Economics 2010-100 Principles of Microeconomics
Spring 2006 University of Colorado at Boulder

Professor: Stephen Billings
Office: Econ 414
E-mail: billinsb@colorado.edu
Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9:30-11:00 and by appointment.

Course website: http://ucsu.colorado.edu/~billinsb and http://econ.aplia.com
Lecture: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00-12:15 in room Hale 270.

Teaching Assistants (TA): TBA

Required Online Material and Textbook:

**DO NOT PURCHASE A TEXTBOOK AT THE BOOKSTORE UNTIL YOU READ THIS**

You will be using Aplia for this course. Aplia is an online product that contains both a digital version of the textbook and online homework.

Your course key is: A6NL-8RZZ-7RGB

How to Use Aplia

Step 1: Register for Your Aplia Course

First Time Aplia Users:

1. Connect to http://econ.aplia.com
2. On the Sign In page, click the Go button next to "Test Your System Configuration"; this takes just a few seconds and provides detailed information on how to update your system if necessary
3. Head back to the Sign In page and click the "Register Here" link
4. Fill out the form and click Continue
5. Enter Your Course Key (above)

Returning Aplia Users:

1. Connect to http://econ.aplia.com and sign in using your usual e-mail and password
2. Enter your course key (above)

Problems with registration or sign in? You can always e-mail Aplia by clicking on the "Help" link in the upper-right corner of any page or by e-mailing support@aplia.com.

Step 2: Choose Your Payment Option (You have until 02.07.06 to pay for your course)
and decide which option to choose)

You have two payment options. To find the right option for you, decide whether you want to purchase a physical textbook.

**Note that your Aplia course includes a digital edition (online version) of the textbook.** The physical text is optional.

**Do you want to buy a physical textbook?**

**If No, simply pay for your Aplia course ($60.00):**

- Instructions on the Aplia website walk you through the payment process. There are several ways to pay. You can pay online with credit, debit, or electronic check. Aplia also accepts money orders mailed to: Aplia, Inc., 931 Terminal Way, San Carlos, CA 94070.

**If Yes, buy your physical textbook from the campus bookstore (price set by bookstore)**

- Textbooks from your campus bookstore come bundled with an Aplia Payment Code. Use the payment code to pay for your Aplia course online. The Aplia Payment Code covers your entire Aplia course fee. Aplia does not refund courses paid for with an Aplia Payment Code.

**Grace period for payment:** You may register and use the website until 02.07.06 without paying the fee. If you are considering dropping this course during the drop/add period, do not make a payment until you decide to stay in the course. You need to pay the full amount before the end of the grace period to continue using the site.

**Aplia assignments:** Most assignments come in pairs of practice problem sets and graded problem sets. Practice problem sets give you immediate feedback and an explanation of the correct answer. They do not count toward your homework grade. Use them to check your understanding of the material. If you feel confident about the material, you can go directly to the graded set and refer to the practice set only if you want some help.

The graded problem sets have a firm due date. You can change your answers as many times as you like before the due date passes. Once the due date passes, Aplia records your grade and you can no longer change your answers or complete the assignment. In other words, Aplia assignments must be done by the due date. The software does not understand excuses. Do your assignments early to keep last minute emergencies from getting in your way. After the due date, Aplia displays the correct answers and explanations for graded problems.

**Student benefits of Aplia:** Cramming is an ineffective learning method. Aplia lets you learn by doing -- you can apply what you hear and see in the classroom and what you read in the text. Think of the regular assignments on Aplia as a weekly economics workout. Regular work in Aplia will better prepare you for lectures and exams.

**FAQ**

**What is an Aplia Payment Code and how can I get one?**
The Aplia Payment Code is just another way to pay your Aplia course fee. You can find it bundled with your text. Your Aplia Payment Code is different from your Aplia Course Key. The course key allows us to identify your economics class and professor; the payment code tells us that you prepaid your entire Aplia course fee when you purchased the code. An Aplia Payment Code follows the format of xxxxx-xxx-xxxxx-xxx and is printed on a separate card included with your textbook.

**What if I purchase a payment code after paying for Aplia with my credit/debit card or electronic check?**
We can refund your payment. To speed up the refund process, sign into your Aplia course and go to the My Account tab. Click on My Courses, and enter your payment code. You will then receive an automatic refund.

**Under what circumstances can I get a refund?**
You are entitled to a refund if you submit a refund request to Aplia during the original grace period for payment. The grace period for your course expires on 02.07.06. No refunds will be granted after this date. Requests for refunds must be submitted by email or letter and received by Aplia within the stipulated time period. Contact support@aplia.com or write to Aplia Inc., 931 Terminal Way, San Carlos, California 94070 USA, to request a refund.

Note: No refunds are issued for courses paid for with an Aplia Payment Code under any circumstances.

**How do I access my textbook on the Aplia website?**
A digital version of your textbook is available in your Aplia course. You can access textbook chapters on the Home page or through your weekly assignments.

**Disclaimer:** I receive no monetary benefit from requiring Aplia assignments.

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**Course Description:** Microeconomics is the study of how individuals, firms, and the government interact within the context of markets to determine how scarce resources are allocated. In this introductory level course, we will focus on the development of economic models that can be used to analyze these interactions. Topics covered will include supply and demand analysis, production analysis, market outcomes under different assumptions regarding the degree of competition, and the effects of government policies such as taxes, subsidies, and price controls. The information in this course is important to know for anyone considering further study in economics, business, and other social sciences.

**Prerequisites:** High school algebra. Students should be comfortable using equations, graphs, and tables.

**Lectures:** In lecture, new material will be presented that will follow topics from the textbook, but will differ in emphasis. All students are strongly encouraged to attend lecture regularly. Besides all the obvious reasons to attend lecture, some exam questions will not be covered in the text but only covered in lecture. In the off chance that you miss a lecture, you should try to get lecture notes from a fellow student, if they are willing to share. I don’t give students my notes as they are only outlines of topics to discuss and will not be of much help to you.

**Recitation:**
What happens in recitation is up to your recitation instructor. Your TA will go over how you will be evaluated in recitation. Recitation is a smaller group opportunity to go over questions you have and discuss the more challenging concepts. Attending recitation is required and expected.

**Exam Preparation/Textbook Website:**
In order to help prepare for exams and solidify concepts from class, a number of resources are available.

1) The course webpage http://ucsu.colorado.edu/~billinsb has a set of review problems by economic topic and also has answers to these problems. Students are encouraged to work on these problems and check them at their own pace. We will not go over them in class.
2) A week before each exam, I will provide an exam problem set that will closely resemble the exam in terms of material and types of questions. Students are expected to go through these questions on their own and we will go over them in the class session before the exam.

3) The Krugman and Wells textbook Microeconomics has a number of online problems and a review of different concepts that are helpful for topics that students are having trouble grasping. You will need to register as a student on the website for access to this material. The website is http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/krugmanwells/default.asp?&s=&n=&i=&v=&o=&ns=0&uid=0&rnu=0

**Grading:** Your course grade will be based on two midterms, your recitation grade, Aplia assignments, and a comprehensive final. Exam dates are listed below. The breakdown of grades is as follows: 20% for Midterm 1, 20% for Midterm 2, 20% for Recitation, and 30% for the Final. To make this add up to 70%, I’ll automatically drop the lowest of your Recitation, Midterm 1, or Midterm 2 scores when determining your grade. You will not be able to drop your Final Exam score. The remaining 30% of your grade will be based on your Aplia assignments of which your worst 2 assignments will be dropped for you.

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:
- 93.00 – 100.0 % … A
- 90.00 – 92.99 % … A-
- 88.00 – 89.99 % … B+
- 83.00 – 87.99 % … B
- 80.00 – 82.99 % … B-
- 78.00 – 79.99 % … C+
- 73.00 – 77.99 % … C
- 70.00 – 72.99 % … C-
- 68.00 – 69.99 % … D+
- 63.00 – 67.99 % … D
- 60.00 – 62.99 % … D-
- 59.99 – 0.00 % … F

**Make-Up Examinations:** The two midterm exams will take place during regular class time in the regular class room on the dates listed below. The final will take place during finals week on the date, time, and place listed below. The multiple-choice portion of the exams will be graded by Scantron, so be sure to remember a #2 pencil. **You’ll also want to bring a non-graphing calculator (no cell phone calculators).** The number of questions on each exam may vary, but the final will have more questions than the midterm. The format of questions will be multiple choice and short answers. Exam questions will be based on material covered in the book and/or in lecture. A majority of the questions will test your memory and understanding of the definitions and concepts covered, and a minority of the questions will test your ability to synthesize the material and apply the concepts in a new context. I’ll talk more about each exam as the exam date approaches.

Since this is a large class, **make-ups for any exam are allowed only under compelling circumstances.** Under such a compelling circumstance, you are almost always required to make prior arrangements before the exam, usually one week in advance. In the case that you miss a midterm exam that you cannot make-up, remember that the lowest midterm or recitation grade is dropped. So missing a midterm exam should be avoided, but it may or may not hurt you as long...
as you do well on the other midterm exam and in recitation. **In the event that a make-up exam is warranted, I may choose to prorate your exam grade to your final.**

**Extra Credit:** There will only be a few extra credit opportunities during the semester, but they will be unannounced before class and will only be available during class and are worth between 0 and 3 points towards a midterm or recitation that you count toward your final grade.

**Important Dates (Note: Aplia Dates may change, but Exam dates will not. Aplia changes will be made in class and on the Aplia website):**

Classes Start: Tues, January 17th  
Recitations Start: Mon, January 23rd  
Aplia Day 1: Online Experiment (Supply and Demand) during class – Thurs, February 9th  
Midterm 1: Thurs, February 16th  
Aplia Day 2: Online Experiment (Price Floors) during class – Thurs, February 23rd  
Midterm 2: Thurs, March 23rd  
Spring Break: March 27-31  
Aplia Day 3: Online Experiment (Public Goods) during class – Thurs, April 27th  
Last Day of Class: Thurs, May 4th  
Final: Mon, May 8th from 1:30- 4:00pm

**Additional Notes:**  
If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services (DS) early in the semester so that your needs may be addressed. DS determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, ([http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices)).

Disability Services letters for students with disabilities indicate legally mandated reasonable accommodations. Other letters/requests you may receive from agencies such as the Wardenburg Student Health Center, or other health providers, such as physicians or counselors, are recommendations you may choose to follow to assist students but are not necessarily legal mandates. The syllabus statements and answers to Frequently Asked Questions can be found at [http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices).

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, accommodations will be made, but only with adequate advanced notification. Students can see full details at [http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac relig.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac relig.html).

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which students express opinions. See polices at [http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html) and at [http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/](http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/)

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All
incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html and at http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/.

The University of Colorado Policy on Sexual Harassment applies to all students, staff and faculty. Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual attention. It can involve intimidation, threats, coercion, or promises or create an environment that is hostile or offensive. Harassment may occur between members of the same or opposite gender and between any combination of members in the campus community: students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Harassment can occur anywhere on campus, including the classroom, the workplace, or a residence hall. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been sexually harassed should contact the Office of Sexual Harassment (OSH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the OSH and the campus resources available to assist individuals who believe they have been sexually harassed can be obtained at: http://www.colorado.edu/sexualharassment/

Be aware of the Drop/Add deadlines (http://registrar.colorado.edu/DropAdd/Default.html). I will only add students to the course after the wait list deadline.

If you have three or more final exams scheduled on the same day, you are entitled to arrange an alternative exam time for the last exam or exams scheduled on that day. To qualify for rescheduling final exam times, you must provide evidence that you have three or more exams on the same day, and arrangements must be made with your instructor no later than the end of the sixth week of the semester. For the complete final examination policy, see the University of Colorado at Boulder Catalog (http://www.colorado.edu/catalog).

Course Topics (We will roughly cover a topic every week and since exams dates are fixed, they will only cover topics we have finished)

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