

**Economics 2020-020 Principles of Macroeconomics
Spring 2007 University of Colorado at Boulder**

Instructor: Samuel Raisanen

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Office hours: Tuesday 10-11am, Wednesday 11-12 am, (if you are unable to make these times I can meet by appointment as necessary.)

Course website: <http://webfiles.colorado.edu/raisanes> (if you have problems opening files, especially pdf files, on Firefox, try IE. This usually fixes the problem)

Lecture: Monday-Wednesday-Friday, 10:00-10:50 pm in HUMN 150

Teaching Assistants (TA): , Worth Publishers – I would suggest looking for used/new copies online before buying at to compare prices. Also, the best strategy for doing well in class and understanding the material is to read the corresponding textbook chapters before class. I follow the book topics fairly closely but will add a few additional things as I see fit.

Course Description: Macroeconomics is the economics field of study that considers aggregate behavior, and the study of the sum of individual economic decisions. This is in contrast to microeconomics, the study of the economic behavior of individual consumers, firms, and industries. We will study the principles of macroeconomics with special emphasis on calculation of important macroeconomic variables, key economic models, and government policy tools and goals such as price stability and full employment. The main goal of this class will be to improve your economic literacy and help you understand the actions and consequences of policymakers and economic institutions such as Congress, the President, and the Federal Reserve. To facilitate this, a portion of the course will focus on reading articles with economic relevance for class discussion

Prerequisites: Principles of Microeconomics (Econ 2010) and high school algebra. Students should be familiar with the concepts of supply, demand, and elasticities and be comfortable using equations, graphs, and tables.

Lectures: In lecture, new material will be presented that will follow topics from the textbook, but may differ in emphasis. **All students are expected to attend lecture regularly.** Besides all the obvious reasons to attend lecture, some exam questions will not be covered in the text but only covered in lecture. In the off chance that you miss a lecture, you should try to get lecture notes from a fellow student, if they are willing to share. I don't give students my notes as they are only outlines of topics to discuss and will not be of much help to you. Some lectures will also include a discussion of assigned articles.

Article Analysis: Over the course of the class we will be analyzing a number of articles related to the material covered. These will be done on Fridays during weeks in which there is not an exam. The articles will be posted no later than class time on Wednesday. As an incentive to read the articles 5% of the grade will be determined by preparing a short summary of a number of articles. You need to do two summaries per exam (there will be 4 articles before exam #1, 4 articles before exam #2, and 3 before exam #3) and be prepared to discuss the articles in class. The summaries will be credit/no credit and are *due in class on the day we discuss the article*. I reserve the right to randomly call on those people who turned in articles to help answer questions should the class go silent during the discussion. As additional incentive, one article that we discussed will be used on the exam.

Honor Code:

All students of the University of Colorado