

ECONOMICS 2010
Principles of Microeconomics
Fall 2005

Professor: Billy Mertens
Office: ECON 4D
E-mail: mertens@colorado.edu
Web: <http://spot.colorado.edu/~mertens>
Office Hours: MWF 10:05 – 11:35am, M 4 – 5:30pm, and by appointment

Course Description:

Principles of Microeconomics (ECON 2010) is a companion course with Principles of Macroeconomics. Together the courses introduce you to the "economic way of thinking". The central fact that underlies economics is the fact of "scarcity". By this it is meant that our wants exceed the goods freely available from nature in the immediate future – hence choices must be made among the many things we want. This leads to the fundamental economic questions, narrowly defined, which face all societies: What to produce? How to produce? And for whom to produce? But economics really is much broader in scope than this; it is really the study of wise decision-making in all areas of life.

The issues we discuss are complex but they do lend themselves extremely well to critical thinking and rational inquiry, which are the guiding principles of this course. Our goal is to become and remain informed about issues related to economics and, even more importantly, acquire the ability to think about complex issues in a logical objective manner. Thinking critically is what permits us to differentiate between the illogical and the sensible, between the misleading use of statistics, misleading anecdotal evidence, and the reasonable presentation of information.

As well as covering the material in the text, we will discuss a few current issues and how they relate to the economy. I may post some summary outlines on the course website, but these very brief outlines and the book are meant to complement what you learn in class – they are not substitutes for lecture materials!

After a brief introduction to the economic way of thinking, we will study supply and demand. Supply and demand analysis provides us with a graphical way of understanding how the price and quantity of a good will change when factors such as income, population, and input costs change. By studying elasticity, we will develop an understanding of what determines how much price and quantity change.

After finishing supply and demand we will discuss the derivation of supply and demand. Specifically, we will examine how a demand curve is derived from consumer decisions about how to allocate their budget between various goods. We will also examine the underlying issues behind supply by explaining how a firm decides how much to produce. We will develop this in the context of several different market settings.

A more detailed outline of covered material and chapters is posted separately.

Readings: Mankiw, N. Gregory; **Principles of Microeconomics** 3rd ed.

Assignments:

You will be given problem sets (on Aplia) that will be instrumental in your preparation for exams. I will cover all necessary material to complete these problem sets and prepare for exams in class. In addition, I will post some extra study questions (old test questions) before each exam. These will not account for part of your grade, but they may be very helpful. You will also be given assignments in recitation.

Exams:

There will be four hourly exams each worth 16% of your course grade, and a cumulative final worth 20%. Tests will consist of multiple-choice questions and some longer problems. Exams (other than the final) are not cumulative, but the material does build on itself so it is important to understand all of the concepts as we go. **If you miss an exam, you will receive a zero unless you are ill and can provide proof (e.g. a letter from the student health center). If you are excused from missing an exam then the weight of that exam will be added to your final. There will be NO makeup exams.** You may take exams early if you have a good reason and arrange it with me *well in advance*. **NO exams will be dropped!!!**

Grading:

Exam total	64%
Aplia problem sets	10%
Recitation	6%
Cumulative Final	20%

If you have a grading dispute, see your TA. If you cannot resolve the dispute with your TA, then your TA will contact me. Do NOT email me about a grading dispute.

Incompletes, Extra Credit, etc.

I adhere strictly to the University guidelines on Incompletes (“An IF is given only when students, *beyond their control*, have been unable to complete course requirements. A substantial amount of work must have been *satisfactorily completed* before approval for such a grade is completed.”). No IWs will be given! Bad grades, unsatisfactory performance, too many credit hours, work conflicts, etc. are not reasons for an incomplete.

I am adamant about giving each student an equal opportunity to perform well in the course, so there will be no extra credit opportunities that are not offered to the entire class. You should focus your efforts on learning the material and doing well on the exams.

Grading Scale:

<u>Your score</u>	<u>Grade</u>
92% to 100%	A
90% to 91%	A-
88% to 89%	B+
82% to 87%	B
80% to 81%	B-
78% to 79%	C+
72% to 77%	C
70% to 71%	C-
68% to 69%	D+
62% to 67%	D
60% to 61%	D-
Below 59.5%	F

Exam Schedule:

Exam One: Friday, September 16th
Exam Two: Monday, October 10th
Exam Three: Friday, November 4th
Exam Four: Friday, December 2nd
Final Exam for 2010-100: Friday, December 9th at 4:30pm
Final Exam for 2010-300: Friday, December 9th at 7:30am

You cannot get credit for both Economics 1000 and Economics 2010/2020.

How to use Aplia:

Your total Aplia homework grade counts for **10%** of your grade. To start earning credit toward your Aplia score, follow these two steps:

Step 1: Register for Your Aplia Course

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: **XQQS-8F2P-UQNJ**

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 several 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):

- 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, choose from these two options:

1. Buy your physical textbook through Aplia (\$60 for Aplia, plus \$50 for the physical textbook and \$5 in shipping and handling)

- **First**, purchase your Aplia course. Instructions on the Aplia website walk you through the payment process. 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.
- **Next**, purchase your physical textbook from Aplia. After you pay for your Aplia course you can order a textbook through Aplia. Just sign into your Aplia course, click on the Bookstore link on your Home page, and follow the prompts to place your order.
- You can view Aplia's refund policy on textbooks in Aplia's Terms and Conditions of Use: [http://econ.aplia.com/af/support/terms.jsp?](http://econ.aplia.com/af/support/terms.jsp)

OR

2. 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 a portion of or all of your 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 **09.12.05** 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: 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.

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

Additional Notes:

Honor Code

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). Additional information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode>

Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter to the instructor from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, or <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>

Religious holidays

A comprehensive calendar of the religious holidays most commonly observed by CU-Boulder students can be found at <http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/> Review this list and the class syllabus. After reviewing the syllabus, please see the instructor if you believe that you need an accommodation for religious reasons. The instructor should be notified within the first two weeks of classes. Campus policy regarding religious observances states that faculty must make *reasonable* accommodation for them and in so doing, be careful not to inhibit or penalize those students who are exercising their rights to religious observance. For more information see http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

Code of Behavior

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 policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

Policy on Sexual Harassment

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/>

Emails:

Because of the large class size, having to read through excessive and often frivolous emails can take time away from other students serious concerns. Appropriate emails take one of the following two forms:

1. To schedule an appointment if you have classes during all of my office hours.
2. Last minute questions before tests (after ALL office hours have ended) – I can't guarantee a response, but I will try. Please try your TAs as well.