

University of Colorado at Boulder
Spring Semester 2025

Econ 2010-200: Principles of Microeconomics

LECTURE:	CHEM 140, MWF at 1:25 pm - 2:15 pm
INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Sergey Nigai
OFFICE:	ECON 122
EMAIL:	sergey.nigai@colorado.edu
WEB-SITE:	CANVAS
OFFICE HOURS:	Mon.,Wed. at 11:00pm-12:00pm, and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

The objective of this course is to develop an understanding of basic concepts and mechanisms in microeconomics. Among others, we will answer the following questions: How do firms and households make production and consumption decisions? How do market mechanisms work and when do they fail? What is the role of government regulations and taxation? Why do countries trade? We will review these and other questions through the lens of both microeconomic theory and real world data.

REQUIREMENTS AND PREREQUISITES:

There are no prerequisites for this course. Good understanding of basic algebra will be helpful.

IMPORTANT DATES:

The dates for the midterms and final exam are as follows:

- **Midterm I:** Friday, February 14th, in class
- **Midterm II:** Friday, March 21st, in class
- **Final:** Monday, May 5th, 4:30–7 p.m., CHEM 140

REQUIRED BOOK, WEB-PLATFORM AND CLICKERS :

The required text is: – *Paul Krugman and Robin Wells, Microeconomics, 7th edition, 2024, Worth Publishers*. In addition to the text you are required to sign up for **Achieve** to complete weekly assignments.

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 “Inclusive 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 digital course materials on the first day of classes through your Canvas page.

2. You will see a “Day 1 Digital Access” charge on your tuition and fee bill for: \$103.75 This is a low 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, including homework manager
 - 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 February 1st 2025, 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.

Achieve Platform

Achieve Platform allows you to access ebook and homework assignments. To gain access you will need to sign up in CANVAS. You can find the instructions on how to sign up on CANVAS under the “*Achieve Instructions*” tab. Every week you will need to complete one homework assignment. The assignments will become available on Monday in the “*Assignment*” section. The deadline for each assignment will be announced in class and posted on CANVAS homepage. There will be no make-up assignments for missed homework. I will discard one homework assignment with the lowest score when calculating your final grade. Achieve Platform is also used for extra-credit assignments and contains non-graded pre-class videos.

COURSE STRUCTURE:

The course will consist of lectures, in-class clicker questions, weekly homework, and recitations:

- Attendance: It is essential for you to attend the lectures to understand the material.
- Clicker questions: Your answers will be graded and will count toward the final grade. You will get 2 points for a correct answer, 1 point for an incorrect answer, and 0 for no answer. I will discard 10 answers with the lowest score in the end of the semester.
 - Each class will have 1 group clicker question. Students will be able to discuss and coordinate their answers. I will award 2 bonus points if 70% of students in class answer correctly.
- Homework: There will be weekly homework assignments. Each assignment will be due by the end of the week, i.e., by midnight of the corresponding Sunday. There will be no make-up assignments for missed homework.
- Recitations: There will be weekly recitations. They will start the second week of classes.

RECITATIONS:

Recitations will begin the **second week** of classes. It is essential for you to attend the recitations to grasp the material. TA’s conducting recitations will grade your performance which will count toward the final grade. You must attend the recitation to which you have been assigned.

OFFICE HOURS & COMMUNICATION POLICY:

You can find the schedule for office hours on CANVAS under the “*Office Hours*” tab. When contacting me or TA’s by email, make sure to conduct communication in a professional manner. This includes using your

colorado.edu email address and stating your name and section number. Before writing an email, read the syllabus and make sure that it doesn't have the answer to your question.

EXAMS AND GRADING:

We will have two in-class midterms and a cumulative final exam. There will be no make up exams. The weights of the final grade are as follows:

FINAL EXAM:	35%
MAXIMUM OF MIDTERM I AND MIDTERM II:	30%
CLICKER QUESTIONS:	10%
HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS:	10%
RECITATIONS:	10%
PARTICIPATION:	5%
TOTAL:	100%
EXTRA CREDIT:	2%

When calculating the final grade for the class, I will use the maximum score you get for either of the two midterms. Hence, if you miss one of the midterms, the score for this test will be automatically dropped. However, if you miss both midterms due to a medical reason (you must inform me prior to each midterm), the weight of the midterm will be shifted to the final exam. There will be no make up exams or extra-credit assignments. If your scores for both midterms are in top 5% of the class, you will get 10% added to your final exam.

Extra credit assignments are not required. Only complete them if you need additional practice/help with your reading or you feel that you will need extra points. Extra-credit points can account for a maximum of 2% of your total grade. Extra-credit assignments will have deadlines and are accessible via *Achieve*.

RULES OF CONDUCT:

This is a large class and we will observe a set of classroom rules to ensure effective learning environment.

- Arrive on time & do not leave early. Do not start packing before the end of class.
 - Students will check in at 1:25 pm and check out at the end of each class using clickers. Special instructions will be provided in class. (1 clicker point will be awarded for checking in/out on time).

All students start the semester with 5% for participation. If you break (1) and (2) below, your participation score will decline to 0%. These regulations hold for both lectures and recitations.

1. No laptops, no cellphones.
 - The use of electronic devices is generally not permitted. There is now significant amount of research showing that the use of laptops, phones and other electronic devices is detrimental to learning. If you must use an electronic device for taking notes due to a medical condition please consult with me.
2. No side conversations that would disrupt the classroom

POLICIES:

We will comply with all CU Boulder policies including:

- 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](#).
- Requirements for COVID-19
 - As a matter of public health and safety, 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. 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.
 - CU Boulder currently requires masks in classrooms and laboratories regardless of vaccination status. This requirement is a precaution to supplement CU Boulder’s COVID-19 vaccine requirement. Exemptions include individuals who cannot medically tolerate a face covering, as well as those who are hearing-impaired or otherwise disabled or who are communicating with someone who is hearing-impaired or otherwise disabled and where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication. If you qualify for a mask-related accommodation, please follow the steps in the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus. In addition, vaccinated instructional faculty who are engaged in an indoor instructional activity and are separated by at least 6 feet from the nearest person are exempt from wearing masks if they so choose.
 - If you feel ill and think you might have COVID-19, if you have tested positive for COVID-19, or if you are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated and have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, you should stay home and follow the further guidance of the [Public Health Office](#) (contacttracing@colorado.edu). If you are fully vaccinated and have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, you do not need to stay home; rather, you should self-monitor for symptoms and follow the further guidance of the [Public Health Office](#) (contacttracing@colorado.edu).
 - If you have to miss classes/assignments/exams due to illness or quarantine inform me by email before this occurs. Most cases will be handled according to the policies described above in this syllabus. All other cases will be handled individually.
- 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, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) on the Disability Services website.

- Submit your letter during the first two weeks of classes. If the accommodation letter becomes available later in the semester, please inform me immediately such that I have time to make proper accommodations.
- 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.
- Academic Integrity: <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/academic-integrity-policy>. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. Any act of cheating, plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will result in 0 for the corresponding assignment/test, final grade of F for the class, and forwarding of the case to the Honor Code committee.
- Honor Code
 - 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; 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.
- Examination: <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/final-examination-policy>
- 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. See the campus policy regarding religious observances for full details: <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/observance-religious-holidays-and-absences-classes-andor-exams>
 - Students who miss homework assignment or the midterm exam due to religious holidays must notify me at least two weeks in advance explaining the reason for absence. If this is the case, the weight of the missed homework will be shifted to the remaining assignments and the weight of the midterm exam will be shifted to the final exam. There will be no make up exams or extra-credit assignments.

- Sexual misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or related retaliation.
 - The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. CU's Sexual Misconduct Policy prohibits sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, intimate partner abuse (dating or domestic violence), stalking or related retaliation. CU Boulder's Discrimination and Harassment Policy prohibits discrimination, harassment or related retaliation based on race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct under either policy should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127. Information about the OIEC, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or related retaliation can be found at the OIEC website.

In addition, the following policies govern FAQs. Please read carefully before contacting me.

- Missed clicker questions due to absence:
 - I will discard 10 clicker questions with the lowest scores. These include missed questions due to absence. There will be no other way to make up for missed points.
- Missed homework:
 - There will be deadlines (announced in advance in class) for submitting homework assignments. If you miss an assignment due to a medical reason the weight of this homework will be shifted to the remaining ones. However, you must inform me in advance before the deadline. There will be no make-up assignments.
- Missed midterm:
 - If you miss one of the midterms, the score for this test will be automatically dropped. However, if you miss both midterms due to a medical reason (you must inform me prior to each midterm), the weight of the midterm will be shifted to the final exam. There will be no make up exams or extra-credit assignments.