obtain the notes and relevant handouts, go over them and prepare specific questions.

## Grading:

Your grade will consist of two midterm exams, a cumulative final exam and homework assignments. Each portion of your grade will be weighted as follows:

Exam 1:	25%	Friday, February 11
Midterm 2:	25%	Wednesday, March 16
Final Exam:	30%	Tuesday, May 3 from 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm
Homework Assignments:	20%	

## Exams:

I will not give any make up exams and will not give exams early. The only exception is for student athletes with scheduled events on the date of the exams. Please check into this immediately and let me know as soon as possible. I require a signed letter from your coach or the athletics department. To reiterate, there will be **no make up exams**, please do not ask. Take note! If you are planning on leaving town, do not schedule your trip on an exam date.

Midterm exams are not cumulative. The final exam is cumulative - this means you will be tested on the material from the entire semester.

## Problem Sets:

Problem sets constitute 20% of your course grade which cannot be dropped. The problem sets must be handed in at the beginning of class on the day they are due. I will announce in class when problem sets are posted. You will not receive credit for late assignments. You may miss one assignment, as your lowest problem set grade will be dropped.

Students are encouraged to work on the problem sets in small groups (5 people or less). However, each person must submit their own write-up of each problem set and you must put the names of your group members on your assignment (make sure your name is distinct from the group members so I know who to give the grade to).

## Tentative Schedule:

We will cover the following topics during the semester. Reading the relevant chapters before the lecture will help with understanding the material. You are responsible for all material covered in the chapters listed, even if not covered in the lecture, unless I specifically say otherwise. As the semester progresses, **I may make changes to the following or change the order in which it is covered.** If I do I will let you know in advance.

- *Macroeconomics: The Big Picture*  
Chapters 1 and 2
- *The Core: The Short Run*  
Goods Markets, Financial Markets and IS-LM  
Chapters 3, 4, 5
- *The Core: The Medium Run*  
Labor Markets, Unemployment and Inflation  
Chapters 6, 7, 8 and 9
- *Extensions: Expectations*  
Chapters 14, 15, 16, 17
- *Extensions: The Open Economy*  
Chapters 18, 19, 20

Week of	Mon	Wed	Fri
Jan 10	Intro	Chapter 1	Chapter 2
Jan 17	No Class	Chapter 3	Chapter 3
Jan 24	Chapter 3	Chapter 4	Chapter 4
Jan 31	Chapter 4	Chapter 5	Chapter 5
Feb 7	Chapter 5	Review	Exam 1
Feb 14	Chapter 6	Chapter 6	Chapter 6
Feb 21	Chapter 7	Chapter 7	Chapter 7
Feb 28	Chapter 8	Chapter 8	Chapter 8
Mar 7	Chapter 9	Chapter 9	Chapter 9
Mar 14	Review	Exam 2	No Class
Mar 21	Spring Break		
Mar 28	Expectations →		
Apr 4	Expectations →		
Apr 11	Open Economy →		
Apr 18	Open Economy →		
Apr 25	Open Economy and Review		
Final Exam - Tuesday, May 3 from 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm			

**Disability Policy:**

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter from Disability Services to me 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>.

**Religious Observance Policy:**

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. If you have a conflict, please contact me at the beginning of the semester so we can make proper arrangements.

**Classroom Behavior Policy:**

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance, and nationalities. 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.

**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](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). 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/>.

**Discrimination & Harassment Policy:**

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 applies 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 and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>.