

University of Colorado at Boulder
Department of Economics

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Economics 2020-300
Syllabus and Schedule
11 January 2014

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 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. throughout the semester in Math 100. I will hold regular office hours between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and between 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Thursdays in Economics 111, my office. Appointments may be made for meetings at other times, if these are convenient. Course information will be posted regularly on Desire2Learn. Notifications will be posted there as well, and occasionally sent via campus email. It is your responsibility to monitor both.

Performance in this course will be judged on the basis of five types of instruments. The final examination will take place on Wednesday, 7 May, from 4:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. It will require the full 2.5 hours and be worth 150 points. Any student who has three or more final examinations scheduled on 7 May has the right to reschedule all exams following the first two. Any student wishing to invoke this right must do so by 26 February.¹

¹ University policies regarding multiple final examinations on the same day are available at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/final_exam.html.

Tentative schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Readings, assignments</u>	
14 January	Introduction	
16 January	Review lecture, Chapters 1-9	
Week of 20 January	Recitation, 8-point exercise	
21 January	Review lecture, Chapters 1-9	
23 January	Lecture, Chapter 10 'Measuring a nation's income'	
Week of 27 January	Recitation, 8-point exercise	
28 January	Lecture, Chapter 11 'Measuring the cost of living'	
30 January	Lecture, Chapter 11 'Measuring the cost of living'	
31 January	Homework, Chapters 10 and 11	
Week of 3 February	Recitation, 8-point exercise	
4 February	Lecture, Chapter 12 'Production and growth'	
6 February	Lecture, Chapter 12 'Production and growth'	
7 February	Homework, Chapter 12	
Week of 10 February	Recitation, 8-point exercise	
11 February	Lecture, Chapter 13 'Saving, investment and the financial	Orientation, 8-point exercise

Week of 24 February	Recitation, preparation for midterm examination
25 February	Lecture, Chapter 15 'Unemployment'
27 February	Lecture, Chapter 15 'Unemployment'
28 February	Homework, Chapter 15
Week of 3 March	Recitation, preparation for midterm examination
4 March	Lecture, Chapter 16 'The monetary system'
6 March	Lecture, Chapter 16 'The monetary system'
7 March	Homework, Chapter 16
Week of 10 March	Recitation, 8-point exercise
11 March	Midterm examination
13 March	Lecture, Chapter 17 'Money growth and inflation'
14 March	Homework, Chapters 16 and 17

should arrange to meet with me immediately. Those with disabilities should immediately submit a letter from Disability Services describing appropriate adjustments or accommodations.³

Students and faculty share responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. All are subject to the University's policies on Sexual Harassment and Amorous Relationships.⁴ Students who fail to adhere to appropriate behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which students express