

University of Colorado Boulder
Econ 2020-300: Principles of Macroeconomics
Syllabus, Spring 2022

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

Location: GOLD A2B70 or on Zoom: <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/94173628132> (passcode: 368302)

Instructor: Alexander Bentz

Email: alexander.bentz@colorado.edu

Online Office Hours on Zoom: Monday and Wednesday 9:00am-10:00am

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

You will get a confirmation email with Zoom link in it. You can cancel or reschedule the meeting through links in this confirmation email.

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 really appreciate if you check this syllabus and our Canvas course page before emailing me.**

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

A passing grade (C-) in Principle of Microeconomics (ECON 2010) is required. If you have not satisfied this prerequisite, please contact me immediately.

Lectures

Lectures will be held in person in the assigned classroom whenever permitted by university policy. **The first two weeks of lecture (1/10 – 1/21) will be held remotely on Zoom (see above for the link).** Please monitor university updates on mode of instruction as I will be following these.

All exams will be held remotely (see below).

Recitations

You need to sign up for one of the standard in-person recitation sessions.

Recitations start from the second week of the semester. Information on recitation will be provided by your TA prior to the second week of courses.

Exams

There will be three midterms and one final for this course. Midterms will not be cumulative. The final will be cumulative.

Exams (midterms and finals) will be held on Canvas, using the Proctorio proctoring service (see below). Midterms will be available during class time and due at the end of normal class time. You are welcome to use our classroom to complete the exam during our assigned class time; however, I will not be present.

Makeup exams will not be given. If you will be unable to complete the exam for any reason (illness, etc.), please let me know *prior* to the exam time and I will try to make accommodations. If you do not contact me for accommodations prior to the exam, you will receive a zero on the exam.

Proctorio

To take the midterms and final, you will be required to use Proctorio, an online proctoring service. See the Canvas site for more information. Complete the ungraded practice quiz during the first two weeks of the semester. If you have technical difficulties with the ungraded practice quiz, email me immediately. If you do not complete the ungraded practice quiz at least two weeks prior to the first midterm and have technical difficulties that prevent you from completing the midterms or final, you will receive a zero for that exam. If you have completed the ungraded practice quiz at least one week prior to the first midterm and contact me about technical difficulties prior to the exam due date, I will consider granting an extension.

Course Description

Macroeconomics is concerned with the behavior of the economy as a whole: understanding it is a necessary condition for households, firms, and policymakers to make more informed decisions. This course is a first step in this direction: during the semester, you will be introduced to the main building blocks of the modern macroeconomic theory.

By the end of the course you will learn how to think as a macroeconomist:

1. how to isolate the main forces behind market outcomes,
2. how to measure them,
3. and how to assess the impact of monetary/fiscal policies and changes in the economic environment on macroeconomic aggregates in the short and long run

In the process you will learn how to boil down complex macroeconomic problems to their essential features, making use of a powerful tool: assumptions.

Required Materials

Textbook and MindTap

Principles of Macroeconomics by N. Gregory Mankiw, 9th edition through MindTap Inclusive Access. Note that MindTap is required for this course. The link for registration to MindTap is on our Canvas course page, under module “Course Information”.

To keep the cost of your course materials as low as possible and access to those materials as convenient as possible, we have collaborated with the CU Book Store and the publisher to deliver

those materials through a program called “Inclusive Access”, which will appear on your tuition and fee bill as “Day 1 Digital Access”.

What does this mean for you?

1. You will receive access to all your course materials, digitally, on the first day of classes, through the course Canvas page.
2. You will see a “Day 1 Digital Access” charge on your tuition and fee bill for: \$114.99; This is a guaranteed lowest price, discounted by the publisher, and not available outside this course.
3. You have the option to opt out. This means: you won’t pay for anything, but you lose all access to the course materials, including homework managers like Connect or MindTap.
 - a. You can opt out by: using a link in a reminder email you will receive with the subject heading “Day 1 Digital Access”.
 - b. You must opt out no later than January 26th, otherwise you will be charged for these materials.

4. Please keep in mind that “opting out” means that your access to these materials will be turned OFF, and you will have no way to complete assignments. Although you must have these materials to pass the course, federal law mandates that you have the option of declining these materials. To do so, please visit: www.cubookstore.com/optout.

This course requires the use of MindTap, which either is not fully accessible to users using assistive technology or has not yet been reviewed fully for accessibility. If you use assistive technology to access the course material, please contact your faculty member and Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by e-mail at dsinfo@colorado.edu as soon as possible to discuss other effective means for providing equal alternate access.

Class Emails and Announcements

To make sure you receive class emails and announcements:

1. Update Canvas email address: Use the "account" link on the left tool bar to update your email and notification settings. Make sure you have all announcements notify you "immediately" because important course information is shared through announcements.
2. Update University email: <https://oit.colorado.edu/identikey-accounts/students> to make sure that the address is the one you regularly check.

Assignments and Grading

Your final grade is determined as a weighted average among Recitation (5%), Homework (20%), three pre-midterm quizzes (10%), three Midterms (45%) and a Final (30%). Grades will be updated in Canvas throughout the semester.

I will not under any circumstances change or bump up any individual grades at the end of the semester. If you think there is 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.

Recitation	5%
Homework	20%
Pre-midterm Quizzes	15%
Midterms	30%
Final Exam	30%

Homework. Homework consists of fourteen problem sets designed to reinforce your understanding of the material covered in class. Any late submission is associated with a penalty of 50% of the grade (that is you can get at most 10 out of 20). For the sake of the final grade, I will drop the lowest three homework grades.

Quizzes. Quizzes will consist of multiple choice questions that will be similar to those on the midterms. They are designed to help you assess whether you are prepared for the midterms. They will take approximately 15-20 minutes; however, they will not have a time limit. As with the exams, you will be required to use Proctorio for these quizzes.

Midterms. Midterms will be completed in Canvas and be timed (see "Exams" above for information on proctoring). Calculators are allowed. Midterms consist of multiple choice questions that cover all the material covered since the previous midterm. They are not cumulative. For the sake of the final grade, I will drop your lowest midterm score (each of your two highest midterms will count for 15% of your grade).

Final Exam. The Final will be completed in Canvas and be timed. The exam consists of multiple choice questions that cover all the material taught in class (theory and recitations). The final will be held on April 30 and be due at 7pm (this is in accordance with the university schedule).

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 average will be an 82.

University Policies

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

for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) on the Disability Services website.

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](#).

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; 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](#).

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.

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 your instructor as soon as possible and no later than January 26th**. I will be happy to accommodate you.

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

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation

CU Boulder is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. The university 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. Information about university policies, [reporting options](#), and the support resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and graduate instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when they are 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. To learn more about reporting and support options for a variety of concerns, visit [Don't Ignore It](#).

Requirements for COVID-19

As a matter of public health and safety, 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.

CU Boulder currently requires masks in classrooms and laboratories regardless of vaccination status. This requirement is a precaution 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.

If you feel ill and think you might have COVID-19, if you have tested positive for COVID-19, or if you are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated and have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, you should stay home and follow the further guidance of the [Public Health Office](#) (contacttracing@colorado.edu). If you are fully vaccinated and have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, you do not need to stay home; rather, you should self-monitor for symptoms and follow the further guidance of the [Public Health Office](#) (contacttracing@colorado.edu).

I do not need to be notified of any illness or other absence unless it will interfere with your ability to take an exam (midterm or final) on time. In this case, please let me know prior to the exam and I will make an accommodation. I do not need to know any medical information.