

Economics 2010-100
Principles of Microeconomics
Fall 2026

Professor Jennifer Klein, Ph.D., jennifer.klein@colorado.edu

In-Person Office Hours: Econ 11, Mondays 12:30-2:30pm. Zoom meetings available by appointment.

Website: Canvas

Teaching Assistant Information

Name	Section(s)	Email	Office Location	Office Hours

Course Description

Microeconomics is the study of agents making decisions given the limited resources available to them. You will see that this description can be applied to many different settings in the world as well as in your own life. Examines basic concepts of microeconomics, or the behavior and the interactions of individuals, firms, and government. Topics include determining economic problems, how consumers and businesses make decisions, how markets work and how they fail, and how government actions affect markets. There are no required courses for Econ 2010, however basic mathematical/algebra skills are necessary. In addition, you will need to understand how to make and read graphs.

Core Curriculum: This course is approved for the arts and sciences core curriculum area of contemporary studies.

Learning Objectives

At the end of this course, you should have a general understanding of microeconomics and how to apply economic thinking to everyday decisions. You should be able to use models developed this semester to: (i) understand how the behavior consumers, firms, and governments affect markets and the allocation of limited resources, (ii) understand how the principles of opportunity cost, rationality of agents, marginal analysis, and the role of the government influence individual markets, (iii) examine the power of economic analysis in policy matters and other human activity, while noting its limitations as well.

Textbook

Principles of Microeconomics by Betsey Stevenson and Justin Wolfers, 3rd edition. We will be using an eBook version of this text so you do not need to buy a hard copy. I encourage you to read the relevant sections of the textbook before attending lecture as it will aid in your understanding of the material.

Grade Breakdown

Lecture Participation (iClicker) (5% total)
Recitation Activities (5% total)
Pre-Lecture Learning Curve (5% total)
Chapter Homework (10% total)
2 Midterm Exams (21% each)
Cumulative Final Exam (33%)

The standard grade breakdowns are expected to be used: (93%+ A, 90-92.9% A-, 87-89.9% B+, 83-86.9% B, etc)

Lecture Participation (5% total): We will be using iClickers to facilitate practice questions and attendance in class. Due to spotty WiFi in the classroom, it is my recommendation that everyone purchases a physical iClicker remote. These are available at the bookstore or you can purchase them used. Each day, set your iClicker to the proper frequency for the classroom (BA). Students will receive 1 point per question they answer (correct or incorrect). Students not in attendance receive a 0 for the day, no exceptions. The course is set up that mobile devices are also allowed, however, use them at your own risk. I am not responsible for missed questions due to you not being able to get on the WiFi. Six days of attendance are dropped.

See the instructions to create an iClicker account here: <https://oit.colorado.edu/tutorial/cuclickers-access-your-cuclickers-account>

Recitation Activities (5% total): In recitation you will have activities to illustrate the concepts learned in lectures. These may be experiments/games done in person in the classroom or practice questions. Your grade will be based on participation not performance, with three days score dropped. Recitations begin on Thursday, August 27th.

Pre-Lecture Learning Curve (5%): These assignments will be due on **Mondays at 11:59pm** (before our first lecture of the week). The assignments will help you come prepared to lecture by asking you questions to review the chapter readings. For each assignment you must score a certain number of “points” before earning credit for completion. Answering questions correctly on the first try gives you the most points. You will get fewer points for additional attempts. Thus, the quicker you answer questions correctly, the faster you will reach the required number of points. This will incentivize you to try your best rather than blindly guessing. These should take about 20-30 minutes but could take you longer depending on how many questions you answer incorrectly or how long you spend looking at the additional resources.

No late assignments are accepted. These are graded as complete/incomplete. You must hit the target points before 11:59pm or you will receive a zero, regardless of how much you’ve completed. There are

no exceptions for technical problems. It is your job to begin each assignment early enough that you can deal with any delays or problems that arise. Two scores will be dropped.

Chapter Homework (10% total): These will be your more traditional homework assignments through the Achieve online system. All assignments will be due **Fridays at 11:59pm** a week after we have finished the chapter. No late assignments are accepted, so you should begin your assignments early in the week in case you have any problems. Again, *I cannot assist you with any technical problems with Achieve*. You can attempt each question as many times as you want. Each attempt will have a 5% grade penalty. This is to incentivize spending the time to think through a problem instead of blindly guessing. Two lowest scores will be dropped.

CU Book Access: CU Book Access, CU Boulder's equitable access course materials program, provides undergraduate students access to all of their required course materials before the first day of class for a flat-rate price. The cost of the program for Fall 2026 will be \$269 (plus tax) and is added directly to your Student Tuition and Fee billing statement. You do not need to do anything to sign up, you are automatically enrolled.

You have the option to opt out. This means: you won't pay for anything, but you lose all access to the course materials, including Achieve where you complete your homework. You must opt out by September 4th, otherwise you will be charged.

Midterm Exams (21% each): Exams will be held on **September 24 and November 5 in person** during the regularly scheduled class time. Each exam will consist of a set of multiple choice questions. These are taken on paper during class time.

Cumulative Final Exam (33%): The cumulative final exam will be held on **Thursday, December 10th from 10:30am-noon in person**. It will cover information from all of the material from the course. There is no makeup final exam, you must take it as scheduled. However, per university policy, if you have three finals scheduled for the same day and ours is the last one, you may take it on a different day.

Exam Grade Policy: Exams cannot be rescheduled or retaken to improve performance. To accommodate unexpected illness, emergencies, or just a rough exam day, your lowest midterm exam score can be replaced at the end of the semester. At the end of the semester if your final exam percentage is higher than your lowest midterm percentage, your final exam percentage will be used as a replacement for that grade. The final exam score will not be used as a replacement if both of your midterm exam scores are higher. This will apply as well to a missed midterm exam. You cannot miss both midterms.

Note about dropped classes and assignments: *Everyone gets six dropped days of lecture and three dropped days of recitation. You do not need to inform me or your TA that you will be missing. You also have two dropped Learning Curves and two dropped Chapter Assignments. These drops are intended to cover any and all reasons for missing classes or assignments, including illness, family emergencies, travel, etc. Additional absences are not provided & points cannot be made up outside of a documented accommodation from disability services.*

Additional Policies

There is no rounding. This rule holds regardless of how close you are to a grade cutoff. For example, 89.99 is a B+ and will not be rounded to an A-.

Extra Credit To compensate for the fact that there is no rounding I will occasionally offer extra credit activities. Those are bonus points and there is no way to recover them if you miss them. I do not offer any type of extra credit or make-up assignments on an individual basis. Any opportunities will be announced to the entire class.

Technical issues with Achieve

You might experience technical issues with Achieve. I know that is very frustrating and I am frustrated with you. I personally don't know how to address most of the technical issues. What to do if you experience technical issues:

STEP 1: SELF-TROUBLESHOOT

- Google Chrome is the recommended browser for the best Achieve experience
- Allow pop-ups on your browser
- Clear cache/cookies in your browser settings
- Use a desktop or laptop computer
- Reliable internet connection. Are others sharing bandwidth (streaming movies)?

STEP 2: CONTACT CUSTOMER SUPPORT

[CLICK HERE](#) to contact Customer Support (Chat with Customer Support, then either call tech support or email with Customer Support)

Missing work due to technical issues with Achieve: There is no way to recover an assignment if you missed it due to technical issues. There are 400 students in the class, it is not possible to address the missed assignments on a case-by-case basis because then it is very hard to be fair and treat everyone the same way in this situation. I can't give points back to one student who emailed me and not to another student who was too shy to email or agreed with the policy in the syllabus. I find the fair way is having the same policy for everyone and making no exceptions to the policy. You can use your free assignments for those assignments with technical issues. There are a lot of assignments so even missing several will not affect your grade by a lot. I am not trying to be mean; I am trying to be fair.

Office Hours & Email Expectations

Office hours are times that I have specifically set aside to be available to answer questions. While I am available at other times during the week, with 400 students, it is not possible for me to make individual appointments for everyone. I encourage you to utilize the office hours set aside by the teaching assistants. In general, any of us will be able to help answer any questions. If you would like help with any assignments, we are glad to provide it. I ask only that you have already attempted to work out the solution yourself (rather than showing up with a blank assignment).

Please have reasonable expectations about response times for emails. With a large number of students, it will be difficult to respond quickly to every message. I expect you to review the syllabus and schedule

on Canvas as those will contain answers to most of your likely questions you may email me about. I do not respond to emails outside of working hours or on weekends to protect my time with my family.

Additional Policies

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 Honor Code may include but are not limited to: plagiarism (including use of paper writing services or technology [such as essay bots]), 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. Understanding the course's syllabus is a vital part of adhering to the Honor Code.

All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution: StudentConduct@colorado.edu. Students found responsible for violating the Honor Code will be assigned resolution outcomes from Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution and will be subject to academic sanctions from the faculty member. Visit [Honor Code](#) for more information on the academic integrity policy.

Accommodation for Disabilities, Temporary Medical Conditions, and Medical Isolation

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, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) on the Disability Services website.

For regular one-off absences, you do not need to alert me of your TA. All students will be given 6 days of lecture and 3 days of recitation dropped for attendance purposes. If you anticipate an extended absence, please let me know as soon as possible.

Religious Holidays

Instructional faculty members must make every reasonable effort to accommodate all students who have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignment deadlines or required attendance due to a religious observance. Whenever possible, students must notify the instructional faculty member at least two weeks in advance of the expected exam, assignment deadline, or attendance conflict to request an accommodation for religious observance. If the start date of the course is less than two weeks before the date of requested accommodation, students must notify the instructional faculty member on the start date of the course. [See the Student Academic Accommodations for Religious Observances Policy](#) for more information.

Student Names and Pronouns

CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information does not always align with how they identify. If you wish to have a name other than your legal name appear on your instructors' class rosters and in Canvas, or if you wish to choose pronouns to appear on your instructors' class rosters and in Canvas, visit the [Registrar's website](#) for instructions on how to change your personal information in university systems.

Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote, or online. Failure 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, marital status, political affiliation, or political philosophy.

Additional classroom behavior information

- [Student Classroom and Course-Related Behavior Policy](#).
- [Student Code of Conduct](#).
- [Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance](#).

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation

CU Boulder is committed to fostering a productive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. University policy prohibits [protected-class](#) discrimination and harassment, sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner abuse (dating or domestic violence), stalking, and related retaliation by or against members of our community on- or off-campus. Denial of an approved accommodation for disability, religious observance, or pregnancy or pregnancy related medical conditions may be discriminatory.

The [Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance \(OIEC\)](#) addresses these concerns, and individuals who have been subjected to misconduct can contact OIEC at 303-492-2127 or email OIEC@colorado.edu. Information about university policies, [OIEC reporting options](#), and [OIEC support resources](#) including confidential services can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Faculty and graduate instructors are required to inform OIEC when someone discloses misconduct regardless of when or where it occurred. This is to ensure that those impacted receive outreach from OIEC about resolution options and support resources. To learn more about reporting and support options for a variety of concerns, visit the [Don't Ignore It page](#).

Mental Health and Wellness

The University of Colorado Boulder is committed to supporting students' mental health and overall wellbeing. If personal, academic, or emotional challenges are affecting your wellbeing or success, [Counseling and Psychiatric Services \(CAPS\)](#), is here to help. CAPS offers counseling, referrals, psychiatric care, crisis support, and much more. Visit CAPS in the C4C, or call (303) 492-2277, 24/7.

Acceptable use of AI in this Class

The use of AI tools such as Gemini or ChatGPT is not prohibited in this class. However, for most of the high value assessments it cannot be used. So, taking short cuts on assignments by using AI will only hurt your exam scores. Instead, I encourage you to use these tools as a way of enhancing your learning rather than replacing it. Create practice questions for yourself. Summarize lectures. Ask questions about concepts you are having trouble with.

Success in This Course

- ✓ Come to class & recitation
- ✓ ASK QUESTIONS
- ✓ Visit me and the TAs in office hours
- ✓ Do the problem sets and learning curve problems
- ✓ Check Canvas regularly
- ✓ Find study partners

If you start to fall behind in class, it is very important that you see me right away. Come to office hours and ask questions to make sure you understand the material. It will be much easier to get back on track near the beginning of the semester than right before the final exam.

	Topic	Recitation Activity
Week 1 August 16-22	Course Introduction, Core Principles Chapter 1	No recitation Week 1
Week 2 August 23 - 29	Think Like a Buyer, Seller Chapter 2, 3	Practice: Applying the Principles
Week 3 Aug 30 - Sept 5	Equilibriums in Markets Chapter 4	Market Experiment
Week 4 September 6 - 12	Elasticity Chapter 5	Analyze Mkt Expt
Week 5 September 13 - 19	Government Interventions in Markets Chapter 6	Elasticity Exercise
Week 6 September 20 - 26	Tuesday: Exam Review Thursday, September 24: Exam 1 (Ch 1-6)	Tax Experiment
Week 7 Sept 27 - Oct 3	Welfare Economics: Surplus & Mkt Efficiency Chapter 7	Go over Exam 1
Week 8 October 4 - 10	Gains from Trade Chapter 8	Surplus from Mkt Expt
Week 9 October 11 - 17	International Trade Chapter 9	Better off with trade?
Week 10 October 18 - 24	Externality Chapter 10	Practice with Intl Trade
Week 11 October 25 - 31	Labor Market Chapter 11	Externality Expt
Week 12 November 1-7	Tuesday: Exam Review Thursday, Nov. 5: Exam 2 (Ch 7-11)	Labor Market Activity
Week 13 November 8-14	Market Structure & Market Power Chapter 14	Go over Exam 2
Week 14 November 15-21	Entry & Exit Chapter 15	Oligopoly Experiment
Week 15 November 22-28	Fall Break No Classes	
Week 16 Nov 29 - Dec 5	Pricing Strategies & Review Chapter 16	Final Exam Review
Week 17 December 6-12	Final Exam: Thursday, Dec. 10th, 10:30am-noon	