ECON 204: Principles of Macroeconomics, Sections 002 and 003

Teaching Team

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Teaching Assistants:

**Tyler Saxon**  
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**Jeffery Davis**  
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**Email:** Matthew.Elmer@colorado.edu  
**Office:** Clark C309E  
**Office Hours:** Mondays 10-11am and Fridays 10-11am and 2-3pm and by appointment

Class Websites

[https://canvas.colostate.edu](https://canvas.colostate.edu) (Canvas)  

Course Description

This course is designed as an introductory survey of economy-wide issues such as inflation, unemployment, national output, employment, and government deficits and debt. The basic aggregate demand/supply model will be introduced and used to model historical events. Monetary and fiscal policies will be surveyed where both their benefits and shortcomings will be discussed. Alternative economic theories will also be included throughout the course.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students should:

- identify with the data and tools of macroeconomic policy;
- describe the costs and benefits of economy-wide phenomena such as inflation, unemployment, government debt;
- evaluate public policies in an informed and objective manner;
- recognize the institutional surroundings that impact macroeconomic phenomena;
- understand the determinants and consequences of certain economic crises;
- describe the role of international trade in the macroeconomy; and
- further their analytical, research and writing skills.
Prerequisites
Principles of Microeconomics (AREC 202 or ECON 202) and Algebra [MATH 117 (College Algebra in Context I) or MATH 118 (College Algebra in Context II) or MATH 141 (Calculus in Management Sciences) or MATH 155 (Calculus for Biological Scientists I) or MATH 160 (Calculus for Physical Scientists I)]

Required Text

Purchase options (note that ConnectPlus = Connect + e-Book):
- Purchase access to ConnectPlus through McGraw-Hill ($131) or from the CSU bookstore ($146)
- CSU bundle through CSU bookstore (includes paper text with ConnectPlus access, $216.75)
- Purchase paper text used ($75+) and purchase access to Connect ($67.25) or ConnectPlus ($131)
- Other options available

Coursework
This course will be graded out of 620 points. All coursework can be divided into three categories: Weekly Quizzes, Papers and Exams.

Weekly Quiz
Quizzes using Connect will be due every Sunday night at 11:59pm MST from January 25 to May 10 with one exception—the Sunday of Spring Break (March 15). Only your highest twelve quiz (out of fifteen) scores will be counted towards your grade. Each assignment will include questions which will require you to apply the tools learned in lecture and recitation. Go to the web address at the top of the syllabus to register with Connect. More details about registration and site use are on Canvas.

Papers
Written assignments require students to respond to a provided topic centered on critical thinking, interpretation and good argument support using data. More details will be given for these paper prompts and you will be given time to complete these assignments with a minimum of three class periods before each due date. You are required to submit their work to a plagiarism detection program (i.e., SafeAssign on Canvas) to receive a grade.

GT Pathways Writing Requirement
This course is an approved GT Pathways course which allows students to transfer the credit of this course to another Colorado higher education institution. To help eliminate the guesswork of transferring general education course credits, Colorado has developed a statewide guaranteed transfer (GT) program. To satisfy this requirement, 25% of students’ grades (155 pts) must be attributed to written work. This course satisfies this requirement through the papers (100 points) as well as the short answer sections of the first three midterm exams.

GT pathways writing requirement:
At least 25 percent of the course grade must be based on written work that satisfies the following:
- At least one writing assignment must be an out-of-class piece of written work.
- In-class written work, such as on exams, must be in the form of essays.

Expectations of written work include students demonstrating:
- The ability to convey a theme or argument clearly and coherently.
- The ability to analyze critically and to synthesize the work of others.
The ability to acquire and apply information from appropriate sources, and reference sources appropriately.

Competence in standard written English.

Exams
We will have four exams over the course of the semester. Each exam will not be cumulate and will cover material for the most recent section of the course. These exams will be a combination of multiple choice and essay questions. Exam dates are listed in the “Important Dates” section at the bottom of this syllabus.

Grading Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Frequency/points per assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>% of grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Quizzes</td>
<td>12 @ 10 pts (Note: Drop 3 lowest)</td>
<td>= 120 pts</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papers</td>
<td>2 @ 50 pts</td>
<td>= 100 pts</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>4 @ 100 pts</td>
<td>= 400 pts</td>
<td>64.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>= 620 pts</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Letter Grades

558 pts. – 620 pts.  A
496 pts. – 557.99 pts.  B
434 pts. – 495.99 pts.  C
372 pts. – 433.99 pts.  D
000 pts. – 371.99 pts.  F

This class does not use +/- grading.

Make-ups and Missing Assignments
No makeup exams or quizzes will be allowed. Writing assignments will be accepted late with a 5-point penalty for every day it is late. The only exceptions are in cases of documented medical emergencies or conflicts with University sanctioned activities.

- **Challenging test questions:** Any student who wants to challenge the validity of a test or quiz answer, and who is not satisfied with the instructor's preliminary explanation, may submit in writing the reason(s) a disallowed answer might be considered correct within one week of receiving that exam or quiz back.

Expectations

**Lectures:** This class meets twice a week for lecture, and exam material will be largely drawn from lectures. Attendance is therefore highly recommended, and participation is strongly encouraged.

**Recitations:** Once a week you will be required to attend a recitation section. Recitations will be used to cover new material, practice current material, and review past material. Therefore, it is in your best interest to attend recitation and get to know your Teaching Assistant, as well as utilizing office hours as needed.

One of the main topics we will discuss in class is rational choice. You make a rational choice when the benefits of that choice outweigh the costs. To make a rational choice you must have perfect or full information. Here is the full information:

- **Exam and Quiz content will come equally from each day of class. This means if you skip any class (including recitation), you will miss 33% of the course content for that week.**
The federal credit hour definition requires 2 hours of outside work for each hour of instruction every week. Below, you will find a sample of a weekly schedule that satisfies these expectations where contact hours measure the amount of time students are expected to be engaged in the course, both inside and outside of the classroom.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Contact hours per week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attend class (lecture and recitation)</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read the assigned textbook and other required materials</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review class notes</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete Connect quiz</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam study time/complete writing assignments</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL=</strong></td>
<td><strong>9.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Academic Integrity
We take academic integrity seriously. At minimum, academic integrity means that no one will use another’s work as their own. The CSU writing center defines plagiarism this way:

“Plagiarism is the unauthorized or unacknowledged use of another person's academic or scholarly work. Done on purpose, it is cheating. Done accidentally, it is no less serious. Regardless of how it occurs, plagiarism is a theft of intellectual property and a violation of an ironclad rule demanding credit be given where credit is due.”

—Writing Guides: Understanding Plagiarism.
http://writing.colostate.edu/guides/researchsources/understandingplagiarism

Academic Dishonesty could result in expulsion from the university. This course will adhere to the CSU Academic Integrity Policies and Guiding Principles as found in the General Catalog and the Student Conduct Code. At a minimum, violations will result in a grading penalty in this course and a report to the Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services.

Of course, academic integrity means more than just avoiding plagiarism and cheating. It also involves doing your own reading and studying. It includes class attendance, careful consideration of all class materials, and engagement with the class and your fellow students. Academic integrity lies at the core of our common goal: to create an intellectually honest and rigorous community. Each exam and assignment you submit, you will need to write and sign the CSU student honor pledge:

"I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance."

Classroom Conduct
In-class learning environment: As an educator, it is my professional responsibility, and as a faculty member, it is a Colorado State University requirement that I control the conduct of this class to provide an environment in which all students can learn to the best of their ability. Therefore, I will not tolerate any form of disruptive or obstructive in-classroom behavior during the class meeting time by any enrolled students or other persons attending any class meetings. Therefore, please refrain during class from carrying on conversation while the instructor or any student, or invited guest, is speaking to the entire class. Also, if you must occasionally arrive to class late or leave early, please enter and leave in as non-disrupting manner as possible. It would be an expected courtesy to inform the instructor before class that you must leave early.

If anyone enrolled in this class is bothered by any distracting behavior of the instructor or any student(s) to the extent that it is inhibiting your learning during scheduled class meetings, please let me know.
immediately. Also, if you are physically or otherwise learning disabled, please let me know how I may best accommodate you and help you achieve maximum possible learning in this course.

Attendance is an expectation for all students. A positive relationship exists between class attendance and performance in this course. All of your assignments rely heavily on material and discussion covered in class as well as assigned chapters. Coming regularly to class will have a positive effect on your overall grade.

Questions, comments, and active discussion are always encouraged and will make class sessions more interesting and exciting for all. I should be expected to behave respectfully towards you and you should be expected to behave in the same way towards myself and your fellow students. This will create a respectful environment where everyone can learn to the best of their ability.

If you are having problems with the course, please talk with me about those problems. The sooner you come for help, the better. I am very flexible with office hours and modes of communication. I want you to succeed as much as you do.

Accommodations and Tutoring Options
All students are highly encouraged to take advantage of these extremely beneficial and costless resources.

- **Resources for Disabled Students:**
  Students with disabilities may be eligible for accommodations in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. It is the student’s responsibility to disclose any learning disabilities. Please contact the instructor if a special accommodation is required.
  To request accommodations, students should contact Resources for Disabled Students at (970) 491-6385 or go to [http://rds.colostate.edu](http://rds.colostate.edu). Documentation of disability is required and the RDS office will assist in this process.

- Free tutoring is available for this course through the Arts & Sciences Tutoring Program. The program is located in the Russell George Great Hall in The Institute for Learning and Teaching (TILT), and runs 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., on select Sunday-Thursday evenings during the academic year. No appointment is necessary and all students are welcome. For more information and tutoring schedule, please visit: [http://tilt.colostate.edu/learning/tutoring/artSciences.cfm](http://tilt.colostate.edu/learning/tutoring/artSciences.cfm)

- Help with written assignments can be found at the Writing Center ([http://writingcenter.colostate.edu](http://writingcenter.colostate.edu)).

Important Dates
Exam 1—Monday, February 16
Exam 2—Wednesday, March 11
Exam 3—Monday, April 13
Final Exam—Section 002: Thursday, December 14, 11:50am -1:50pm, Section 003: Thursday, December 14, 7:30-9:30am
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Recitation</th>
<th>Weekly Connect Quiz</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/19 No Class, University Holiday</td>
<td>1/21 Introduction to class, Chapter 2 (The U.S. Economy: A Global View)</td>
<td>1/22 or 1/23 Recitation Bring your Laptop, Tablet, or Smartphone.</td>
<td>Quiz 1 Due Sunday 1/25 at 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/26 Chapter 2, cont., Chapter 5 (National Income Accounting)</td>
<td>1/28 Chapter 5, cont.</td>
<td>1/29 or 1/30 Recitation</td>
<td>Quiz 2 Due Sunday 2/1 at 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/2 Chapter 6 (Unemployment)</td>
<td>2/4 Chapter 6, cont.</td>
<td>2/5 or 2/6 Recitation</td>
<td>Quiz 3 Due Sunday 2/8 at 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/9 Chapter 7 (Inflation)</td>
<td>2/11 Chapter 7, cont.</td>
<td>2/12 or 2/13 Recitation</td>
<td>Quiz 4 Due Sunday 2/15 at 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/16 EXAM 1</td>
<td>2/18 Chapter 8 (The Business Cycle)</td>
<td>2/19 or 2/20 Recitation</td>
<td>Quiz 5 Due Sunday 2/22 at 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/23 Chapter 8, cont. Writing Assignment 1 due</td>
<td>2/25 Chapter 9 (Aggregate Demand)</td>
<td>2/26 or 2/27 Recitation</td>
<td>Quiz 6 Due Sunday 3/1 at 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/2 Chapter 9, cont.</td>
<td>3/4 Chapter 10 (Self-Adjustment or Instability?)</td>
<td>3/5 or 3/6 Recitation</td>
<td>Quiz 7 Due Sunday 3/8 at 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/9 Chapter 10, cont.</td>
<td>3/11 EXAM 2</td>
<td>3/12 or 3/13 Recitation No Recitation, instead, drop in exam review Tuesday 3/10, 12-8pm.</td>
<td>Quiz 8 Due Sunday 3/29 at 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/16 No class, Spring Break</td>
<td>3/18 No class, Spring Break</td>
<td>3/19 or 3/20 No class, Spring Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/23 Chapter 11 (Fiscal Policy) Writing Assignment 2 due</td>
<td>3/25 Chapter 11, cont.</td>
<td>3/26 or 3/27 Recitation</td>
<td>Quiz 9 Due Sunday 4/5 at 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/30 Chapter 12 (Deficits and Debt)</td>
<td>4/1 Chapter 12, cont.</td>
<td>4/2 or 4/3 Recitation</td>
<td>Quiz 10 Due Sunday 4/12 at 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/6 Chapter 13 (Money and Banks)</td>
<td>4/8 Chapter 13, cont.</td>
<td>4/9 or 4/10 Recitation</td>
<td>Quiz 11 Due Sunday 4/19 at 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/13 EXAM 3</td>
<td>4/15 Chapter 14 (The Federal Reserve System)</td>
<td>4/16 or 4/17 Recitation</td>
<td>Quiz 12 Due Sunday 4/26 at 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/20 Chapter 15 (Monetary Policy)</td>
<td>4/22 Chapter 15, cont.</td>
<td>4/23 or 4/24 Recitation</td>
<td>Quiz 13 Due Sunday 5/3 at 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/27 Chapter 19 (International Trade)</td>
<td>4/29 Chapter 19, cont.</td>
<td>4/30 or 5/1 Recitation</td>
<td>Quiz 14 Due Sunday 5/10 at 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/4 Chapter 20 (International Finance)</td>
<td>5/6 Chapter 20, cont.</td>
<td>5/7 or 5/8 Recitation</td>
<td>Final Exam Section 002: Thursday, December 14, 11:50am -1:50pm in our large classroom Section 003: Thursday, December 14, 7:30-9:30am in our large classroom</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Final Exam**