

ECON 204: PRINCIPLES OF MACROECONOMICS

Fall 2012

Section 001-TR 12:00-12:50

Section 002-TR 2:00-2:50

“Try not to have a good time...this is supposed to be educational.”
-Charles Schulz (Lucy, Peanuts)

Instructor: Tessa Conroy

Office: C 320A Clark Building

Office Hours: 1:00-2:00 pm and 3:00-3:30 TR

Contact Me: Tessa.Conroy@Colostate.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Macroeconomics is the study of the national economy and its growth – how to measure it, how to explain it, and how to control it. Macroeconomics is inherently political as it provokes questions about the role of government. In addition to learning fundamental economic ideas, we will focus on how course material relates to current economic events and consider political debates.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Understand the meaning of important indicators of economic activity.
- Use simple macroeconomic models to analyze economic growth in both the long-run and short-run.
- Analyze inflation, unemployment, and other problems that can occur when growth is too fast or too slow.
- Analyze the fiscal and monetary policy tools used by the government to control economic growth.
- Explain the current economic crisis and what has been done in response to it.
- Analyze economic issues, understand both sides of a debate, and develop your own well-reasoned opinion about economic issues and the role of government in the national economy.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Textbook and Connect:

- **Required Textbook:** *The Macroeconomy Today for ECON 204, Custom Textbook*
OR
The Macroeconomy Today, by Bradley Schiller (13th ed)
- Purchase of the bundled custom text includes access to Connect, an on-line study resource that we will use for weekly quizzes.
 - [Click Here](#) to register for Connect. Bookmark it.
 - Click on “Register Now”
 - Enter your e-mail address
 - Choose one of the following options:

- Enter your access code (included with the textbook) & click on “Submit”
 - Or click “Buy Online” to purchase Connect without purchasing the textbook. If you choose this option, you purchase Connect Plus, which combines Connect with an e-book version of the textbook. Connect Plus is cheaper than purchasing Connect with the textbook. If you don’t mind reading the textbook on your computer, this is a way to save some money.
 - Or click “Start Free Trial.” You can use Connect for free for three weeks if you want to delay purchasing the textbook, which may be a good option if there is any reason to think you might possibly drop the course.
- Fill out the registration information.
 - Click on “Go to Connect Now” to get started

Lectures: This class meets 2 times per week for lecture, and exam material will be largely drawn from lectures. Attendance is necessary to be successful. Participation is welcome and encouraged.

Recitation: This class will meet 1 time per week in smaller classes for recitation with the teaching assistant. The material presented in recitation will contribute to your success in the class and you are expected to attend. Recitation is a great opportunity to ask questions, participate in discussion, and engage the material.

Teaching Assistants:

Section 001: Hiep Nguyen
 Email: harryng@rams.colostate.edu
 Office location: Clark C311 G
 Office Hours: M 3:30-4:30 pm
 R 1:00-3:00 pm
 Recitations: R01 M 4:00-4:50 pm Clark C360
 R02 M 5:00-5:50 pm Clark C360
 R03 F 1:00-1:50 pm Rockwell 165

Section 002: Chris Blake
 Email: cblake2@lamar.colostate.edu
 Office location: Clark C311 H
 Office Hours: M 2:00-4:00 pm
 F 2:00-3:00 pm
 Recitations: R04 M 4:00-4:50 pm Clark C364
 R05 M 5:00-5:50 pm Clark C364
 R06 F 1:00-1:50 pm Education 8

Connect: There will be weekly (with a few exceptions for test weeks) homework assignments on Connect, for a total of 11 graded assignments. Connect assignments will be due by 11:59 pm on Wednesdays. Only the highest 10 (out of 11) Connect assignments will be counted towards your final grade. No late Connect assignments will be accepted.

Due Dates: 8/29, 9/5, 9/12, 9/26, 10/3, 10/10, 10/24, 10/31, 11/7, 11/28, 12/5

Exams: There will be three midterm exams, each worth 100 points, to confirm and evaluate your understanding; as well as a cumulative final exam, also worth 100 points. Exams will be a combination of multiple-choice questions and short answer questions.

Exam 1: Tuesday, September 18

Exam 2: Tuesday, October 16

Exam 3: Tuesday, November 13

Final Exam: Section 001- Dec 11 11:50 am-1:50 pm, Section 002- December 13 2-4 pm

Assignments: As part of the GT pathways writing requirement, you will be required to complete four at home assignments, each worth 50 points. Additional writing will be required for the short answer portion of your exams.

Due Dates: 9/10, 10/8, 11/5, 12/3

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.*

COURSE POLICIES

Grading System: Your course grade will be determined by adding together the points earned as follows:

	POINTS	PERCENTAGE
Connect (top 10 of 11)	100	15%
Midterm Exams	300	46%
Final Exam	100	15%
Assignments (4)	160	24%
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TOTAL	660	100%

The grading scale will be as follows:

- A: 594-660 points
- B: 528-593 points
- C: 462-527 points
- D: 396-461 points
- F: 0-395 points

Pluses and minuses may be used at the discretion of the instructor; however, minuses will rarely be used. No “extra credit” will be offered. The way to improve your grade beyond what it otherwise would be is to work hard to understand the material.

Academic Integrity: ***CSU Honor Pledge: “I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance.”***

Students have an obligation to integrity in all academic work. This course will adhere to Academic Integrity Policy as stated in the Colorado State General Catalog Colorado and the State Conduct Code. Submission of an assignment, exam, paper, or other coursework implies an honor pledge that you have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance. Academic misconduct to any extent will result in up to a grade of F in the course, and will be reported to the Office of Conflict

Resolution and Student Conduct Services. **For further resources on academic integrity [click here](#)**

Test Administration: There will be NO make-up exams. If you must unexpectedly miss an exam you must present evidence of a medical or family emergency. If you know in advance that you will be unable to take an exam, contact the instructor as soon as possible to make other arrangements. In general, with an acceptable reason, you may arrange to take an exam early, but never late.

Missing Assignments: Late Connect and homework assignments will NOT be accepted. Again, only the 10 highest of your 11 Connect assignments are counted toward your final grade.

Date	Topic
Tuesday, August 21	Intro
Thursday, August 23	Chapter 2: The U.S. Economy: A Global View
Recitation	Chapters 1 and 3: Supply and Demand (Review)
Tuesday, August 28	Chapter 4: The Role of Government
Thursday August 30	
Recitation	HOLIDAY-No recitation
Tuesday, September 4	Chapter 5: National Income Accounting
Thursday, September 6	
Recitation	
Tuesday, September 11	Chapter 6: Unemployment
Thursday, September 13	
Recitation	Exam Review
Tuesday, September 18	Exam 1
Thursday, September 20	Chapter 7: Inflation
Recitation	
Tuesday, September 25	Chapter 8: The Business Cycle Chapter 8 cont.
Thursday, September 27	
Recitation	
Tuesday, October 2	Chapter 9: Aggregate Demand
Thursday, October 4	
Recitation	
Tuesday, October 9	Chapter 10: Self Adjustment or Instability
Thursday, October 11	
Recitation	Exam Review
Tuesday, October 16	Exam 2
Thursday, October 18	Chapter 11: Fiscal Policy
Recitation	
Tuesday, October 23	Chapter 12: Deficits and Debt
Thursday, October 25	
Recitation	

Tuesday, October 30	Chapter 13: Money and Banks
Thursday, November 1	
Recitation	
Tuesday, November 6	Chapter 14: The Federal Reserve System
Thursday, November 8	
Recitation	Exam Review
Tuesday, November 13	Exam 3
Thursday, November 15	Intro to Ch. 15
Recitation	
FALL RECESS	
Tuesday, November 27	Chapter 15: Monetary Policy
Thursday, November 29	
Recitation	
Tuesday, December 4	The Financial Crises
Thursday, December 6	
Recitation	Finals Week
Dec 11 11:50 am-1:50 pm	Final Exam For TR 12:00-12:50 pm
Dec 13 2-4 pm	Final Exam For TR 2:00-2:50 pm