

Colorado College – Department of Economics & Business
EC102: Principles of Macroeconomics
Block 2 – Fall 2018, Class Hours: 9am - Noon

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Office Hours M-F 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM, and by appointment

Course Description and Objective

This course studies the production and behavior of an entire economy. We will explore topics including total output, employment, price levels, growth and the policies that affect them. Economic models (requiring mathematical and graphical analysis) will be used to describe these issues and students will be required to apply and analyze economic theory to the real world. The objective of this course is to empower students to understand and analyze macroeconomic issues. This broad objective includes using economics language and ideas thoughtfully and the application of these ideas in coursework.

Readings & Other Materials

Principles of Macroeconomics, 8th Edition by N. Gregory Mankiw. Earlier versions of the book are fine, but it is up to the student to track important changes. Additional required readings/videos/audio will be assigned throughout the semester. I will provide these materials either through the course website, or with explicit instructions.

Email and Office Hours

I encourage you to come to office hours throughout the semester if you would like to work through problems, discuss a topic from class, or have any other questions. However, office hours are not a replacement for missing class.

Before sending an email please see if the syllabus has the answer. Note that if you send me a late night email I may not see it until the next day. Finally, I commit to respectful and formal email exchanges, I ask that students do the same.

Grading

10%	Problem Sets
10%	Podcast Responses
5%	In-Class Quizzes
15%	Midterm I
15%	Midterm II
25%	Final Exam
20%	Record a Podcast

I retain the right to curve assignments and exams, however, any curve will never harm any student in the class (it must be a pareto improvement over the original allocation.) Letter grades will be assigned with the following scale: A: >92%; A-: >90%; B+: >88%; B: >82%; B-: >80%; C+: >78%; C: >72%; C-: >70%; D+: >68%, D: >62%, D-: >60%; F: below 60.

Problem Sets

Problems will be due at the **beginning** of class, and late assignments will only receive half credit. I will grade for effort and correctness, because the pursuit of correct answers on problem sets should be second to your understanding of the material. You are encouraged to work with other people, but each student will turn in their own work in their own words. Your problem sets should be legible, neat around the edges, and stapled.

Podcast Responses

You will listen to five assigned podcasts and complete short responses to several questions. In addition to providing illustrations of important economic theory these assignments will also offer examples of how to structure and write your podcast project.

In Class Quizzes

We will start most days with a quiz covering the previous day's material and the reading due that day. These quizzes will be randomly graded.

Exams

Exams will be a mix of multiple choice, short answer, and analytical problems. Material discussed in class, in the assigned reading and problem sets is all "fair game" for the exams. Basic calculators are allowed, but cell phones, computers, graphing calculators will not be allowed.

There will be no make-up midterm exams. If you are unable to take a midterm then I will add that portion of your course grade to the final exam. If you are unable to attend the Final Exam at the scheduled time and date please drop this course now.

Record a Podcast

You will record a 5-10 minute podcast about a real life application of macroeconomics and the corresponding economic model. The goal of this assignment is to practice applying economic models to the real world AND communicating these complex ideas. See the handout for more information about this assignment.

Technology

I encourage you to bring a laptop to class as we will be exploring data and readings in class. Cell phones may also fill part of this need. However, your technology should not be a distraction to yourself or to the people around you. If you are using your technology inappropriately during class you will see a penalty on your final grade.

Honor Code

I expect for all students to abide by the Colorado College Honor Code¹. Honor codes are an important expectation for all students to attain the knowledge and skills to be successful during after their time at college. While I encourage you to work with other students your final work must be your own and should reflect your own understanding of the material.

¹ <https://www.coloradocollege.edu/other/honorcouncil/>

ADA Accommodations

If you require any accommodations related to a disability to improve your experience, please let me know by the third day of class and provide the appropriate documentation. Additionally, if you have not already done so, please connect with Accessibility Resources (Armstrong 211, 719-227-8285), the office responsible for coordinating accommodations and services for students with disabilities.

Likely Course Schedule:

Day	Topic	Reading (do before class)	Assignments Due
Week 1			
9/24	What is Macroeconomics?	Syllabus	
9/25	Thinking Like an Economist	Mankiw 1 & 2, Podcast #1	Podcast Response #1
9/26	Supply & Demand	Mankiw 4	HW 1
9/27	Measuring Income	Mankiw 10, Podcast #2	Podcast Response #2
9/28	Cost of Living	Mankiw 11	HW 2, Podcast Topic Choice
Week 2			
10/1	Exam 1		
10/2	Production & Growth	Mankiw 12	
10/3	Savings, Investment, & Financial System	Mankiw 13, Podcast #3	Podcast Response #3
10/4	Unemployment	Mankiw 15	HW 3
10/5	Monetary System	Mankiw 16	Podcast Annotated Bibliography
Week 3			
10/8	Money Growth & Inflation	Mankiw 17,	HW 4
10/9	Exam 2		
10/10	Open Economy Macroeconomics	Mankiw 18, Podcast #4	Podcast Response #4
10/11	Agg. Demand & Agg. Supply	Mankiw 20	
10/12	Policy on Aggregate Demand	Mankiw 21, Podcast #5	Podcast Response #5, Podcast Script & Recording Draft
Week 4			
10/15	Inflation & Unemployment	Mankiw 22	HW 5
10/16	Final Exam		
10/17	Podcast Release Party		Upload Final Podcast onto Canvas. Present a summary of your podcast while we enjoy breakfast together.