

ECON 2010-200: Principles of Microeconomics

Department of Economics
University of Colorado Boulder
Fall 2025

Instructor: Yoontae Cho

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Office Hours: W/Th 1:10-2:10 pm

Office: ECON 309A

Class website: [Canvas](#)

Class Hours: MWF 2:30-3:20 pm

Class location: Ramaley C250

Teaching Assistant: TBA

E-mail: shirshov@math.msu.ru **Office Hours:** 12:00-13:00, 15:00-16:00, 17:00-18:00

Teaching Assistant: TBA

E-mail: andrew@math.berkeley.edu **Office Hours:** 10:00-11:00 AM, Monday, 300 HSSB

Course Description

In this class, we will explore the basic concepts of microeconomics to study the behavior and interactions of individuals, firms, and governments. Topics include identifying economic problems, understanding how consumers and businesses make decisions, examining how markets function and sometimes fail, and analyzing how government actions influence market outcomes.

Communications

Outside of lectures and office hours, the best way to reach me is via email. Please use your colorado.edu account, as messages from other accounts are more likely to be filtered into spam. I typically respond within 24 hours on weekdays and within 48 hours on weekends. I am not allowed to discuss grade-related issues via email under FERPA. Please visit during office hours for any grade-related questions.

Course Materials

Textbook (required): *Principles of Microeconomics* (4th ed.), Dirk Mateer & Lee Coppock.

The textbook is provided through the CU Book Access program. This program gives you digital access to the textbook directly through Canvas starting on the first day of class. No separate purchase is required. For more information, including instructions on how to opt out, visit the CU Bookstore website. The opt-out deadline for Fall 2025 is September 5.

Technical Support

If you encounter a technical issue while accessing your digital resources (Smartwork, eBook, InQuizitive, or iClicker), please follow the steps below:

1. Self-Troubleshoot

- Allow pop-ups in your browser.
- Clear cache/cookies.
- Use a desktop or laptop computer (not a mobile device).
- Ensure a reliable internet connection.

2. Contact Customer Support

- Norton Support (Smartwork, eBook, InQuizitive): [wwwnorton.com/tech-support](https://www.norton.com/tech-support) or support.wwnorton.com/request
- Canvas Help Desk: Available via the “Help” button left side on Canvas, once logged in.

Please note: I cannot provide direct technical support for these platforms. If you experience an issue, contact the appropriate support team first. If the issue affects your coursework (e.g., an assignment or attendance), inform me promptly after contacting support.

Course Policies

Grade Breakdown

Course grades will be calculated based on the following components:

Lecture Attendance	5%
Recitation Attendance	10%
Homework Assignments	15%
Midterm 1	15%
Midterm 2	15%
Midterm 3	15%
Final Exam	25%

Lecture Attendance

Lecture attendance accounts for 5% of your final grade. Attendance will be recorded using the iClicker system during each lecture. You are required to download and set up the iClicker mobile app by the second lecture.

Each class will include 3–4 iClicker questions. To be counted as present, you must respond to at least two questions/polls that day. Responses are tracked for completion, not for correctness. If you miss iClicker questions due to technical issues, you are responsible for notifying me in person immediately after that class.

You may miss up to six lectures without affecting your grade, and you do not need to notify me about these absences. If you miss more than six lectures, your attendance grade will be based on the proportion of lectures attended. Absences will generally not be excused, except for health-related reasons, religious obligations, or university-approved reasons (e.g., athletes participating in official sports events), which do not count toward the six allowed absences.

Recitation Attendance

Recitation attendance accounts for 10% of your final grade. Recitations are held once a week, beginning in the second week of classes (August 28 this semester), and are led by the teaching assistants. Each week, your TA will guide you through a worksheet designed to reinforce key concepts from lectures in a smaller, more interactive setting. You may miss up to three recitations without affecting your grade.

Section	TA	Day	Time	Location
211		Mon	5:45-6:35 pm	ECON 205
212		Tue	5:00-5:50 pm	ECON 119
213		Tue	5:45-6:35 pm	ECON 205
214		Wed	3:35-4:25 pm	ECON 2
215		Thu	3:35-4:25 pm	MCOL E155
216		Thu	4:40-5:30 pm	ECON 205

Homework Assignments (Smartwork)

Homework assignments account for 15% of your final grade. There is one homework assignment for each chapter, containing a mix of multiple-choice, matching, fill-in-the-blank, and ordering questions to help you practice key concepts. You will have three attempts for each question, and the highest score will be counted. Homework will be assigned after we complete the corresponding chapter in class. You will have one week to complete each assignment, with the deadline set at 11:59 PM (Mountain Time) on the specified due date. Late submissions are not accepted. Your two lowest homework grades will be dropped when calculating your final grade.

Exams

Exam	Date
Midterm 1	September 19 (Fri)
Midterm 2	October 17 (Fri)
Midterm 3	November 14 (Fri)
Final Exam	December 12 (Fri)

There will be three midterms and one final exam, all held in the lecture classroom on the dates above.

Midterms account for 45% of your final grade, with each midterm worth 15%. They will take place during regular class time, each consisting of 20 multiple-choice questions. They are **not cumulative**. No make-up exams will be offered in general, except for health-related reasons, religious obligations, or university-approved reasons (e.g., athletes participating in official sports events).

The final exam will be held on **Friday, December 12, 1:30–4:00 pm** in the lecture classroom. The final is **cumulative** and must be taken as scheduled. In accordance with

university policy, if you have three or more final exams on the same day and ours is the latest, you will be allowed to arrange an alternate time for this exam.

Grading

Following the Department of Economics guidelines, the overall class average is expected to be approximately 80% (around a B-/C+). If necessary, course grades may be curved to align with this guideline average.

The grading scale is as follows:

Grade	Percentage
A	$\geq 93\%$
A-	90–92.99%
B+	87–89.99%
B	83–86.99%
B-	80–82.99%
C+	77–79.99%
C	73–76.99%
C-	70–72.99%
D+	67–69.99%
D	63–66.99%
D-	60–62.99%
F	$< 60\%$

Grades will not be changed or bumped up at the end of the semester for any reason other than correcting calculation errors. Any requests for grade changes or bumps will not be considered, and such emails will be ignored. If you believe there has been an error in the calculation of your grade, please contact me promptly.

If you are concerned about your performance or feel like you are falling behind, please do not wait until the end of the semester—come talk to me right away or visit office hours. I am happy to work with you throughout the semester to help you succeed in this course.

Extra Credit

1. InQuizitive Reading Assignments:

- **Midterm bonus:** For each chapter covered on a midterm, completing the chapter's reading assignment by its due date with a score of 100% earns +1 percentage point on that midterm grade.
 - Example: If Midterm 1 covers Chapters 1–4, finishing the reading assignments for Chapters 1–4 on time with a score of 100% yields up to +4 percentage points on the Midterm 1 grade.
 - Note: Chapters introduced after Midterm 3 do not have a separate midterm bonus, but they are included in the requirement for the final exam bonus.
 - **Final exam bonus:** Completing all reading assignments on time with a score of 100% earns +3 percentage points on the final exam grade.
2. **Perfect Attendance:** Attending all lectures (zero absences) earns +1 percentage point on the final exam grade.
 3. **Perfect Recitation:** Attending all recitations (zero absences) earns +1 percentage point on the final exam grade.

Altogether, it is possible to earn up to +5 percentage points added to your final exam grade through extra credit.

Other Extra Credit: Please note that additional extra credit opportunities may be posted throughout the semester. However, extra credit is only offered to the entire class. Under no circumstances will individual students be given separate extra credit or bonus assignments.

Note: Extra credit cannot raise a score above 100% on any exam. For example, if you already score 100% on a midterm, extra credit will not increase that midterm grade further.

Cheating

If you are caught engaging in any form of cheating (including exams, homework, or attendance recording), you will receive an F for the course, and your case will be reported to the Honor Code Council for review.

Electronics

The use of electronics for educational purposes (e.g., lecture slides, Canvas, note-taking) is permitted. Cell phones must be silenced and put away during class; if you need to use your phone due to an emergency, please step outside the classroom. The use of laptops and tablets may be restricted if they are not used appropriately.

Campus 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.

If you have a temporary illness, injury or required medical isolation for which you require adjustment, a simple email to me will suffice.

Accommodation for Religious Obligations

Campus policy requires faculty to provide reasonable accommodations for students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments, or required attendance. Please communicate the need for a religious accommodation in a timely manner. In this class, please contact me 3 days prior to the assignment due date or one week prior to a scheduled exam if there is a schedule conflict with a religious obligation so that alternative arrangements can be made. See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full

details.

Preferred Student Names and Pronouns

CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information does not always align with how they identify. If you wish to have your preferred name (rather than your legal name) and/or your preferred pronouns 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. For more information, see the [Student Classroom and Course-Related Behavior Policy](#), the [Student Code of Conduct](#), and the [Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance](#).

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation

CU Boulder is committed to fostering an inclusive 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- and off-campus. 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, [reporting options](#), and [OIEC support resources](#) including confidential services can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and graduate instructors are required to inform OIEC when they are made aware of incidents related to these concerns regardless of when or where something occurred. This is to ensure the person impacted receives outreach from OIEC about resolution options and support resources. To learn more about reporting and support a variety of

concerns, visit the Don't Ignore It page.

Mental Health and Wellness

The University of Colorado Boulder is committed to the well-being of all students. If you are struggling with personal stressors, mental health or substance use concerns that are impacting academic or daily life, please contact [Counseling and Psychiatric Services \(CAPS\)](#), located in C4C, or call (303) 492-2277, 24/7. Free and unlimited telehealth is also available through [AcademicLiveCare](#). The AcademicLiveCare site also provides information about additional wellness services on campus that are available to students.

Tentative Schedule

Week	Dates	Topic	Notes
1	Aug 22	Intro	First day of class
2	Aug 25 Aug 27 Aug 29	Ch 1, Ch 2	Sep 1: Labor day (No class)
3	Sep 1 Sep 3 Sep 5	Ch 2, Ch 3	
4	Sep 8 Sep 10 Sep 12	Ch 3, Ch 4	
5	Sep 15 Sep 17 Sep 19	Ch 4, Review	Sep 19: Mid 1
6	Sep 22 Sep 24 Sep 26	Ch 5, Ch 6	
7	Sep 29 Oct 1 Oct 3	Ch 6, Ch 7	
8	Oct 6 Oct 8 Oct 10	Ch 7, Ch 8	
9	Oct 13 Oct 15 Oct 17	Ch 8 Review	Oct 17: Mid 2
10	Oct 20 Oct 22 Oct 24	Ch 9, Ch 10	
11	Oct 27 Oct 29 Oct 31	Ch 10, Ch 11	
12	Nov 3 Nov 5 Nov 7	Ch 11, Ch 12	
13	Nov 10 Nov 12 Nov 14	Ch, 12, Review	Oct 12: Mid 3
14	Nov 17 Nov 19 Nov 21	Ch 13, Ch 19	
15	Nov 24 Nov 26 Nov 28	No Class: Fall Break	
16	Dec 1 Dec 3 Dec 5	Ch 19, Review	Dec 5: Last day of class
Final	Dec 12		Final: 1:30–4:00 pm

Note: The weekly coverage might change as it depends on the progress of the class.

Course Topics

Chapter	Topic
1	Five Foundations of Economics
2	Model Building and Gains from Trade
3	The Market at Work: Supply and Demand
4	Elasticity
5	Market Outcomes and Tax Incidence
6	Price Controls
7	Market Inefficiencies: Externalities and Public Goods
8	Business Costs and Production
9	Firms in a Competitive Market
10	Understanding Monopoly
11	Price Discrimination
12	Monopolistic Competition and Advertising
13	Oligopoly and Strategic Behavior
19	International Trade