

Econ 2020 – Principles of Macroeconomics

Summer 2014 – Term B – MTWRF 9:15-10:50 – Hellems 201

Instructor: Zach Ward

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Office: Economics 14 (Located in the basement of the Economics Building)

Office Hours: MW 12:30-1:30, Tuesday 11:00-12:00

Website: Desire 2 Learn

Course Description:

This is an introductory course to macroeconomics. Microeconomics is the study of decisions made by smaller units such as individuals or firms, while macroeconomics explores how the overall economy functions. Macroeconomics focuses in on inflation, unemployment and economic growth. We will pay close attention to government's role in the macroeconomy, specifically monetary (Federal Reserve) and fiscal policy (for example, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act or the stimulus package). Understanding the basics of the financial system is extremely important for learning how the macroeconomy and governments operate, so we will also focus on the operations of banks.

Books:

N. Gregory Mankiw. Principles of Macroeconomics, 6th Edition.

You can find this at the bookstore, but for those freshman or newcomers to the buying textbooks world, you will find very quickly that online prices for used textbooks almost always beat bookstore prices.

Optional Suggested Reading: Tyler Cowen. The Great Stagnation: How America Ate the Low-Hanging Fruit of Modern History, Got Sick, and Will (Eventually) Feel Better.

I will use some ideas from this book as we go through class, so feel free to buy it (you can get either an e-book or hardcover at amazon.com). It is short, well-written, easily accessible, and has some very important ideas. The Economist named it one of the most important books of 2011.

Prerequisites:

You must have taken ECON 2010 (Principles or Intro to Microeconomics), and be familiar with basic graphing techniques.

TAs:

Amit Patel – ampa8130@colorado.edu

Grading

Midterm 1	25%	
Midterm 2	25%	
Recitation	25%	
		50%
	Final	35%
	Clickers	15%

Note: I will drop the lowest grade of Midterm 1, Midterm 2, and Recitation. Make-ups for exams will not be given for any reason. The Final will not be dropped. You must meet with me personally to discuss grades, I cannot release information via email.

Midterm 1 25% - Friday, July 18th (tentative)

Midterm 2 25% - Friday, August 1st (tentative)

Midterms will consist of both multiple choice and short-answer questions. You will need to bring blue books for short-answer questions – they can be found at the bookstore. The midterms will be given in the classroom (Hale 230) during the second half of class (10-10:50). I will provide more information on the format of the exams as they approach.

Recitation 25%

These recitations are led by your section leader and will meet weekly. Recitations will start the 2ND WEEK OF CLASSES (start the week July 14th). Your recitation leader will decide how the recitation grade will be determined, and it will be a combination of quizzes and homework. This is a four credit course with one credit coming from the recitation (thus 25% of the grade), so I expect you to take it seriously. TAs are an EXTREMELY VALUABLE resource and please go to their office hours as much as possible if you have a question.

Clickers 15%

You need to get and register a CU Clicker for this course. Clickers will be used to answer questions that are posed periodically throughout class. To get full credit in this section, you will be present in class and answer the question correctly. Each clicker question will be worth 2 points, 1 for participation and one

for getting the answer correctly. Your lowest 9 clicker questions will be dropped. Clicker questions will start to be counted on Thursday, July 10th.

Final 35% - Friday, August 8th, 9:15-10:50

The final exam will be cumulative. About half of the final will cover topics since the second midterm, and the first half will cover topics previous. The questions on the first half of the final will not be too technical, but will cover topics that any student of macroeconomics should understand. The final will be completely multiple choice.

Review Packets

After a chapter has finished, I will post review questions on D2L. Answers will be included. I highly recommend studying these questions throughout the semester as they will be reflective of exam questions.

Laptop/Classroom Respect Policy

Economics is a class that is full of graphs. There is no reason why you need a laptop in this class – thus laptops are not allowed in the classroom. Powerpoints are posted online and you can feel free to print them out and bring them to class. Please refrain from texting and talking, it's important not to distract other people's education and my attention.

Email Policy

Feel free to email if you have any questions about the topics or if you want to set up a meeting. If I do not respond to an email within a couple of days, the most likely reason will be because the question you asked has been answered in this Syllabus. Many economics questions can't be answered over email since they require graphing, so I may respond for you to come to office hours or to see me after class.

Grades

If you achieve a percentage that falls below, you will be guaranteed that grade. Grades will be rounded up from .50 (for example, 92.50 → 93%).

Percentage
93-100%

Grade

Percentage

Grade

Tentative Course Outline:

Below are the topics that I want to cover, but this is tentative and as the semester continues topics may be added or dropped.

1-3 10	Review of PPF, Thinking like an Economist, and Models Mea c
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Classroom Behavior Policy