

**Department of Economics  
Colorado State University  
EC 204H : Principles of Microeconomics Honors  
Spring 2018**

**Professor: Dr. Ramaa Vasudevan**

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**Office hours: T 3.30-5.00 (or by appointment)**

**Section 001 TR 2.00-3.15 pm Eddy 115**

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### **Course Objectives**

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This course provides a critical introduction to the study of macroeconomics. Students will learn the tools and concepts necessary to study economic problems as it pertains to the economy in the aggregate; including economic fluctuations, unemployment inflation and growth. The course will also introduce students to handling and interpreting the basic macroeconomic data

### **Class expectations**

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1. Put forth effort in learning the material covered in the course. The accepted standard for how much time you should spend studying for a course is 3 hours out of class for every hour spent in class (that is approximately 9 hours per week for this class).
2. Read the COREECON text *-The Economy-* and the Dollars and Sense book. To try to read the assigned material from the textbook before coming to class. This class is meant to be participatory. Doing the readings before coming to class provides a basis of knowledge for class discussions.
3. Attend class. If you do not attend class you are responsible for what was done in class. A recent study found that one of the strongest predictors of course grades in college was class attendance.
4. Contact me if you are ill or have an official university commitment that prevents you from being in class for a test or when some other assignment is due. Unless it is absolutely impossible you should notify me before rather than after you miss class or handing in an assignment. Written documentation is typically required for an excused absence.
5. Behave with honesty and integrity. Academic dishonesty is not acceptable behavior and evidence of cheating will result in failing the class and being reported to the Judicial Affairs Officer.
6. Come and talk to me if you are having problems with the class. The chances that I will be able to help are greater the sooner you come and talk to me.

### **Learning Outcomes**

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After completing this course a successful student should:

1. Be proficient with the basic principles of macroeconomics
2. Be able to apply these principles to simple real world situations critically

3. Be proficient in presenting economic reasoning numerically, graphically and logically
4. Be able to handle and interpret key macroeconomic data

## **Course Requirements**

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### 1. Exams

#### a. 3 non-cumulative Tests

The in class tests will be mixed format and each test will be worth 100 points.

#### b. A Final Essay

The final exam will be an essay exam based on the debate topics (see below).

The final will be worth 100 points.

### 2. Homework

There will be several homework assignments throughout the course. The home work will include exercises which involve actual handling of macroeconomic data

### 3. Group Exercises/Presentations

There will be in-class group assignments. These offer an opportunity to practice some applications of economic theory interacting with other students and the professor.

There will also be presentations and discussions based on the *Real World Macro* readings (see below)

### 4. Debate

During the last week of classes you will participate in a round of debates on pre-assigned topics. You should use the debate and the discussion to revise your draft of the essay before you submit the final version.

## **Contact hours**

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Each week the student is expected to

Attend Class	3 hrs
Read assigned readings	2 hrs
Review class material	2 hrs
Homework and Preparation	2 hrs

## **Honors Competencies and Skills for Honors Studies**

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The CSU University Honors Program has prioritized four general competencies skills

that should be addressed in each honors course. These skills include (1) critical thinking, (2) interdisciplinary learning integrated with global and/or cultural viewpoints, (3) creativity and problem solving, and (4) professionalism, interpersonal skills, and emotional intelligence. This is a multi-stage process. The password protected online PICC form will be available by the first week of classes. By the end of the 4th week of classes, the student completes her/his section of the online form, choosing from "M" for "Mastered", "P" for "Proficient", "D" for "Developing", and "B" for "Basic" levels for each skill category. Students must insert comments for each skill category to complete the form. At the end of the semester instructor feedback will be provided on individual student progress towards these competencies. The feedback is part of the University Honors Program and is for advising purposes only. It is not part of student's grades or academic record. A standardized rubric will be used to provide feedback for growth in these areas and to measure the Honors Programs progress in helping students to develop these skills through their academic career. The feedback categories and activities/assignments used to measure progress in EC 202 are listed below and noted in the assignment descriptions.

### **1. Critical thinking:**

Student advances a position with specific theses or hypotheses & can conceptualize ideas or lines of thought. Conclusions and related outcomes acknowledge complexities of an issue (implications and consequences) and recognize differing points of view. Formulates & develops claims with sufficient support, including reasoning, evidence, & persuasive appeals, & proper attribution where necessary. Uses written and oral communication effectively in persuasive arguments. Relevant activities and assignments used to measure progress in this include

- In class group assignments
- *Real World Macro* presentations and discussions
- Final debate/ essay

### **2. Interdisciplinary learning integrated with global &/or cultural viewpoints:**

Integrates diverse knowledge, perspectives, &/or skills into arguments &/or strategies; is aware of and can clearly incorporate global &/or cultural perspectives to an argument or issue

Relevant activities and assignments used to measure progress in this include

- *Real World Macro* presentations and discussions
- Final debate/ essay

### **3. Creativity and Problem Solving**

Creatively applies discipline based and/or cross discipline based knowledge to discover and design a variety of forms often using a problem solving strategy.

Relevant activities and assignments used to measure progress in this include

- In class group assignment
- Homework assignments
- Exams
- *Real World Macro* presentations and discussions
- Final debate/ essay

### **4. Professionalism, Interpersonal Skills and Emotional intelligence**

Acts ethically & positively to foster a supportive instructional or work environment. Has the emotional intelligence (ability to perceive, evaluate, & manage emotions) & interpersonal skills to work effectively with others. Relevant activities and assignments used to measure progress in this include

- In class group assignment
- *Real World Macro* presentations and discussions
- Final debate/ essay

### **Course grades**

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In Class Tests (3 * 100 points)	300 points
Homework assignments	100 points
Final Essay (and debate)	100 points
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Total	500 points

Grades will be assigned according to a straight scale\*:

A	450-500 points
B	400-449 points
C	350-399 points
D	300-349 points
F	< 299 points

\* I reserve the right to alter the grading scale from what is indicated above if I deem it necessary, and to assign +/- grades at my discretion on the margins of these ranges.

### **Academic Integrity and Academic Misconduct**

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Academic misconduct like cheating, plagiarism, etc., will be taken very seriously in this course, and can lead to an overall F grade. For more details about university policies relating to academic misconduct see the CSU General Catalog (<http://www.catalog.colostate.edu/FrontPDF/1.6POLICIES1112f.pdf>).

Every student should write and sign the following statement on every assignment, and exam:

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

### **Accommodation for Disabilities**

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Requests for accommodation to disabilities should be made at the beginning of the semester after going through the Resources for Disabled Students (RDS). For more information see <http://rds.colostate.edu/index.asp>

### **Class Texts**

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The following two books are required for the course.

1. *The Economy* ebook ( CORE-ECON) available at <http://www.core-econ.org/project/core-usa/>  
You will need to register as a student in order to access the ebook. If you prefer a hard copy its available as *The Economy: Economics for a Changing World*, Oxford University Press.
2. *Real World Macro*, 34<sup>th</sup> ed. (Dollars & Sense, 2016) There will be class presentations and discussions of these readings.

**Class Schedule (subject to change)**

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<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>The Economy</b>	<b>D&amp;S</b>
1/2	A Broad Overview	Unit 1, 17	1.2, 1.3
3/4	The Labor Market	Unit 9	4.2, 4.3
5/6	The Credit Market	Unit 10	8.2, 8.4
<b>Test 1: Feb 22</b>			
7/8	Economic Fluctuations	Unit 13	2.2, 2.3
9/10	Unemployment and Fiscal Policy	Unit 14	6.1, 6.2
<b>Test 2: March 29</b>			
11/12	Inflation and Monetary Policy	Unit 15	7.1, 7.6
13/14	The Long Run	Unit 16	3.2, 3.3
<b>Test 3: April 26</b>			
15	Debate		
<b>Final Essay due May 9</b>			