

Instructor: Kristina Sargent, ECON 309C, [kristina.sargent@colorado.edu](mailto:kristina.sargent@colorado.edu)

Office Hours: M 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, F 1:00 - 2:00 PM and by appointment.

**Textbook:**

Required: Charles I. Jones (2011). *Macroeconomics*, W. W. Norton & Company

Recommended: I highly recommend you read a reputable news source daily. The Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Financial Times and The Economist are all good sources. Keeping up with economics, business and political news (both domestic and international) is an excellent way to apply what you learn to the "real" world. It will help you understand the course material better, make you a much better guest at dinner parties, and give you a way to show your annoying cousin how much smarter you are at Spring Break. An ability to read articles and glean economic intuition and information will also be necessary for homework assignments.

Website: D2L

**Prerequisites:**

1. ECON 1000 or ECON 2020 or equivalent from another institution
2. ECON 1078 and 1088, or MATH 1300, or MATH 1310, or MATH 1081, or MATH 1080, 1090 and 1100, or APPM 1350, or equivalent from another institution

**Course Description:**

Macroeconomics is the study of the aggregate economy. We will explore the determinants of long term trends, short term fluctuations (business cycles), and the roles that consumers, firms, and governments play in the economy. Over the course of the semester we will cover long run growth, aggregate demand and supply, unemployment and wages, inflation, monetary and fiscal policy, as well as applying the tools of analysis to the recent recession. In addition, we will look at the microeconomic underpinnings of portions of the theory. In the end you will have the technical tools and knowledge necessary to intelligently read about and discuss current and past macroeconomic events.

In general, we will be using many simple equations to build "toy models" of the economy. By playing with these, we can gain deeper intuition into the highly complex economic interactions that create real problems and benefits for people worldwide. Some of the most important national and international political issues concern the potential costs and benefits of economic policy (in)action. While these models don't give easy, perfect answers, from them you will have a stronger understanding of the mechanisms and chains of causality that underlie these issues.

Lectures:

Attendance of the first three classes is mandatory, and non-attendance may result in being administratively dropped from the course.

Tentative Course Outline:

Due dates and exam dates are firm. Topic coverage is subject to change.

Week #	Topic(s)	Chapter(s)
Week 1	Intro to Macro	1, 2, 3
Week 2	Production & Growth	4
Week 3	Solow	5
Week 4	Romer	6
Week 5	Labor	7
Week 6	Inflation	8
Week 7	The Short Run & The IS Curve	9, 11
Week 8	Monetary Policy & The Phillips Curve	12
Week 9	AS-AD Model	13
Week 10	The Great Recession	10, 14
Week 11	NO CLASS SPRING BREAK	
Week 12	Open Economies	18, 19
Week 13	Consumption	16
Week 14	Investment	17
Week 15	Exchange Rates and International Finance	20
Week 16	Presentations	Various
	Final in HLMS 241	

Problem Set Due Dates:

- PS1 due Feb. 5 Week 4
- PS2 due Feb. 17 Week 6
- PS3 due Mar. 16 Week 10
- PS4 due Apr. 20 Week 15

Exam Dates:

- Exam 1 Feb. 19 Week 6
- Exam 2 Mar. 18 Week 10
- Exam 3 Apr. 22 Week 15
- Final Exam Tues. May 3 1:30-4:30 PM

Office Hours:

These are for your benefit, please take advantage of them. It is an excellent opportunity to get individual or small group help to clarify concepts from class. If my office hours do not work for you due to another class or work, please email me and we can arrange a time to meet.

Email:

Please use email wisely. I will do my best to respond to emails in a timely fashion, usually less than 24 hours- I will not respond out of regular business hours (M-F 8-5). If your question has to do with clarification, it may be difficult to explain fully over email, so I will suggest coming to office hours. If I feel the entire class could benefit from the clarification, I will do so in lecture. Finally, I will be hesitant to answer emails which ask something administrative which is included on the

University Policies:

Disability Policy

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter from Disability Services to me in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>

Religious Observance Policy

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments, or required attendance. If you have a conflict, please contact me at the beginning of the semester so we can make proper arrangements.

Code of Behavior Policy

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity, and respect to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the students legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make the appropriate changes to my records.

Honor Code

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of honor. <http://www.colorado.edu/honor> for more information. Contact: 303-441-3032, Willard 322, or [honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu)

subject be faculty/academic  
information

on the Honor Code can be at <http://www.colorado.edu/honor> at  
<http://www.colorado.edu/honor>