

Principles of Microeconomics

ECON 2020-300, Spring 2020

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 2:00-2:50 PM, HUMN-1B50

1 Course Info

Instructor: Jacob Howard (jacob.b.howard@colorado.edu)

Office Hours: Wednesday 3:00-4:00 PM. No appointment is necessary to attend office hours. I am also available at other times in the week by appointment.

Office: ECON 401

Website: <https://jacobhowardecon.github.io>, Canvas, and Sapling

Required Text: Paul Krugman and Robin Wells, *Macroeconomics, Fifth Edition*. You will also need access to Sapling Learning by Macmillan Learning. Please read on for information regarding the most convenient way to access these materials.

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 digital course materials on the first day of classes through Canvas.
2. You will see a "Day 1 Digital Access" charge on your tuition and fee bill for: \$98.19
3. You have the option to opt out. This means you won't pay for anything, but you lose all access to Sapling and the digital textbook that are included.
 - (a) You can opt out by using a link in a reminder email you will receive with the subject heading "Day 1 Digital Access".
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 without purchasing access to Sapling on your own.

Prerequisites: There are no official prerequisites, however students are expected to have a basic understanding of algebra and graphing

Teaching Assistants:

¹This is a low price discounted by the publisher, and not available outside this course

Anand Butler

Preferred name: Anand

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Office: ECON 307

Office Hours: MW 11:00-1:00 & by appointment

Samuel Johnson

Preferred name: Sam

Email: sajo2727@colorado.edu

Office: ECON 307

Office Hours: TR 12:30-1:30; F 11:30-1:30

Charles Racine

Preferred name: CharLee

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Office: ECON 307

Office Hours: M 11:45-1:45; W 3-5

Course Description and Objectives: Economics is the study of how agents (humans, firms, etc...) make decisions under scarcity. 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. By the end of the course, students will understand the following concepts:

1. There are limitations to the production of goods and services by a country (the production possibility frontier).
2. The use of GDP to measure the well-being of a country and the limitations to its use.
3. Unemployment, inflation and GDP growth fluctuate during the business cycle.
4. An economy may be out-of-equilibrium in the short-run so that a country's GDP fluctuates (business cycles).
5. Monetary and fiscal policy can be used to influence both the depth and the duration of the business cycle.
6. The Federal Reserve System and the banking sector jointly determine the stock of money.
7. There is a linkage between the money supply and inflation.

Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage
A	93 x	C	73 $x < 77$
A-	90 $x < 93$	C-	70 $x < 73$
B+	87 $x < 90$	D+	67 $x < 70$
B	83 $x < 87$	D	63 $x < 67$
B-	80 $x < 83$	D-	60 $x < 63$
C+	77 $x < 80$	F	$x < 60$

Grading Scheme:

Grade Item	Percentage
Midterm 1	15
Midterm 2	15
Recitation	10
Final Exam	25
Homework	10
iClicker	15
Pre-Class Tutorial Videos and Questions	5
Bridge Questions	5

Exams: I will drop your lowest midterm exam score and replace it with your recitation grade if your recitation grade is higher than your lowest exam score (if you do this your recitation grade will be worth 25% of your grade). THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS. If you cannot make an exam because of an emergency/other commitment you can drop the zero and replace it with your recitation grade. Graphing calculators are not allowed in exams. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in a zero for the assignment. You will also need to know your student ID number (the one found on MyCUInfo) prior to the exam. You will also need a #2 pencil.

In summary, you will need the following for each exam:

1. Your student ID Number
2. A #2 Pencil
3. A non-graphing calculator (optional)

Midterms will be due at the end of the 50 minutes allotted for class. Failure to turn in your exam in a timely fashion will result in a zero for that exam. This means if you bubble in your answers at the end of the exam, be sure to give yourself time to complete the task of bubbling. Taking extra time on an exam is cheating, even if you are just bubbling in the answers.

The Final: The final exam will take place on Sunday, May 3rd from 1:30-4PM in our normal classroom. Recitation may not replace your final exam score. The final exam is mandatory for all students. The same rules for the midterms apply to the Final.

As is university policy, you can reschedule your final exam only if you have three or more exams scheduled for the same day. If this is the case, you may have your exams rescheduled except for the first two exams scheduled for that day. However, you must request accommodations for this before the 10th week of classes.

Recitation: Recitation begins the second week of the semester. You cannot drop your recitation grade. Grades for your recitation will be determined by your TA's and will be outlined in their syllabus. You must attend the recitation you are registered for.

Sapling: You will have 3 types of assignments due on the Sapling Learning platform:

1. Pre-Class Tutorial Videos and Questions(PCT): These are sequences of videos and questions about the upcoming lecture. These are due at 8 AM the day of their respective lecture. The purpose of these questions and videos is to simply introduce you to the ideas that will be covered in class. These assignments should take you around 10 minutes to complete on average. If you simply complete the assignment you will earn 100% credit for the assignment. I will drop one (and only one) of these assignments automatically at the end of the semester.
2. Bridge Questions(BR): These are questions that you will answer before class. The questions are about the upcoming lecture. They are multiple choice along with a space for you to explain why you chose the answer you chose. These are due at 8 AM the day of their respective lecture. The purpose of these questions is to allow me to gain a better understanding of what topics I need to emphasize that

