



University of Colorado Boulder  
INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMIC THEORY  
ECON 3070 SYLLABUS, SUMMER 2022

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Instructor: Dr. Sara Avila

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Voice: (720) 327-1396

Zoom: <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/my/saraavila>

- Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 am -12:15 pm using Zoom

#### INSTRUCTOR BIO

I am an economics instructor with more than two decades of experience. My research interests are in the fields of environmental economics and more recently, in how to teach economics. I have worked on topics related to air quality, climate change, urban transportation, and biodiversity conservation. I am passionate about building understanding in a diverse environment.

I am also an avid runner coming back from an injury, and I am grateful to have the opportunity to share with you this learning experience.

**Term Start:** May 31, 2022

**Term End:** July 22, 2022

#### COURSE WEBSITE

- Canvas is our class website:
- Login using your University of Colorado Boulder identikey and password  
<https://canvas.colorado.edu/>
- Under Course List, click "ECON 3070-581: Intermediate Microeconomic Theory Online"
- Note: all email correspondence will be through your CU Boulder email address.
  - *Do not use the Canvas email or messages, it is not checked.*

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

*From General Catalog: Explores theory and application of models of consumer choice, firm and market organization, and general equilibrium. Extensions include intertemporal decisions, decisions under uncertainty, externalities, and strategic interaction.*

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to microeconomic theory, focusing on the behavior of households, firms, and the interaction of these agents in the marketplace. Microeconomic theory is used to explain how individuals decide what and how much to buy and how firms decide what and how much to sell under various economic environments (e.g., market structures, taxation, regulation). Extensions and applications will include market failures (such as externalities and public goods), international trade, taxes, and decision-making under uncertainty.

## COURSE PREREQUISITES

Requires prerequisite courses of ECON 2010 (Principles of Microeconomics) AND ECON 1088 or MATH 1081 or MATH 1300 or MATH 1310 or APPM 1350 (all min grade C-) (Math/Calculus courses) AND is restricted to students with 22-180 units completed.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

- Identify the fundamentals of microeconomic theory
- Explain how consumers make decisions in the face of scarcity and how these decisions vary in response to changes in the economic environment.
- Explain how firms make decisions in the face of scarcity and how these decisions vary in response to changes in the economic environment.
- Compare consumer and producer behavior resulting from the different types of market structure.
- Apply algebraic, graphical and calculus tools to microeconomic theory
- Apply microeconomic principles, theories and models to critically analyze and explain economic situations encountered in the real world that involve microeconomics
- Communicate the results of economic analysis in a clear and professional way

## REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

**Course Website:** <https://canvas.colorado.edu/> (Canvas) Grades and any further additional readings will be posted on Canvas. Please check Canvas frequently for any relevant notifications/changes that may occur throughout the course.

**Textbook (required):** Microeconomics with MyLab, 9th Edition, by Pindyck and Rubinfeld, Pearson Publishing, ISBN 9780134153988.

**Day 1 Digital Access:** *To keep the cost of your course materials as low as possible and access to those materials as convenient as possible, we have collaborated with the CU Book Store and the publisher to deliver those materials through a program called “Day 1 Digital Access”, which will appear on your tuition and fee bill as “Day 1 Digital Access”.*

*What does this mean for you?*

1. *You will receive access to all your course materials, digitally, on the first day of classes, through the course Canvas page.*
2. *You will see a “Day 1 Digital Access” charge on your tuition and fee bill for: **\$XX.X***
  - *This is a guaranteed lowest price, discounted by the publisher, and not available outside this course*
3. *You have the option to opt out. This means: you won’t pay for anything, but you lose all access to the course materials.*
  - *You can opt out by: using a link in a reminder email you will receive with the subject heading “Day 1 Digital Access”.*
  - *You must opt out no later than June 6, 2022, otherwise you will be charged for the materials.*

4. *Please keep in mind that “opting out” means that your access to these materials will be turned OFF, and you will have no way to complete assignments.*

## SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS

Supplemental readings and other materials will be provided in Canvas system, via the CU Library electronic reserve, or by links to websites.

## ONLINE COURSE STRUCTURE

This course is delivered via distance education format using the CU Canvas system. The asynchronous format will use a combination of readings, online discussion, and other web-based resources.

Asynchronous learning does not require real-time (or synchronous) interaction; instead, content is available online for you to access when it best suits your schedule, and assignments are completed prior to the deadlines listed in the schedule. You will interact with the instructor and other students using the communication functions provided by Canvas. You will submit assignments using Canvas, email, or through another online system.

There will be 14 modules corresponding to the 14 weeks of the course (1 module per week). You should proceed through one module per week, which will be comprised of readings from the course texts, supplemental class notes, graded discussion questions, homeworks and quizzes, exams, and various outside sources of information such as additional readings and video content, among other content.

## CONTENT OUTLINE

Review the separate weekly class schedule found on Canvas under “Syllabus” link.

## CLASS PARTICIPATION

This course is designed to engage you mostly through exercises, however, there will also be class discussions on the topics covered in the course materials. It is important that you participate in class discussions to facilitate learning by other students and gain exposure to different viewpoints of other students in the class.

## EVALUATION AND GRADING

Course grades will be determined by the completion of assignments, exams, and discussions, as shown below:

<b>Assignment*</b>	<b>Points per Assignment</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Number of assignments dropped</b>	<b>GRADE POINTS</b>	<b>GRADE PERCENTAGE</b>
Early-Module Assignment	5	12	2	50	5.0%
In-Video Quizzes	2	At least 50	Any > 50	100	10.0%
Discussion or Writing Assignment	20	3	0	60	6.0%
Exercises	15	12	1	165	16.5%
Problem Sets	25	12	1	275	27.5%
Proctored Midterm Exam	125	1	0	125	12.5%
Proctored Cumulative Final Exam	225	1	0	225	22.5%
<b>Total</b>				<b>1000</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Keep a copy of all work created for the course, including work submitted through Canvas.

## GRADING CRITERIA

Grade	Percentage Grade	Equivalent Points	Indicates
A	93-100	930 – 1000	Excellent
A-	90-92.99	900 – 929	
B+	87-89.99	870 – 899	
B	83-86.99	830 – 869	Above Average
B-	80-82.99	800 – 829	
C+	77-79.99	770 – 799	
C	73-77.99	730 – 769	Average
C-	70-72.99	700 – 729	
D+	67-69.99	670 – 699	
D	63-67.99	630 – 669	Below Average
D-	60-62.99	600 – 629	
F	0-59	600 or lower	Failure

*There is +/- grading in this class.*

## ASSIGNMENTS

During the summer we will cover two modules each week. The first module starts on Monday and the second module starts on Thursday.

**Early module assignments** (50 POINTS) – There will be twelve (12) 5-point early-module assignments. This early-module work is designed to remind you of math and Principles of Microeconomic concepts necessary to be successful in that module. Early module assignments are open book and open note. You have two attempts at each early-module assignment, the highest grade counts, and the lowest two (2) are dropped from your final grade calculation. Early-module work will be submitted through Canvas or MyLab.

**In-Video Quizzes** (60 POINTS) – There will be at least fifty 2-point in-video quizzes. You will watch lecture videos and answer questions during that video. Not all videos have in-video quizzes. The total possible points for each in-video quiz is 2, regardless of the number of quiz questions in the video. These quizzes are open book and open note. You have two attempts at each in-video quiz, the highest grade counts, and only the highest 50 count towards your final grade calculation. In-video quizzes will be submitted through Canvas using the tool “PlayPosit” and are due Tuesdays and Fridays.

**Discussion posting or writing assignment** (60 POINTS) – There will be three (3) 20-point discussion postings.

- The discussion will occur asynchronously; I will post a discussion question and you will respond to the questions at your convenience prior to the due date. Discussions are open book and open note and will be submitted through Canvas.
- These assignments also allow you to interact with classmates and build community.

**Exercises** (165 POINTS) – There will be twelve (12) 15-point exercises. The format of exercises will be multiple choice, calculations, and short answers and will be open book and open notes. Your lowest one (1) exercise is dropped from your final grade calculation. These exercises are very similar to the problem sets. You have two attempts at each question on the exercise. Exercises will be submitted through Canvas or MyLab.

**Problem Sets** (275 POINTS) – There will be twelve (12) 25-point problem sets. The format of the problem sets will be multiple choice, calculations, and short answers and will be open book and open notes, but you only have one try per question. Your lowest one (1) problem set is dropped from your final grade calculation. Problem sets will be submitted through Canvas or MyLab.

**Proctored Exams** (350 POINTS) – There will be two (2) exams. The proctored midterm exam is worth 125 points and the proctored cumulative final exam is worth 225 points. The format of the exam will be multiple choice and calculations and will be closed book. The exams are completed on Canvas or MyLab in a proctored setting.

**This course requires proctored examinations.** Exams are proctored which will require planning on your part. Proctors are individuals who administer the exam process following the guidelines provided by University of Colorado Boulder to ensure academic integrity.

### Who can be my proctor?

If you are in Boulder or nearby, you can take your exam:

1. With me at the Department of Economics. There is no cost for using this proctor. This option is only on selected days during the exam period.
2. At the University Testing Center on-campus in Boulder, CO. There may be a cost for using the testing center. This option is only available M-F during regular business hours.
3. With Proctorio or a comparable online proctoring service as determined by your instructor. Online proctoring is a service that uses a webcam and microphone to ensure academic integrity. To use this service, you must have access to a computer with a webcam and a microphone. There is no cost for using this proctor.

If you outside of Boulder, you can take your exam:

1. At an accredited college or university testing center in your town or nearby. There may be a cost for using this testing center.
2. With Proctorio or a comparable online proctoring service as determined by your instructor. Online proctoring is a service that uses a webcam and microphone to ensure academic integrity. To use this service, you must have access to a computer with a webcam and a microphone. There is no cost for using this proctor.

Please see Canvas for detailed information about proctoring, including the contact information for the UTC, Proctorio, and a nationwide list of accredited college or university testing centers. If you are in a rural area or on a military base, you may need to be approved to use a person as a proctor and information is provided on Canvas for this approval process.

### EXTRA CREDIT

Up to 30 points of extra credit **may** be available (=3% of the course grade).

- Up to 30 points extra may be available during the semester for completing certain activities, such as listening and commenting on a podcast, completing special activities, etc. These extra credit opportunities will be determined by the instructor and announced in on Canvas.

### POLICY ON DUE DATES

Each module you will complete a series of critical thinking questions that reflect material from the various delivery formats and required readings. It is your responsibility to turn in each assignment on the required date. **Late assignments are not accepted for exams or discussions. Early Module Assignments, In-Video Quizzes, Exercises, and Problem Sets can be turned in up to three days late. The grade penalty is grade will be reduced by one letter grade for day late.** The exceptions that may be considered is due to sickness, university excused function, or circumstances beyond the students' control. The instructor reserves the sole right to determine what grounds constitutes a reasonable excuse for missing or submitting a late work assignment and the right to require the student to submit proper verification of such excuse.

## COMMUNICATION

I am nice and I want you to succeed. Do not hesitate to contact me about anything.

**E-mail: [sara.avila@colorado.edu](mailto:sara.avila@colorado.edu)**

- **Please always remind me of what course you are taking.** Since I teach several courses, I forget what course you are taking, especially at the beginning of the semester.
- I will respond to email within 12-18 hours, but usually within 2-4 hours. I always respond to emails. If you have not had a response within 18 hours, I did not receive the email. Be sure to use your CU email address because sometimes Gmail and yahoo email accounts are filtered into my spam folder.

Mobile: (720) 327-1396

- This is my cell phone number. Call or text anytime between 8am – 9pm MTN. I sometimes have my phone turned off during the middle of the day but leave a message when it is a good time to get a hold of you and I will call you back.

Additional ways to contact Dr. Avila:

- Online Office Hours: Wednesdays and Thursdays 10 am -12:15 pm using Zoom (<https://cuboulder.zoom.us/my/saraavila>)

General Course Announcements

- Announcements: Please check the “announcements” section on Canvas.

## TUTORING

The Economics Department provides a free drop-in tutorial office which offers assistance on all core courses in the major, and occasionally on other undergraduate courses in the Department. Its website is <https://www.colorado.edu/economics/node/513/attachment>.

The Economics Department maintains a list of tutors who are available for private hire. Its website is <https://www.colorado.edu/economics/node/515/attachment>.

## COURSE POLICIES

### NETIQUETTE

All students should be aware that their behavior impacts other people, even online. I hope that we will all strive to develop a positive and supportive environment and will be courteous to fellow students and your instructor. Due to the nature of the online environment, there are some things to remember.

1. Always think before you write. In other words, without the use of nonverbals with your message, your message can be misinterpreted. So please think twice before you hit submit.
2. Keep it relevant. There are places to chat and post for fun everyday stuff. Do not stray from the discussion in the assigned questions.
3. Never use all caps. This is the equivalent of yelling in the online world. It is not fun to read. Only use capital letters when appropriate.
4. Make sure that you are using appropriate grammar and structure. In other words, I don't want to see anyone writing “R U” instead of “are you”. There are people in the class that may not

understand this type of abbreviation, not to mention it does nothing to help expand your writing and vocabulary skills. Emoticons are fine as long as they are appropriate. A smile 😊 is welcome, anything offensive is not.

5. Treat people the same as you would face-to-face. In other words, it is easy to hide behind the computer. In some cases, it empowers people to treat others in ways they would not in person. Remember there is a person behind the name on your screen. Treat all with dignity and respect and you can expect that in return.
6. Respect the time of others. This class is going to require you to work in groups. Learn to respect the time of others in your group and your experience will be much better. Always remember that you are not the only person with a busy schedule, be flexible. Do not procrastinate! You may be one that works best with the pressures of the deadline looming on you, but others may not be that way. The same is true for the reverse. The key to a successful group is organization, communication and a willingness to do what it takes to get it done.

Website: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

*Compiled by Melissa Landin, Instructor, Dept. of Communication, Inver Hills Community College,*  
[mlandin@inverhills.edu](mailto:mlandin@inverhills.edu)

## CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Both students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote or online. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution policies](#).

## HONOR CODE

"On my honor, as a University of Colorado Boulder student  
I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance."

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code academic integrity policy. Violations of the Honor Code may include, but are not limited to: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu)); 303-492-5550). Students found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found on the [Honor Code website](#).

## SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, DISCRIMINATION, HARRASSMENT AND/OR RELATED RETALIATION



The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct intimate partner abuse (including dating or domestic violence), stalking, protected-class discrimination or harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or [cureport@colorado.edu](mailto:cureport@colorado.edu). Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](#), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

### RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Because of the flexibility of timing of completion of assignments in this class, you must contact the instructor in at least two weeks in advance if you anticipate a religious holiday may impact your completion of coursework.

For more information on the religious holidays most commonly observed by CU Boulder students consult the [online interfaith calendar](#).

### STUDENT PRONOUNS

CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR COVID-19

As a matter of public health and safety due to the pandemic, all members of the CU Boulder community and all visitors to campus must follow university, department and building requirements and all public health orders in place to reduce the risk of spreading infectious disease. When attending in-person class, students who fail to adhere to these requirements will be asked to leave class, and students who do not leave class when asked or who refuse to comply with these requirements will be referred to [Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution](#). For more information, see the policy on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#). If you require accommodation because a disability prevents you from fulfilling these safety measures, please follow the steps in the "Accommodation for Disabilities" statement on this syllabus.

As of March 7, 2022, the CU Boulder campus is mask optional. Students are not required to wear a mask, but students may choose to continue to wear a mask. If you qualify for a mask-related accommodation, please follow the steps in the "Accommodation for Disabilities" statement on this syllabus.

Students who have tested positive for COVID-19, have symptoms of COVID-19, or have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for or had symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home. In this class, if you are sick or quarantined, you can have access to all the materials online. Please get in touch with me if you need anything else.

### TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

What are the basic computer specifications for Canvas?

- Visit the official [Canvas Computer Specifications Page](#) for the latest list of recommended system requirements.

Which browsers does Canvas support?

- Visit the [Supported Browsers Page](#) for the detailed list of internet browsers in Windows, MacOS, iOS and Android.

Skill Requirements

- Students also need to possess basic computer skills, such as:
  - How to use a web browser and word processor
  - How to send and receive email
  - How to locate a file and attach it to an email or upload a file into a course
  - How to copy and paste
  - Must know basic typing skills and keyboard commands
  - Must know basic computer terminology

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT

- Canvas technical support. If you are experiencing issues with Canvas please contact:
  - CU Boulder's Help desk at 303-735-4357 (5-HELP) or [help@colorado.edu](mailto:help@colorado.edu). 5-Help will answer your call: Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from noon to 6:00 p.m., Closed during [University Holidays](#)
  - On your computer, click the “help” (?) icon on the left side of Canvas, once logged in
  - Within the Canvas App, you can search the Canvas support guides, Report a Problem or chat with Canvas Support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- MyLab tech support:
  - [https://help.pearsoncmg.com/ccng/ccng\\_instr/ccng\\_xmel\\_instr\\_help\\_support\\_bridge.html](https://help.pearsoncmg.com/ccng/ccng_instr/ccng_xmel_instr_help_support_bridge.html) or <https://support.pearson.com/getsupport/s/>

## ACCOMMODATION FOR DISABILITIES

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or [dsinfo@colorado.edu](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu) for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) on the Disability Services website.

## COURSE WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Any student who wishes to withdraw from the course must submit a request directly to [Continuing Education](#). For complete information, please visit their website at <https://ce.colorado.edu/resources/topics/dates-and-deadlines-general-info/>

## ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

A variety of instructional support services, such as writing center, guidance on personal or educational issues, tutoring questions and library resources are available to the students. For more information about their services, visit their websites linked under modules on Canvas.