

# INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMICS

ECON 3070-004, Fall 2005

## COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: *Sergey Makarevich*  
Office Hours: *Tue 10am-12pm, Fri 12-1pm*  
Office: [ECON 309C](#)  
Office Phone: *(303) 492-7195*  
Email: [makarevs@colorado.edu](mailto:makarevs@colorado.edu)

Course website: [econ.aplia.com/](http://econ.aplia.com/)  
Ref. site: [ucsu.colorado.edu/~makarevs/3070-4-Fa05](http://ucsu.colorado.edu/~makarevs/3070-4-Fa05)  
Class Room: [HLMS 211](#)  
Class Days/Times: [MWF 11:00-11:50](#)

### **Pre-requisites**

Currently [ECON 3070](#) has a [pre-requisite](#) of [ECON 1000](#) or [2010](#) AND either [ECON 1078+1088](#) or [MATH 1300](#) or equivalent. The latter courses teach basic algebra and calculus (differentiation and integration). These pre-requisites will be strictly enforced through the administrative drop.

Moreover, if you had these taken several years ago (or just managed to “surf” through them), you still may find it difficult, although not impossible, to keep up with and get a satisfactory grade in this course, unless you put a significant effort in reviewing (or learning, if necessary) the basic differentiation and integration. There will be a brief review of the relevant math in the beginning of the course.

### **Course Philosophy**

Both students and instructor benefit when the students come to the class prepared – having an idea about the material which we will discuss in class. The textbook (not the in-class lecture/review!) is the MAIN source of your learning in this course. A class time will be devoted to just a cursory review of the most difficult concepts of the material and to a thorough work through the examples and student questions, sometimes – news analysis. See recommended Learning Cycle below.

The course is a backbone of all your higher level economic courses. The analysis of individual behavior of consumers and firms, as well as their interaction in the markets, supported with thorough mathematics-based intuition, will serve you well beyond your university time. It will be hard but doable. If you cannot devote 2 hours a working day to this course outside of the classroom, you may be better off choosing another section.

### **Student – Instructor Communication**

I am available during office hours and private appointments to assist you. However, before you come to see us, make sure that you are adequately prepared, this means that you have read the part of the chapter discussing the material that you do not understand, and have at least attempted the homework or worksheet problems that you have questions about. Still if you feel “stuck”, drop in during the office hour, or schedule an appointment: we will work it through together.

Many questions can be answered over the [email](#). I am usually quick to respond.

### **Study Materials**

**Required Text.** *Microeconomics. An Integrated Approach.* David Besanko, Ronald R. Braeutigam, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2005. THE MAIN RESOURCE OF THE COURSE MATERIAL.

**Required Aplia Courseware Website.** For details about the [registration](#) and use of [Aplia website](#) click [here](#) (handout in class). This is the course website, major venue of communication, location of assignments, answers, and presentations.

**Study Guide.** Available separately. Recommended. Written by the author of the test bank to be used in exams. Contains chapter summaries, exercises, review questions, and problem sets – all with fully worked out answers.

**Student Companion Site** at [jws-edcv.wiley.com](http://jws-edcv.wiley.com)

### **Course Grading**

#### **‘Free Pass’ Policy**

“Free pass” policy in grading amounts to automatic dropping of a specified number of lower scores (including zeroes for the work not done) of repeating class events (Aplia exercises, home assignments, quizzes, etc.) in calculating the score for this activity. This allows for saving time and effort of both student and instructor providing and checking the validity of proof of legitimate reasons

for, say, missing homework. It also potentially allows for some student discretion in allocating efforts, but if the number of missed assignments exceeds the allowance, then ALL of occurrences will have to be reasonably documented showing the circumstances beyond your control in order to allow their drop from the scoring. You cannot choose some of them to be supported, whereas other to be counted towards the “pass”.

The number of “passes” is [potentially] different for each type of assignments. Specific numbers are provided in the correspondent sections below. You grade calculation will drop lowest scores automatically, you do not have to do anything to make this happen.

## Attendance

Attendance, as such, is optional, except for the first three classes, when the roll will be taken as a basis for the administrative drop of those who miss all three classes, if there’s a waiting list for this section. Nevertheless the in-class quizzes account for 5% of your grade, and will not be announced in advance. More over I’ll take roll on a regular basis to be able to better understand your standing with the course and to use in the office hours as necessary. No grading will be directly based on your attendance record, although missing the in-class quiz will affect your grade.

## Aplia Exercises

There will be weekly machine-graded assignments off the Aplia website (see below). These assignments are intended to provide you with the early feedback on the questions regarding the material and facilitate the effective use of the classroom time. They will cover the material to be reviewed in the class in the week following the deadline for the corresponding Aplia assignment submission. Thus you will have to READ AHEAD the relevant chapters by the Sunday late night and solve the problems related to the next-week material. Deadline will be usually set at 11:55 PM of Sunday to allow you review your answers with the Aplia feedback and prepare questions for the material to be covered on Monday.

Be clear on this: you will have to do these exercises based on your text reading, solving and reviewing matching practice problems on Aplia and any feedback from me in the office hours – all AHEAD OF THE TOPIC BEING COVERED IN CLASS.

**Student benefits:** By completing regular work in association with the lectures, you will better prepare yourself for the lectures and exams in the course. Cramming is not an effective method of learning. Think of the regular assignments on Aplia as a weekly Economics workout. Practicing and applying what you are learning from Aplia and lecture will better prepare you for class.

**Aplia assignments:** Many assignments come in pairs of practice and graded problem sets. The *practice sets* give you immediate feedback about whether your answer is right or wrong and an explanation of the correct answer. They are not counted as part of your homework grade. Use them to check your understanding of the material. If you are confident, you can go directly to the graded problem set, and refer back to the practice set only if you want some additional help.

The *graded problem* sets, although optional starting from week 3, have a firm due date in order to be counted towards the homework score enhancement. You can change your answers as many times as you like before the due date has passed. Once the due date has passed, the grade will be recorded and it will not be possible to change your answers or complete the assignment at this point. In other words, Aplia assignments must be completed by the due date. The software does not care whether you have an excuse or not. I’ll do my best to post these assignments at least week in advance. Do them early to avoid any emergencies preventing your completion before the due date. After the due date, you will be able to see the correct answers and the explanations for graded problems.

This is a required part of the course workload, and it bears a cost attached to it. You will have to register at the Aplia website (see details below) and pay \$28. Consider this cost being akin to a required student workbook – it will be definitely as useful as that, and provide the essential part of the course learning structure and communication means. Instructions how to register and start working with Aplia will be handed in the first class and are available [here](#) for download.

**Pre- and post-test on math:** When you log in to Aplia site for the first time, do not get scared by the sheer volume of assignments visible in the first week. The two that really matter are the graded Pre-test and Post-test on Math. The rest is optional (as you need it) and assigned in the practice mode. Only the highest score between the pre- and post-test is counted towards your grade. Do the pre-test, and check the results after the Wed midnight. If your score is low, review the practice tutorials, if necessary (recommended), and take the post-test. The whole set is designed to help you assess your preparedness for the course and anticipated workload: the lower your score on these tests, the more time you should expect putting in struggle with the assignments later. This is also a good feedback for me, as it allows somewhat attenuate the course material emphasis to your benefit.

## Quizzes

Occasional pop-up multiple choice quizzes designed to provide me an early objective feedback on your level of comprehension of main concepts. They will be short and easy to answer as soon as you read the assigned material beforehand and paid attention in the class.

## Homework

Home assignments will be provided biweekly and will serve as a close approximation of what you will see on exams. Problems for the homeworks will come from the same test bank as exams will be, also from the end of the chapters in the text, and – occasionally – from the Study Guide.

## Exams

If you have three or more final examinations on the same day (see: [registrar.colorado.edu/Calendar/spring05exam.html](http://registrar.colorado.edu/Calendar/spring05exam.html)), we will adhere to the University's final exam policy. In such cases, you are entitled to arrange an alternative examination time for the last exam or exams scheduled on that day. Please see [www.colorado.edu/policies/final\\_exam.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/final_exam.html) for complete details. The grading policy for the course is designed to suitably accommodate (in accordance with the University's policy) the possible conflict of exam or assignment scheduling with the observance of religious holidays (see: [www.colorado.edu/policies/fac\\_relig.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html)).

## Math in the Course

This course will make heavy use of relevant mathematical analysis: differentiation of multivariate functions, simple integration. Beginning calculus skills of graphing, understanding equations of straight lines and their shifting are presumed. In the first week of the course we will spend some time reviewing relevant math skills, but this crash course will not substitute for pre-requisites, as it will be feasible only for those refreshing, not acquiring this knowledge. Your math will be tested during the first week.

## Grading Scheme

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Online (Aplia) exercises (weekly, 14-16, 1 pass)..... | [10%/0%] (1 <sup>st</sup> wk & Ch.2 as HW, the rest as [optional] average with HW)                                 |
| Homework (biweekly, 7-8, 2 passes) .....              | 10%  |
| In-class MC quizzes (weekly, 10-11, 3 passes).....    | 10%  |
| Exams (3, 1 pass for midterm).....                    | 80% (25%, 25%, 30% cumulative final; or 30% midterm, 50% final if one midterm score is dropped. No drop of final.) |
| Math test .....                                       | effective pre-requisite enforcement (Aplia, one of the quizzes).   |
| Homework #1 .....                                     | effective pre-requisite enforcement on Microeconomic Principles.   |
| Attendance .....                                      | (absence in 1st 3 classes may be a cause for an administrative drop)   |

## “Programmed motivation”

If on the exam, or homework you did not achieve the score of at least 70% (or 60% on quiz), you are required to redo the assignment or test, in the specified amount of time (see below) after your graded assignment is returned. The average of original score and best retake score goes in the automated grade calculation (including free pass adjustments), but if you fail to redo quiz or homework, your course grade will be reduced 5% directly off your automatically calculated score. If you fail to redo the midterm exam, you will FAIL THE COURSE. This is true even if you count on the test score to be dropped by the ‘free pass’ policy in automatic calculation: ‘free pass’ is designed to accommodate for emergencies, not to allow skipping the material altogether.

Redo deadlines are set to 1 week after exams and homeworks are returned, and to 3 working days for quizzes. You will have to retake the same supervised assignment during the office hours or separately announced or appointment-scheduled days and times.

## Learning Cycle

The student model learning cycle could be as follows (R stands for “required” or graded, except attendance beyond third class meeting):

- R READ AHEAD the assigned text chapter; try learning-by-doing (LBD) exercises.
- R Do the online machine-graded exercises (weekly, finish by Sunday night preceding the week the chapter is presented).
  - Use the text companion site (at wiley.com) – interactive Excel solvers for LBD exercises (excelets), web quizzes with hints – to gain better understanding.
  - Attempt all of the homework problems (before the scheduled review of material in the class).
- R Attend lecture (MWF), short popup quiz possible in the beginning or the end of the lecture.
- R Complete the homework assignment (biweekly?), re-reading text segments as necessary. The homework is a good proxy for the exam material.
  - Save the unyielding difficult questions for the office hour (after you attempt understand them on your own) and use me effectively as a learning resource. Do not hesitate to email me a specific question, or schedule a meeting if you are lost.

## Other Policies

**Honor Code:** It is expected that you understand CU Honor Code and will abide by it for all quizzes and exams. Go to [www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/](http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/) - it is your responsibility to know what's in it!

initial  
here

**Pledge of Honor Code:** “On my honor, as a University of Colorado at Boulder student, I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this work.”

**Religious Observance Accommodations:** If you have a conflict between religious observance dates and course examinations or assignments, you must notify me two weeks in advance so that your needs may be addressed.

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

## Course Outline

### Part 1. MATH REVIEW AND CONSUMER BEHAVIOR

|               |  |                  |
|---------------|--|------------------|
| Week 1,2      | Analyzing Economic Problems. Supply and Demand Analysis (very brief review - prerequisite). Brief math review. | Chapters 1, 2    |
| Weeks 3, 4, 5 | Consumer Preferences and the Concept of Utility. Consumer Choice. The Theory of Demand.                        | Chapters 3, 4, 5 |

**1st MIDTERM EXAM** is tentatively on **Wednesday, September 28** at the regular class time. The exam covers chapters 1-5.

### Part 2. FIRMS AND PERFECT COMPETITION

|              |  |                  |
|--------------|--|------------------|
| Week 6, 7, 8 | Costs Minimization, Cost Curves, Inputs and Production Functions | Chapters 6, 7, 8 |
| Weeks 9      | Perfectly Competitive Markets                                    | Chapter 9        |
| Week 10      | Competitive Markets: Applications                                | Chapter 10       |

**2nd MIDTERM EXAM** is tentatively on **Friday, October 28** at the regular class time. The exam covers chapters 6-10.

### Part 3. IMPERFECT MARKETS, GENERAL EQUILIBRIUM AND WELFARE

|              |   |                 |
|--------------|---|-----------------|
| Week 12      | Monopoly  | Chapter 11      |
| Weeks 13, 14 | Market Structure and Imperfect Competition. Elements of Game Theory and Strategic Behavior. | Chapters 14, 13 |
| Weeks 15, 16 | General Equilibrium, Welfare and Elements of Public Policy.                                 | Chapter 16, 17  |

**FINAL EXAM** is on **Monday, December 12, 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

The exam covers chapters 11,13-14, and 16-17, as well as brief problems from the previous parts.

[CUB Final Exam Schedule, Fall 2005](#)

## What's Next?

Decide if you want to remain in this section

Register for Aplia (even if not decided). If you did not finalize your decision to stay with this section of 3070, postpone the payment for Aplia till you are sure. But do not forget to make it before the deadline (12-Sept) as you will not be able to do a big part of the required and graded coursework otherwise.

Do pre-test on Wednesday, review results, and then, if necessary, work through tutorials and post-test due on Friday.

Read Chapters 1 and 2 of the text, including learning-by-doing (LBD) exercises and appendices.

By Thursday check for the Aplia exercises, and the Homework #1.

Lets have a good semester. GOOD LUCK!

**IMPORTANT:** I have read and understood the policies of the class: (Print name) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (sign) \_\_\_\_\_ (date). Return to instructor on second class or A.S.A.P.

**Initial above where instructed on the margins.**