Syllabus for Economics 6070: MA Microeconomics  
University of Colorado Boulder  
Fall Semester, 2000

Thomas F. Rutherford  
rutherford@colorado.edu

Class Meeting  
TR 2-3:15 in Economics Room 117

Office hours (Econ 12)  
Wednesday 9-12 or by appointment

Course Web Site:  
http://nash.colorado.edu/tomruth/6070/

Teaching Assistant  
Name and office hours to be announced

Textbook:  
Walter Nicholson, *Microeconomic Theory*

Goals and Strategies

The purpose of this course is to introduce first year graduate students and advanced undergraduates to the basic theory and applications of microeconomic models. The course will employ calculus, numerical and graphical tools. *Students are required to have completed a one semester course in calculus in order to register.*

Students who complete this course should have a good understanding of the use of models in economics. They should also be well acquainted with the theory of consumer behavior, the theory of the firm, and the role of markets in allocating scarce resources. Students will also develop an understanding of the use of non-cooperative game theory in microeconomic analysis.

Subsidiary goals for the course include:

* the development of clear written and oral communication skills in classroom interaction, short essay assignments and examinations,

* familiarity with the use of diagrams and calculus in formulating models in economics.

* competence in use of Excel to perform calculations and solve simple models.
* a working understanding of the practical application economic ideas to specific policy issues and industries.

**Topics of Study**

The course will follow the structure of Nicholson's microeconomics text. General topics:

I. The Mathematics of Optimization (Chapter 2)

II. Theory of the Consumer (Chapters 3-8)

III. Production and Supply (Chapters 11-13)

IV. Competitive Markets (Chapters 15-18)

IV. Imperfectly Competitive Markets (Chapters 20-22)

**Conduct of the Course**

The course meets twice weekly. Tuesday meetings will be lecture format, typically covering one chapter from the text. Thursday meetings will generally be devoted to discussions and problem-solving. Students are expected to contribute to the course through active participation in class discussions and timely completion of writing assignments and problem sets.

There will be a 15 page term paper which will involve an application of microeconomic theory to a specific policy issue. This project will run through semester and will involve submission of an abstract, an outline, a first draft and a final draft.

Course evaluation is based on class participation, periodic short assignments, a mid-term examination and a final examination. Specific weights assigned to these task are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework sets</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term examinations (2)</td>
<td>30% (October 3, November 16)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final examination</td>
<td>40%</td>
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The final examination will be for two hours, held at the time and place scheduled by the registrar.