

Principles of Microeconomics

ECON 2020-300, Spring 2020

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

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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: \$98.19¹
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.²

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

Email: charles.racine@colorado.edu

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)

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

Honor Code: All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code (honor@colorado.edu; 303-492-5550). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the Honor Code Office website.

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct intimate partner abuse (including dating or domestic violence), stalking, protected-class discrimination or harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or cureport@colorado.edu. Information about the OIEC, university policies, anonymous reporting, and the campus resources can be found on the OIEC website.

Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

Religious Holidays: Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. If you have a religious obligation that conflicts with any class attendance or assignments please let me know at the beginning of the semester or no less than two weeks prior to the conflict so that we can schedule an accommodation.

See the campus policy regarding religious observances for full details.