



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:
 Libby Rittenberg and
 Timothy Tregarthen

Reviewed by:
 Carsten Lange

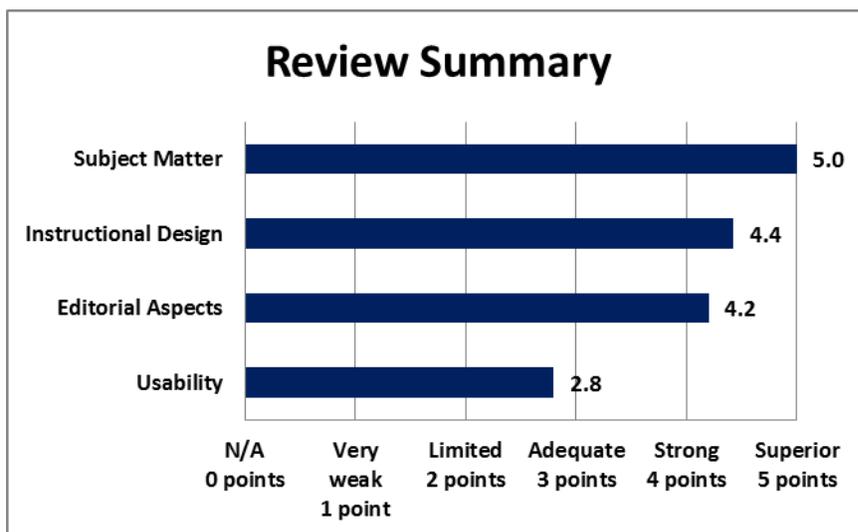
Institution:
 California State University,
 Pomona

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: 30 out of 30

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

- The book is well written and arguments are well structured.
- All requirements a typical instructor might have are fulfilled.

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: 31 out of 35

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

- The book provides a variety of learning tools such as test banks, flash cards and others. Most of these tools are not included in the basic version of the book (\$24) but in the slightly more expensive version of the book (\$48). The latter is the one that instructors likely require. Given the auxiliary material, \$48 seems not to be overpriced.

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		

Total Points: 21 out of 25

Please provide comments on any editorial aspect of this textbook:

- The way the textbook is presented to the reader online is engaging.
- Navigation through the textbook is provided by a clickable table of content. The online version does not have pages but the reader can scroll through the content and move backwards and forwards on sub-chapter level.
- A minor problem is that after using a link to forward to a table or figure, there is no Back-Button to lead the reader back to the content s/he was reading before.

- Typos are rare (e.g. some Delta's were not shown in the online version, when deriving the money multiplier).

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: 14 out of 25

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

- I reviewed the online version and it was extremely easy to use. Students can buy a printed version of the book for \$89 b/w or \$139 in color. It was not clear to me if students can print the PDF version or if the printing function is blocked in the student software. In order to read the pdf version students need to download licensing and PDF reading software (other than the usual Adobe Reader). This seems to be a little cumbersome but still in the range what can be expected from students. The PDF version allows student to annotate their book although I did not test it. Instructors can edit the book, if they like.

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
	Not at all (0 pts)	Strong reservations (1 pt)	Limited willingness (2 pts)	Willing (3 pts)	Strongly willing (4 pts)	Enthusiastically willing (5 pts)
How willing would you be to adopt this book?					X	

Total Points: 9 out of 10

Overall Comments

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

- Well written textbook with a high level of functionality that is easy to use. Comes with a wide range of auxiliary material (All Access Pass version; \$48).

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

- The price for the printed version seems a little too high for an OER textbook. However, the price for the eBook with auxiliary material (\$48) or without auxiliary material (\$24) seems to be OK.

We invite you to add your feedback on the textbook or the review to the [textbook site in MERLOT](#) (Please [register](#) in MERLOT to post your feedback.)



For questions or more information, contact the [CA Open Educational Resources Council](#).



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