

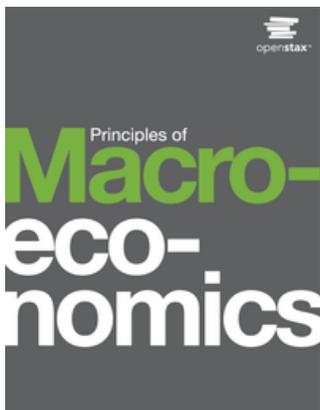


Faculty Review of Open eTextbooks

The [California Open Educational Resources Council](http://www.cool4ed.org) has designed and implemented a faculty review process of the free and open etextbooks showcased within the California Open Online Library for Education (www.cool4ed.org). Faculty from the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California were invited to review the selected free and open etextbooks using a rubric. Faculty received a stipend for their efforts and funding was provided by the State of California, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Textbook Name:

Principles of Macroeconomics



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Textbook Authors:

Timothy Taylor and Steven A. Greenlaw, et al.

Reviewed by:

Carsten Lange

Institution:

California State University, Pomona

Title/Position:

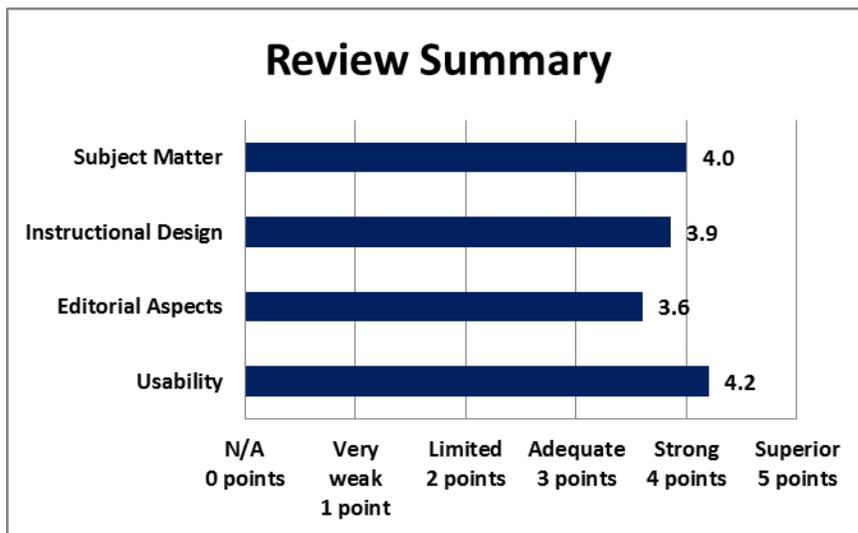
Professor

Format

Reviewed:

[Online](#)

A small fee may be associated with various formats.



Date Reviewed:

December 2015

California OER Council eTextbook Evaluation Rubric

CA Course ID: [ECON 202](#)

Subject Matter (30 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the content accurate, error-free, and unbiased?					X	

Does the text adequately cover the designated course with a sufficient degree of depth and scope?					X	
Does the textbook use sufficient and relevant examples to present its subject matter?					X	
Does the textbook use a clear, consistent terminology to present its subject matter?				X		
Does the textbook reflect current knowledge of the subject matter?					X	
Does the textbook present its subject matter in a culturally sensitive manner? (e.g. Is the textbook free of offensive and insensitive examples? Does it include examples that are inclusive of a variety of races, ethnicities, and backgrounds?)						X

Total Points: 24 out of 30

Please provide comments on any aspect of the subject matter of this textbook:

- The text is well written and easy to understand. Examples fit with the theory covered. On some occasions the text could go a little deeper. E.g.: In Demand and Supply in Financial Markets the term "Savings" is used but not thoroughly introduced; in Work It Out (Money Multiplier) the money multiplier is used but it is not shown how it can be derived.
- Sometimes terminology is not used correctly, e.g.: "Smart Money" is used in the context of money supply while it is an investment term; "many people borrow money" (in the money supply section especially it is important to correctly distinguish between "money" and "funds"); "for now (...) we will not put interest income in the balance sheet" (interest income is never recorded in the balance sheet but rather in the Income Statement).
- The text covers all topics which are typically covered in a Principles of Macroeconomics course.

Instructional Design (35 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Does the textbook present its subject materials at appropriate reading levels for undergrad use?						X
Does the textbook reflect a consideration of different learning styles? (e.g. visual, textual?)	X					
Does the textbook present explicit learning outcomes aligned with the course and curriculum?				X		
Is a coherent organization of the textbook evident to the reader/student?						X
Does the textbook reflect best practices in the instruction of the designated course?					X	
Does the textbook contain sufficient effective ancillary materials? (e.g. test banks, individual and/or group activities or exercises, pedagogical apparatus, etc.)						X
Is the textbook searchable?						X

Total Points: 27 out of 35

Please provide comments on any aspect of the instructional design of this textbook:

- Each section has learning outcomes listed at the beginning, but they are not further utilized. The textbook provides a wide range of auxiliary materials such as Power Points, Quiz questions but also 3rd party materials (Sapling Learning).

Editorial Aspects (25 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the language of the textbook free of grammatical, spelling, usage, and typographical errors?						X
Is the textbook written in a clear, engaging style?					X	
Does the textbook adhere to effective principles of design? (e.g. are pages laid out and organized to be clear and visually engaging and effective? Are colors, font, and typography consistent and unified?)				X		
Does the textbook include conventional editorial features? (e.g. a table of contents, glossary, citations and further references)					X	

How effective are multimedia elements of the textbook? (e.g. graphics, animations, audio)				X		
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Total Points: 18 out of 25

Please provide comments on any editorial aspect of this textbook:

- The textbook provides web links to Internet resources but not a wide range of other multimedia sources.
- Tables are well designed and consistent. Diagrams often use standard Excel format and often only one color.
- Here is room for improvement. Most figures are scanned which results in a loss of quality (e.g. dotted shadows around figures).

Usability (25 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the textbook compatible with standard and commonly available hardware/software in college/university campus student computer labs?						X
Is the textbook accessible in a variety of different electronic formats? (e.g. .txt, .pdf, .epub, etc.)				X		
Can the textbook be printed easily?						X
Does the user interface implicitly inform the reader how to interact with and navigate the textbook?				X		
How easily can the textbook be annotated by students and instructors?						X

Total Points: 21 out of 25

Please provide comments on any aspect of access concerning this textbook:

- The book is provided in PDF format. Since PDF is a very commonly used format this is in my view perfectly sufficient. The reader can annotate, the outline is clickable, and the book can be read offline. Instructors can annotate but not change the text.

Overall Ratings	Not at all (0 pts)	Very Weak (1 pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3 pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
What is your overall impression of the textbook?					X	
How willing would you be to adopt this book?	Not at all (0 pts)	Strong reservations (1 pt)	Limited willingness (2 pts)	Willing (3 pts)	Strongly willing (4 pts)	Enthusiastically willing (5 pts)
				X		

Total Points: 7 out of 10

Overall Comments

If you were to recommend this textbook to colleagues, what merits of the textbook would you highlight?

- Well written, covers relevant topics, comprehensive, and free of charge.

What areas of this textbook require improvement in order for it to be used in your courses?

- On occasions topics could be covered in more depth, a few terminologies are incorrect, diagram quality could be improved (figures that are not charts are well designed).

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