
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

SPECIAL TOPICS: MANAGERIAL ECONOMICS

ECON 4929 ONLINE SYLLABUS, FALL 2020

INSTRUCTOR: DR. KAREN GEBHARDT

Email karen.gebhardt@colorado.edu

Mobile

- This is my cell phone number. Call or text anytime between 8am – 8pm 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.

Office Hours

- Online Office Hours: Thursdays 9-11 am and 4-6 pm and by appointment using Zoom

INSTRUCTOR BIO

Dr. Karen Gebhardt is the Director of the Online Economics Program at CU Boulder. Her research focuses on using learning analytics to improve student learning outcomes in economics education with an emphasis on improving grades and completion rates in online courses. She is an early adopter of technology in the classroom and advocates strongly for it because she sees the difference it makes in student engagement and learning. In her free time, Dr. Gebhardt enjoys rock climbing and she used to enjoy (pre-COVID) traveling in the Colorado Rockies and beyond. She now just likes to drink coffee at home.

TERM START: August 31, 2020

TERM END: December 13, 2020

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 4929-581: Managerial Economics”
- 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

This course is an application of microeconomic principles and tools to business problems faced by decision makers. This course examines decisions related to pricing, products and production, location of firms, vertical and horizontal integration, marketing, uncertainty, market structure, and government regulations and introduces key business communication, accounting and finance principles.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

Requires prerequisite courses of ECON 3070 (Intermediate Microeconomic Theory) (minimum grade C-)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- Illustrate how microeconomic theory applies to business decisions.
- Apply the supply and demand model to managerial decisions.
- Demonstrate basic and advanced pricing techniques to increase economic profit.
- Apply the concepts of present value, net present value and future value to make managerial decision.
- Compare and contrast managerial decisions associated with different market structures.
- Discuss how antitrust policy and other regulations affect decision making.
- Explain how business managers make decisions about final products, production process, and location of the firm and how they make decisions under uncertainty and differing levels of information.
- Explain key business communication, accounting and finance principles.
- Use algebra, graphs, calculus, and spreadsheets as tools to make managerial economics.
- Evaluate business case studies and communicate those evaluations clearly and professionally.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

Textbook (required): The Economics of Managerial Decisions with MyLab, 1st Edition (2019), by Blair and Rush, Pearson Publishing, ISBN 9780134184661. Students are required to have access to MyLab (which includes an eBook) at a minimum and can optionally choose to purchase a paper text. MyLab is where you will read your textbook and complete some graded assignments. You will access MyLab through our course website, Canvas.

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.

SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS

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

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY AND DELIVERY

This course is delivered via distance education format using the CU Canvas system. This format will use a combination of readings, online discussion, and other web-based resources. You will interact with the instructor and other students using the communication functions provided by Canvas. You will submit assignments in accordance with the course outline using Canvas.

COURSE PRESENTATION AND PROCEDURES

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.

COURSE OUTLINE

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

CLASS PARTICIPATION

This course is designed to engage you through 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. It is therefore necessary to participate throughout the week in the discussion questions, not wait until the last minute to post on discussion topics.

EVALUATION AND GRADING

Course grades will be determined by the completion of quizzes, case study analysis, other assignments, and exams, as shown below:

Assignment*	Points per Assignment	Frequency	GRADE POINTS	GRADE PERCENTAGE
Quiz	(10)	* (11)	= 110	11%
Case Study Analysis	(90)	* (2)	= 160	16%
"Weekly Work"	(40)	* (9)	= 360	36%
Midterm Exam	(150)	* (1)	= 150	15%
Cumulative Final Exam	(200)	* (1)	= 200	20%
TOTAL			= 1000	100%

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

COURSE 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.

Quiz (110 POINTS) – There will be twelve (12) 10-point quizzes. The quizzes will be a combination of multiple choice and calculation questions. The lowest one (1) quiz are dropped from the final grade calculation.

Case Study Analysis (180 POINTS) – There will be two (2) 90-point case study analyses. A case study analysis is a critical-thinking assignment requires students to investigate a business problem, examine the alternative solutions, and propose the most effective solution using supporting evidence. Each case study analysis will include a discussion/brainstorm activity.

“Weekly Work” (360 POINTS) – There will be ten (10) 40-point problem sets, discussion postings, or Excel spreadsheet exercises (or a combination). The lowest one (1) weekly work is dropped from the final grade calculation.

- Problem sets will be a combination of calculations, graphical analysis, and short answer questions.
- Discussion postings will occur asynchronously; the instructor will post a discussion question and the student will (1) complete and initial post in response to the discussion question and (2) engage in discussion with classmates.
- Excel spreadsheet exercises will require students to manipulate and interpret data related to the microeconomics of managerial decisions.

Exams (350 POINTS) – There will be two (2) proctored exams. The midterm exam is worth 150 points and the cumulative final exam is worth 200 points. The exams will a combination multiple choice, calculation, graphical analysis, short answer, and Excel spreadsheet questions.

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 **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 50 points of extra may be available (= maximum 5% of the course grade).

- There may be 50 points extra 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.

EXPECTATIONS OF INSTRUCTOR

I take my role as your instructors very seriously, and, in fact, I care about how well you do in this course and that you have a satisfying, rewarding experience. To that end, it is our commitment to you to respond individually to the work you submit in this class and to return your work in a timely manner. If, however, due to unforeseeable circumstances, the grading of your work takes longer than the times I have listed here, I will keep you informed of my progress and make every effort to return your work with feedback as soon as I can.

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

E-mail

Instructor Karen Gebhardt karen.gebhardt@colorado.edu

- All e-mail sent to me should contain the following: Course Name and Number (i.e., ECON 3070), Your Name, Short Description of your question. I will respond to email within 12-24 hours, but usually within 4-6 hours. I always respond to email. If you have not had a response within 24 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 This is my cell phone number. Call or text anytime between 8am – 8pm 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.

Office Hours

- Online Office Hours: Thursdays 9-11 and 4-6 pm and by appointment using Zoom

General Course Announcements

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

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

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. 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 or <https://support.pearson.com/getsupport/s/>

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 quizzes, the case study analyses, or exams. If the Problem Set, Discussion Posting, Business Brief, or Excel Exercise is turned in late, they will be reduced by one full letter grade for each 24-hours 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.

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 for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. 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. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to

address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

HONOR CODE

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: 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); 303-492-5550). Students who are 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 at the [Honor Code Office website](#).

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT 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. 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](#).

PREFERRED STUDENT NAMES AND 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.

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.

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 public health orders in place to reduce the risk of spreading infectious disease. Required safety measures at CU Boulder relevant to the classroom setting include:

- maintain 6-foot distancing when possible,
- wear a face covering in public indoor spaces and outdoors while on campus consistent with state and county health orders,
- clean local work area,
- practice hand hygiene,
- follow public health orders, and
- if sick and you live off campus, do not come onto campus (unless instructed by a CU Healthcare professional), or if you live on-campus, please alert [CU Boulder Medical Services](#).

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 policies on [COVID-19 Health and Safety](#) and [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#). If you require accommodation because a disability prevents you from fulfilling these safety measures, please see the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus.

Before returning to campus, all students must complete the [COVID-19 Student Health and Expectations Course](#). Before coming on to campus each day, all students are required to complete a [Daily Health Form](#).

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 and complete the [Health Questionnaire and Illness Reporting Form](#) remotely. In this class, if you are sick or quarantined, please let me know via email or by calling/texting.

Managerial Economics, ECON 4929, Fall 2020, Gebhardt, University of Colorado Boulder

Module (start date)	Readings	Topics	Graded Assignments	Due Date by 11:59pm MST/MDT
1 (8/31)	Chapter 1	Managerial Economics and Decision Making	Quiz Weekly work	Thursday 9/3 Sunday 9/6
2 (9/7)	Chapter 2	Supply and Demand	Quiz Weekly work	Thursday 9/10 Sunday 9/13
3 (9/14)	Chapter 3	Measuring and Using Demand	Quiz Weekly work	Thursday 9/17 Sunday 9/20
4 (9/21)	Additional Readings	Business Communication	Quiz Weekly work	Thursday 9/24 Sunday 9/27
5 (9/28)	Chapter 4	Production and Costs	Quiz	Thursday 10/1
6 (10/5)	Chapters 5-8	Brief review of Market structure	Weekly work	Sunday 10/4
	Chapter 9	A manager's Guide to Antitrust Policy	Quiz Case Study Discussion/Brainstorm	Thursday 10/8 Sunday 10/11
7 (10/12)	You may take the PROCTORED midterm exam the day of your choosing Thursday through Sunday.		Proctored Midterm Exam	Thursday 10/15 - Sunday 10/18
8 (10/19)	Chapter 10	Advanced Pricing Decisions	Quiz Weekly work	Thursday 10/22 Sunday 10/25
9 (10/26)	Chapter 11	Decisions About Vertical Integration and Distribution	Quiz Weekly work	Thursday 10/29 Sunday 11/1
10 (11/2)	Chapter 12	Decisions About Production, Products, and Location	Quiz Weekly work	Thursday 11/5 Sunday 11/8
11 (11/9)	Chapter 13	Marketing Decisions: Advertising and Promotion	Quiz Case Study Discussion/Brainstorm	Thursday 11/12 Sunday 11/15 Tuesday 11/17
12 (11/16)	Additional Readings	Accounting	Quiz Weekly work	Thursday 11/19 Sunday 11/22
13 (11/30)	Additional Readings	Basics of Corporate Finance	Quiz	Thursday 12/3
	Chapter 16	Using Present Value to Make Multi-	Weekly work	Sunday 12/6
14 (12/7)	You may take the PROCTORED cumulative final exam the day of your choosing Thursday through Sunday.		Proctored Final Exam	Thursday 12/10 - Sunday 12/13