

University of Colorado Boulder  
Econ 1078-001: Principles of Macroeconomics  
Syllabus, Fall 2021

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*\* All time mentioned in this syllabus are Mountain Time, unless stated otherwise*

## Introduction

### Instructor: Alexander Bentz

Email: [alexander.bentz@colorado.edu](mailto:alexander.bentz@colorado.edu)

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9:30-10:30AM, Zoom

Please sign up for a time slot through this link: <https://calendly.com/alexander-bentz>

If the available times do not work for you, please email me with suggested times and I will try to find availability.

Appointments are for 15 min. Depending on demand for office hours, I may be available for longer if necessary. In my experience, 15 minutes is sufficient for most meetings.

You will get a confirmation email with Zoom link in it. You can cancel or reschedule the meeting through links in this confirmation email. Office hours may be available in person at some point during the semester depending on department policy. You may always elect to meet on Zoom instead of person at your discretion.

**You are always welcome to contact me through email or come to office hours!** However, if the questions have been address in this syllabus, I will refer you back to this file, or if questions are about technical problems, I will refer you to the module “Course Information” in our Canvas course page.

I check my emails regularly and will usually respond within 24 hours. **If you have not received a response to your email within 48 hours, please email me again.** Always be sure to use your university email address because sometimes gmail and yahoo email accounts are filtered into the spam folder.

### Prerequisites

None.

### Course Description

In order to succeed in economics, a student must be well-versed in a variety of mathematical concepts. The purpose of the two Math Tools courses (1078 and its counterpart 1088) is to prepare students for the math they will encounter in future economics courses. Math will help you understand and describe the way firms and consumers optimize decisions subject to constraints. It will also provide the building blocks you will use in your statistics and econometrics courses, which will enable you to apply economics concepts to real-world data. These skills are crucial to the study of economics.

**On Math:** I don't believe that you can be "not a Math person". We all do complicated Math operations every day (e.g., if you've ever ridden a bike). What is different about studying Math is that we will take the time to describe these operations and practice communicating concepts to others. If you keep studying Math, eventually you will struggle. That is an important part of learning. The best part about Math is that you can always return to the basics and rebuild your understanding from there. If you are struggling with concepts in this class, come to office hours ASAP and we will work together to build up your understanding.

### Required Materials

- Textbook: Essential Mathematics for Economic Analysis. Knut Sydsaster and Peter Hammond with Arne Strom. 4th Edition.
  - Various editions of this textbook are widely available online. Other versions are acceptable; however, chapter numbers may differ. It is your responsibility to match up the chapter topics.
  - You will use this textbook in ECON 1088.
- Camera (the camera on a smartphone is fine) or scanner to turn in homework.

### Course Structure

#### Assignments and Grading

Your final grade is determined as a weighted average Homework (30%), two Midterms (20% each) and a Final (30%). Grades will be updated in Canvas throughout the semester.

Following department policy, the median grade in the course will be a B-. I will give as many people Bs or above as I am allowed. I will not under any circumstances change or bump up any individual grades at the end of the semester. If you think there are any mistakes, please reach out immediately; however, the grade you earn will be final. **I will not respond to requests to individually bump up grades at the end of the semester.**

Homework	30%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Final Exam	30%

**Homework.** Math requires practice. Only by writing out your logic can you test your understanding. Homework assignments will require you to write out your work for each problem. Answers that don't show your work will receive little to no credit.

I will assign 14 weekly homework due each Sunday at 11:59PM. Homework will be submitted via Canvas – upload a PDF with all of your work each week. I recommend taking pictures of your work and using CamScanner (available for iPhone or Android) or a similar app to upload your work if you do not have access to a scanner. If you have an iPad/tablet and would like to write your work with a stylus, that is fine too. Illegible answers will receive no credit.

I will accept late HW up to 1 day late (Monday at 11:59PM) and assess at 20% late penalty. Missing HW assignments will receive a grade of zero. This is so that I can provide you timely feedback without revealing answers before problems are due. I will post solutions Tuesday morning. I will drop your 2 lowest HW scores, including up to two missed assignments.

**Midterms.** Midterms consist of multiple choice questions that cover all the material covered since the previous midterm. They are not cumulative by design; however, the material in this course naturally builds on previous material. For the sake of the final grade, if you score higher on Midterm II than Midterm I, I will drop your Midterm I and assign 40% of your grade to Midterm II. If you score higher on Midterm I, I will assign 25% of your grade to each midterm. Basic four function calculators are allowed but not necessary.

**Final Exam.** The final consists of multiple choice questions that cover all the material taught in class (cumulative). The format will be similar to the midterms.

**Curves.** I will attempt to adjust midterm scores (depending on the class average) when they are graded so that your Final Grade in Canvas is a pretty good reflection of what it will be at the end of the semester (conditional on your performance for the rest of the semester). The final class median will be an 82.

**Attendance.** Attendance is *not* mandatory in this course but it is highly recommended. The material and examples covered in class will directly prepare you for homework and exams. To incentivize attendance, I will cover one problem from each homework during class. This problem and the solutions will not appear on class slides (uploaded to Canvas). Given that homework is a large portion of your grade, attendance will help your homework grade.

I have not included a formal way to grade attendance this semester as continued public health precautions may require students to miss class with very little notice and I do not in any way want to discourage students from taking those precautions.

## University Policies

### CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Both students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote or online. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. For more information, see the policies on classroom behavior and the Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution policies.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR COVID-19

As a matter of public health and safety due to the pandemic, all members of the CU Boulder community and all visitors to campus must follow university, department and building requirements and all public health orders in place to reduce the risk of spreading infectious disease. Students who fail to adhere to these requirements will be asked to leave class, and students who do not leave class when asked or who refuse to comply with these requirements will be referred to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. For more information, see the policy on classroom behavior and the Student Code of Conduct. If you require accommodation because a disability prevents you from fulfilling these safety measures, please follow the steps in the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus.

As of Aug. 13, 2021, CU Boulder has returned to requiring masks in classrooms and laboratories regardless of vaccination status. This requirement is a temporary precaution during the delta surge to supplement CU Boulder’s COVID-19 vaccine requirement. Exemptions include individuals who cannot medically tolerate a face covering, as well as those who are hearing-impaired or otherwise disabled or who are communicating with someone who is hearing-impaired or otherwise disabled and where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication. If you qualify for a mask-related accommodation, please follow the steps in the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus. In addition, vaccinated instructional faculty who are engaged in an indoor instructional activity and are separated by at least 6 feet from the nearest person are exempt from wearing masks if they so choose.

Students who have tested positive for COVID-19, have symptoms of COVID-19, or have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for or had symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home. In this class, if you are sick or quarantined, please contact me ASAP to discuss necessary extensions to assignments and appointments to cover missed material. Per university policy, I *will not* ask for a “doctor’s note” and instead will rely on your honesty to make sure you only ask for the accommodations that you require.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR DISABILITIES

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the Disability Services website. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or [dsinfo@colorado.edu](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu) for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition, see Temporary Medical Conditions on the Disability Services website.

### PREFERRED STUDENT NAMES AND PRONOUNS

CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.

## HONOR CODE

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code academic integrity policy. Violations of the Honor Code may include, but are not limited to: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu)); 303-492-5550). Students found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found on the Honor Code website.

## SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND/OR RELATED RETALIATION

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner violence (dating or domestic violence), stalking, or protected-class discrimination or harassment by or against members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or email [cureport@colorado.edu](mailto:cureport@colorado.edu). Information about OIEC, university policies, reporting options, and the campus resources can be found on the OIEC website.

Please know that faculty and graduate instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, dating and domestic violence, stalking, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about their rights, support resources, and reporting options.

## RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, please contact me within the first two weeks of class (no later than 9/8/2021) to arrange an accommodation.

See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.