

# ECON 308001

Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory, May 2016

Instructor: Joseph Vavrus  
Email: [joseph.vavrus@colorado.edu](mailto:joseph.vavrus@colorado.edu) (preferred contact method)  
Office: ECON 309c (3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Economics building)  
Office Hours: MR 3:45-4:45pm, TW 11:00am-12pm and by appointment  
Lecture: M-F, 12:30pm-3:30pm, May 9-May 26 ECON 117  
Website: <https://learn.colorado.edu/>

## Course Overview

Macroeconomics is the study of the aggregate (macro) economy. The course is roughly divided into two parts. First, we will learn tools to analyze long-run patterns of economic growth, labor markets, and price changes. Next, we will deal with the short-run and discuss monetary policy, fiscal policy, and how they relate to current economic issues.

In general, we will be using many simple equations to build toy models of the economy. By playing with these we can gain deeper intuition into the highly complex economic interactions that create real problems and benefits for people worldwide. Some of the most important national and international political issues concern the potential costs and benefits of economic policy (in)action. While taking this course, you will have a stronger understanding of the mechanisms and chains of causality that underlie these issues.

## Prerequisites

1. ECON 1000 or ECON 2020 or equivalent from another institution
2. ECON 1078 and 1088, or MATH 1300, or MATH 1300, or MATH 1081, or MATH 1080, 1090 and 1100, or APPM 1350, or equivalent from another institution

The toy models we will be using require basic calculus and algebra. The math is not highly advanced, but it is a consistent part of the course. Additionally, much of this course applies the economic intuition you will have learned in your principles courses. If you have any concerns about your mathematical/economic preparation for this course, please come talk with me ASAP and we can discuss whether this is right for you.

Administrative deadlines:

} v [ ģmail me at 10pm asking to come into my office at 8am the next day. Generally, give me at least 24 notice if you want to schedule something (more time if you want to come in on Monday).

The best way to communicate with me is via mail. However, due to FERPA laws, I am not legally allowed to discuss individual grades over email. Additionally, it is often difficult for me to email answers to complicated math questions

count for much. Cell phone calculators are not allowed under any circumstances for exams. Other calculators are fine and should be brought with you.

#### Optional Economic Analysis Project

For this project I want you to apply the work we do in class to a current event. This needs to be 1 to 3 pages single spaced.

(1) Find one or more newspaper articles or blog posts from the last couple of years (the more recent the better) on an economic issue that relates to the class. See the readings list for ideas of

May 12

Solow and Romer

Jones 5

šZ •šµ vš[• o P o v u X / Á]oo Po oÇ Z}v}œ Ç}µœ œ ‹µ •š š} œ •• (

Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make the appropriate changes to my records.

Honor Code All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. This also includes self-plagiarism without prior approval.