

University of Colorado at Boulder
Department of Economics

Prof. Jeffrey S. Zax
zax@colorado.edu
303-492-8268
<http://www.colorado.edu/Economics/Zax>

Economics 2020-200
Syllabus and Schedule
9 June 2017

Welcome. I am Prof. Jeffrey S. Zax. This is Economics 2020, Principles of Macroeconomics.

Course description:

The purpose of this course is to acquire an introductory understanding of macroeconomics. Macroeconomics is the study of the structure and performance of the entire economy. We examine the determinants of long-run trends in the size of the economy and of short-run fluctuations in economic activity. As part of this examination, we explore the causes and consequences of inflation and unemployment. Throughout, the effects of government policy on macroeconomic behavior are a prominent concern.

This course requires previous completion of Economics 2010, Principles of Microeconomics, or its equivalent. Anyone uncertain with regard to their preparation should consult with me immediately.

This course will meet for lectures on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays

to 12:20p.m. on either Mondays and Wednesdays or on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 July through 10 August in Economics 2. In order to ensure that both recitations meet ten times during the course, the recitation that ordinarily meets on Monday and Wednesday will have a special meeting on Tuesday, 11 July, in Humanities 125.

I will hold regular office hours between 1:30-3:00pm, in the Department

midterm examinations will take place on Friday, 21 July and Wednesday, 2 August, during class. The final examination will take place on Friday, 11 August, during class. These examinations will be cumulative to the extent that the material is cumulative. Each examination will

take 90 minutes. They will each be worth 90 points. Examinations will ordinarily consist of short essay questions and problems.

Graded questions will take place in all ten recitations. These questions will be analyzed collectively during the recitation. Answers will be due at the end of the recitation period. The questions for each recitation will be worth 10 points. In total, recitation questions will contribute 100 points to the final grade.

Homework assignments will be due at 6p.m. on every Monday, Wednesday and Friday with the exception of 11 August. Each of the thirteen homework assignments will be worth 10 points, for a total of 130 points. These assignments will require the use of Aplia. Instructions on accessing Aplia are available in the course Desire2Learn website.

Excuses for the course requirements will be granted only under extraordinary circumstances and with appropriate documentation. If granted, the excused points will be reallocated to subsequent requirements. The course as a whole is valued at 500 points. The score attained by each student, evaluated relative to those of other students and to the score which would be attained by an intelligent student of economics at this level, will determine final letter grades.

Computers are permitted in lectures and recitations. However, they must be used only for course-related purposes. Uses for any other purpose impose negative externalities on others and are inappropriate during class time. For these reasons, anyone who uses computers for non-course-related purposes must leave the class room.

The material to be mastered in this class is contained in the lectures and assignments and recitations. Excuses for the course requirements will be granted only under extraordinary circumstances and with appropriate documentation.

Tentative schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Readings, assignments</u>
11 July	Introduction, chapters 1-9
12 July	Chapters 1-9 Chapter 10 "Measuring a nation's income"
13 July	Chapter 11 "Measuring the cost of living"
14 July	Chapter 12 "Production and growth"
17 July	Chapter 12 "Production and growth" Chapter 13 "Saving, investment, and the financial system"
18 July	Chapter 13 "Saving, investment, and the financial system"
19 July	Chapter 14 "The basic tools of finance"
20 July	Chapter 15 "Unemployment"
21 July	Midterm examination
24 July	Chapter 16 "The monetary system"
25 July	Chapter 16 "The monetary system" Chapter 17 "Money growth and inflation"
26 July	Chapter 17 "Money growth and inflation"
27 July	Chapter 18 "Open economy macroeconomics: Basic concepts"
28 July	Chapter 18 "Open economy macroeconomics: Basic concepts"
31 July	Chapter 19 "A macroeconomic theory of the open economy"
1 August	Chapter 19 "A macroeconomic theory of the open economy"
2 August	Midterm examination
3 August	Chapter 20 "Aggregate demand and aggregate supply"
4 August	Chapter 20 "Aggregate demand and aggregate supply"

Students who fail to adhere to appropriate behavioral standards may be subject to discipline.
Faculty have the professional responsibility a