

Office Hours: MW 12:05-1:00, W 2:00-2:30 and by appointment. (While remote, after class and by appointment.)

NOTE: YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY GET AN F IF YOU MISS MORE THAN 7 DAYS OF CLASS AND YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY LOSE A THIRD OF A GRADE (e.g., B TO B-) IF YOU MISS MORE THAN 5 DAYS OF CLASS. IF YOU HAVE ANY DOUBT THAT YOUR CLICKER IS WORKING ON A PARTICULAR DAY, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SIGNING THE PAPER ROLE SHEET THAT DAY. The TA will keep the role sheet (if the TA is not there, I will keep the role sheet).

Plagiarism or any other form of cheating will also result in an automatic F.

No use of electronics during an in-person class. The TA will help enforce this policy.

Description

Macroeconomics is the study of how all the different aspects of the economy interact to determine outcomes for the economy as a whole.

- Why study macroeconomics? Because macroeconomics has to pull everything together, it can strengthen a wide variety of skills: advanced reading and writing skills, judging whether something is a big or a small effect, and the use of concepts specific to macroeconomics as well as concepts from international finance, industrial organization, labor economics, development economics and other fields of economics.
- Why studying macroeconomics is hard: It is a lot easier to tell stories related to personal experience in microeconomics than macroeconomics.
- How to connect to macroeconomics: Read the news; talk to fellow students, other friends and family about politics.

Prerequisites

Economics 3080 builds on the understanding you gained 2010 and 2020, Principles of Micro and Macro. There is no official recommendation on this, but I personally recommend that you take Economics 3070 before taking Economics 3080.

Course Readings, Quizzes and Course Squarespace Website

- **Textbook:** Inclusive access through an “Achieve” link in Canvas which will be set up soon. **Mankiw, N. Gregory, *Macroeconomics*** (10th edition, 2019).
- **Achieve Quizzes:** These will be the primary way you are tested on the textbook material. The two midterm exams and the final will have only about one question per chapter on material in the textbook that we don’t elaborate on in class.
- **Wall Street Journal**—Should be free through the university’s subscription: go to <https://education.wsj.com/search/> If that doesn’t work and you need to buy a subscription, google “wall street journal student digital pack” (\$1 a week for 15 weeks)
- **Handouts, Exercises and Blog Posts** on <https://blog.supplysideliberal.com/intermediate-macro>: There have been big changes in macroeconomics that are not yet reflected in standard textbooks. Blog posts cover material I would put into a textbook and are free. Key examples of things missing from standard macro textbooks are (a) how to use logarithms in macroeconomics, (b) how monetary policy is conducted now, (c) negative interest rate policy and (d) increasing returns to scale.

I recommend that you bookmark <https://blog.supplysideliberal.com/intermediate-macro>

Course Requirements and Grading

Achieve Quizzes	15%
i-clicker and Zoom polls (attendance and substance)	10%
weekly blog posts	15%
1 st Midterm:	15%
2d Midterm:	15%
Final exam:	30%

Assignments and blog posts will always be due by 11 PM on their due date. For the benefit of students who join the class late, the official due date for the first Achieve quizzes has been delayed until 11 PM on Thursday, January 20 at the earliest. Your first blog post will be due at 11 PM Sunday, January 23. Don't wait until the last minute! I'll give more instructions on this in the Wednesday, January 19 class. The course website <https://blog.supplysideliberal.com/intermediate-macro> will have additional written instructions.

The course will be graded on a curve based on overall points. (By Econ. Dept. policy, average grade must be B-/C+.) If an exam is especially difficult, I'll add extra bonus points for everyone who takes it. Some exams will also have bonus questions that give an extra point for attempting them even if you get them wrong.

ALSO: IF YOU MISS MORE THAN 7 CLASSES, YOU GET AN AUTOMATIC FAILING GRADE and if you miss more than 5 classes, you will lose one third of a grade.

Honor Code Policy: A determination of plagiarism or cheating will result in an automatic failing grade.

EXAM SCHEDULE

Midterm exams will be held in class on Wed., February 16, and Wed., March 31. The final exam for this class is on Sunday, May 1, from 7:30 PM to 10:00 PM, in our regular room.

Attendance at all the exams is required—there will be no make-up exams.

TA: Kevin Starnes ks9548@colorado.edu. (=kevin.w.starnes NOT kevin.starnes) Please address administrative questions (such as the need to make alternative exam arrangements) first to Kevin.

Brief Course Outline: I want you to understand 21st-century macroeconomics, not macroeconomics as it used to be. I also want to make sure this course is relevant to economic policies being debated in the real world. Existing textbooks fail to get students up to speed on critical aspects of modern macroeconomics and often do not discuss current policy debates adequately. In that kind of situation, many professors assign their own textbook or have students buy two books. Instead, I supplement the first ten chapters in Mankiw's textbook with material I have created and posted free on the course website and on my blog. You can see my teaching philosophy for this course in detail, in the assigned blog post "[On Teaching and Learning Macroeconomics](#)." There you will see that another key part of my philosophy is the importance of teaching writing and critical reading in conjunction with macroeconomics itself. Students often get frustrated with the expectation that they become able to do critical reading, because many other classes do not expect it, but this is a skill you can master. For more on the critical reading expectations in this course, see "[Critical Reading: Apprentice Level](#)." Critical reading is too difficult to expect you to do it on the textbook chapters. Instead, I only expect you to do critical reading on the (typically shorter) items of supplementary material. It is great to disagree with what you read; but you need to know where you agree and where you disagree.

Syllabus, Part 2: Required Syllabus Statements: Go to

<https://www.colorado.edu/academicaaffairs/policies-customs-guidelines/required-syllabus-statements>