

# ECON 308004

Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory, Fall 2015

Instructor: Joseph Vavrus  
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Office: ECON 309c (3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Economics building)  
Office Hours: Tu 2:00-3:00pm, Th 5:00-6:00 p.m, and by appointment  
Lecture: TuTh 3:30-4:45, Aug 24 Dec 11 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.

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 these interactions. This course will give you 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 1310, 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 class is right for you.

## Administrative deadlines:

Sept 9 Last day to drop without any grade penalty.

Oct 30 Wed. 7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Final exam: This is set by the university and cannot be changed. By signing up for this class you are saying you will have three or more final exams on the same day.

Wed. Dec 16 7:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Final exam: This is set by the university and cannot be changed. By signing up for this class you are saying you will have three or more final exams on the same day.

## Readings

Requiredtext: Charles I. Jones (2011). Macroeconomics, W. W. Norton & Company, 2nd Edition.

Lectures and participation:

Students benefit from attending class, therefore there will be a small participation grade (5%) to incentivize you to come. Every now and then I will take attendance (either through class assignment or a written prompt of some

## Problem Sets

There will be four problem sets assigned over the term. These will include questions similar in style and difficulty as what will be on the three tests. You may work in groups, but I want a separate assignment turned in by every student. On the date they are due, you must turn them in at the beginning of class. I do not accept late problem sets, especially because I often post solutions immediately after they are turned in. These will be graded mostly on completion, but I will be sure to grade some of the most important parts/questions for accuracy.

## University Policies

**Disability Policy** If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter from Disability Services to me in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-441-8671, Willard 322, and <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>

**Religious Observance Policy** Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort reasonably and fairly to deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments, or required attendance. If you have a conflict, please contact me at the beginning of the semester so we can make proper arrangements.

**Code of Behavior Policy** Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity, and respect to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with a request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. 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