

**Economics 3080-002 Principles of Macroeconomics
Maymester 2008 University of Colorado at Boulder**

Instructor: Samuel Raisanen

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Office hours: 12:30-2:00 MTWTF

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

<http://culearn.colorado.edu>.

Lecture: 9:00-12:15 MTWRF in ECON 13

Required Text: • **Olivier Blanchard, (2006), Macroeconomics 4th Edition, Pearson/Prentice Hall 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. I follow the book topics fairly closely but will add a few additional things as I see fit.

Course Description: Macroeconomics is the economics field of study aggregate economic variables. This is in contrast to microeconomics, the study of the economic behavior of individual consumers, firms, and industries. We will study how economists model the relationships between these economic variables and exam how various fiscal and monetary policies can affect the results. The main goal of this class will be to improve your economic literacy and ability to apply economic models to analyze world events. 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), Principles of Macroeconomics (Econ 2020), and Mathematics for Economists I and II (Econ 1078/1088 or equivalent). Students should be familiar with the concepts of supply and demand, the basics of fiscal and monetary policy, and have some experience using equations, graphs, and tables to analyze economic situations.

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 all lectures during the Maymester.* We will be covering a chapter a day as each day in the Maymester corresponds to more than a week of class in the Fall or Spring. Additionally, 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 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. Some lectures will also include a discussion of assigned articles.

Article Analysis: Over the course of the class we will be analyzing a number of articles related to the material covered. I will assign 6 articles to be read over the course of the semester. You must complete 5 of the 6 articles. 10% of the grade will be determined by your article responses. Students will be required write a summary of the articles and answer the presented questions in paragraph form, including a second page of relevant graphs if necessary. The article analysis must be one page typed, double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, with 1 inch margins to receive credit. The summaries will be graded as full credit/half 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. I reserve the right to randomly call on those people who turned in articles to help answer questions to generate discussion.

Problem Sets: Ten problem sets will be posted for completion online on CULearn (<http://culearn.colorado.edu>) throughout the semester. Of the ten, I will drop the lowest 2 scores

and average the other 8 together for your problem set grade. These problems will be multiple choice and calculation problems and will be similar to questions found on the exam. The problem sets count for 30% of the final grade. Additionally, a number of recommended short answer problems will be posted. These problems while not graded will be helpful in preparing for the exams.

Examinations: There will be two exams given in the course. The 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 will also want to bring a calculator (*no cell phone calculators*). Exam questions will be based on material covered in lecture and the problem sets. I'll talk more about each exam as the exam date approaches. Each exam counts for 30% of the overall grade.

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. Any make-up exam given after the exams have been returned will be a 40 minute oral exam.

Grading: Your course grade will be based on two exams, the 10 problem sets, and the article analysis. Exam dates are listed in the schedule below. The breakdown of grades is as follows: 10% for article analysis, 30% for the problem sets, and 30% for the two exams. 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, this will be the only chance for extra credit). I will explain the details of this assignment after the first exam.

Course Schedule:

Date	Material	Problem Sets Due
Monday, May 12	Intro to Macro: Ch 1 and 2	
Tuesday, May 13	Aggregate Expenditure: Ch 3	PS 1
Wednesday, May 14	Open Economy: Ch 18.1, 19.1-4&6	PS 2
Thursday, May 15	Financial Markets: Ch 4.1-2	PS 3
Friday, May 16	IS-LM Model: Ch 5	
Monday, May 19	Wrap-Up and Review	PS 4
Tuesday, May 20	Exam #1	
Wednesday, May 21	Labor Markets: Ch 6	
Thursday, May 22	AS-AD Model: Ch 7	PS 5
Friday, May 23	Phillips Curve: Ch 8	PS 6
Monday, May 26	Growth Basics: Ch10	PS 7
Tuesday, May 27	Solow Model Part I: Ch 11	PS 8
Wednesday, May 28	Solow Model Part II: Ch 12	PS 9
Thursday, May 29	Wrap-up, Review, and FCQ's	PS 10
Friday, May 30	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

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 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>