

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
PRINCIPLES OF MACROECONOMICS
ECON 2020-200
Spring 2010

Course Information

Instructor: Will Olney
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Lecture: TR 11am-12:15pm in Hale 270
Office Hours: Tues. 12:15-2pm and Thur. 9:30-11am
Teaching Assistant:

Required Text: • **Macroeconomics, Paul Krugman and Robin Wells, Second Edition (2010), Worth Publishers:** The best strategy for doing well in class and understanding the material is to read the corresponding textbook chapters before class. Although quite similar, I wouldn't recommend getting the first edition of this book because some chapters and questions have been rearranged and changed.

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, 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 and the Federal Reserve. To facilitate this, a portion of the course will focus on reading articles relevant to Macroeconomics followed by a class discussion.

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

Lectures: The material covered in lecture will follow topics from the textbook, but may differ in emphasis. All students are strongly encouraged to attend.

Grading: Your course grade will be based on two midterm exams, your recitation grade, article analysis, and a cumulative final exam. Your final grade will be weighted as follows: 30% for Midterm 1, 30% for Midterm 2, 30% for Recitation, 5% for the article analysis, and 35% for the Final. I'll automatically drop the lower of your Recitation, Midterm 1, or Midterm 2 scores when determining your final grade. You will not be able to drop your Final Exam score.

I reserve the right to curve midterms, recitations, and the final exam if need be. In particular, the curving of recitation grades may be implemented so that no one is either unfairly hurt or helped by the grading policies of different recitation instructors.

I will guarantee the following letter grades, however the scale may be adjusted at the end of the course:

- 93.00 – 100.0 % ... A
- 90.00 – 92.99 % ... A-
- 88.00 – 89.99 % ... B+
- 83.00 – 87.99 % ... B
- 80.00 – 82.99 % ... B-
- 78.00 – 79.99 % ... C+
- 73.00 – 77.99 % ... C
- 70.00 – 72.99 % ... C-
- 68.00 – 69.99 % ... D+
- 63.00 – 67.99 % ... D
- 60.00 – 62.99 % ... D-
- 59.99 – 0.00 % ... F

Article Analysis: Over the course of the class we will analyze ten articles related to the material covered. You will prepare a short summary in 100-150 words for each article.

For each article, you will also prepare a 1-2 paragraph analysis of the article's main argument and how it is supported by evidence.

Tentative List of Topics:

I plan to cover the following topics during the sem

Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at

www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html and at www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/

The University of Colorado Policy on Sexual Harassment applies to all students, staff and faculty. Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual attention. It can involve intimidation, threats, coercion, or promises or create an environment that is hostile or offensive. Harassment may occur between members of the same or opposite gender and between any combinations of members in the campus community: students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Harassment can occur anywhere on campus, including the classroom, the workplace, or a residence hall. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been sexually harassed should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH and the campus resources available to assist individuals who believe they have been sexually harassed can be obtained at: <http://www.colorado.edu/odh/>

If you have three or more final exams scheduled on the same day, you are entitled to arrange an alternative exam time for the last exam or exams scheduled on that day. To qualify for rescheduling final exam times, you must provide evidence that you have three or more exams on the same day, and arrangements must be made with your instructor no later than the end of the sixth week of the semester. For the complete final examination policy, see the University of Colorado at Boulder Catalog (<http://www.colorado.edu/catalog>).