

University of Colorado Boulder

Fall 2025

Fengyu Zhang

Econ 2010-300: Principles of Microeconomics

MWF 9:05-9:55

Ramaley Biology Bldg C250

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LECTURE:	MWF at 9:05 am – 9:55 am
INSTRUCTOR:	Fengyu Zhang
OFFICE:	ECON 313
EMAIL:	fengyu.zhang@colorado.edu
COURSE WEBSITE:	Canvas
OFFICE HOURS:	MW: 10:30 am – 11:30 pm, and by appointment

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## REQUIREMENTS AND PREREQUISITES

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

## 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 develop basic tools that can be used to analyze real-world issues through a microeconomic lens.

## REQUIRED MATERIALS

### 1. iClicker

We will be using iClicker to enhance active learning and participation in this course. You will need to have either an **iClicker+ remote OR an iClicker student app account**. You **must set up an iClicker**. Further instructions for setting up the iClicker remote or app are provided in the course canvas.

### 2. Textbook: *Principles of Microeconomics* 10th Edition by Gregory Mankiw with **MindTap 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?

- a) You will receive access to all your course materials, digitally, on the first day of classes through the course Canvas page.
- b) You will see a “Day 1 Digital Access” charge on your tuition and fees.
  - This is a guaranteed lowest price, discounted by the publisher, and not available outside this course.
- c) You have the option to opt out. This means you won’t pay for anything, but you will lose all access to the course materials, including the homework manager, Mindtap.
  - 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 **September 12** otherwise you will be charged for the materials.
- (d) **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.** Although you must have these materials to pass the course, federal law mandates that you have the option of declining these materials. To do so please follow the instructions in the email mentioned above.

## COURSE STRUCTURE

We meet for lectures three times each week. During these lectures, I will introduce and discuss the fundamental concepts from the assigned textbook chapters (please consult the tentative course schedule attached at the end). Each week, an assignment based on the material covered in lectures will be due. Each student must be enrolled in a recitation section, which meets once a week. Additional help is available during office hours. There will be two in-class midterm exams and one final exam. Please mark your calendar as follows:

**Midterm 1: Friday, October 03 (in class, Ramaley Biology Bldg C250)**

**Midterm 2: Friday, November 07 (in class, Ramaley Biology Bldg C250)**

**Final: Wednesday, December 10 7:30 pm – 10:00 pm (Ramaley Biology Bldg C250)**

1. LECTURE

- 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. iClicker questions will start at **the third week of the class (Sep. 03)**.
- Use of laptops or tablets for note-taking is permitted. If use of such technology is distracting, I reserve the right to disallow its use.
- Mobile phone use is not permitted outside of answering iClicker questions and polls.

2. RECITATION

Recitation is a weekly meeting. In recitation, the TAs will review the material presented in lecture, cover practice problems from an ungraded worksheet, and aid in exam preparation. These smaller recitation meetings offer an excellent opportunity for students to ask more questions about the material and practice problems with immediate help available. Attendance is mandatory and will be counted toward your grade. Recitation worksheets and answer keys are available on the course website. **Recitations will start next Thursday (Aug. 28).**

Recitation Schedule

Section	Time	Recitation Instructor	Location
311	T 5:45pm-6:35pm	Jeon, Yeowoon	MCOL E155
312	M 3:35pm-4:25pm	Baniya, Bikalpa	ECON 2
313	M 4:40pm-5:30pm	Jeon, Yeowoon	ECON 205
314	W 8am-8:50am	Baniya, Bikalpa	ECON 205
315	M 8am-8:50am	Baniya, Bikalpa	ECON 205
316	Th 8am-8:50am	Jeon, Yeowoon	ECON 205

3. OFFICE HOURS

Office hours are another opportunity for you to seek help and ask questions. The office hours schedule is attached below and can also be found on Canvas under the “Office Hours” tab. You may attend whichever office hour works best for you. Additional office hours can be arranged by appointment if that is more convenient.

## Office hours schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00 AM	Recitation (2010-315)		Recitation (2010-314)	Recitation (2010-316)	
8:30 AM	Econ 205		Econ 205	Econ 205	
9:00 AM	Lecture		Lecture	Yeowoon Jeon	Lecture
9:30 AM	RAMY C250		RAMY C250	ECON 414	RAMY C250
10:00 AM					
10:30 AM	Fengyu Zhang		Fengyu Zhang		
11:00 AM	ECON 313		ECON 313		
11:30 AM	Yeowoon Jeon				
12:00 PM	ECON 414				
12:30 PM					
1:00 PM					
1:30 PM					
2:00 PM	Bikalpa Baniya		Bikalpa Baniya		
2:30 PM	ECCON 313		ECCON 313		
3:00 PM					
3:30 PM	Recitation (2010-312)				
4:00 PM	ECON 2				
4:30 PM	Recitation (2010-313)				
5:00 PM	ECON 205				
5:30 PM		Recitation (2010-311)			
6:00 PM		MCOL E155			
Lecture					
Recitation					
Office hours					

## GRADING

Lecture participation:	10%
Recitation attendance:	10%
Assignments:	20%
Midterm exam 1:	15%
Midterm exam2:	15%
Final exam:	30%
Total:	100%
Lecture bonus points:	2%
Extra credit assignment	2%
FCQ bonus points:	1%
Possible points available:	105%

### 1. LECTURE PARTICIPATION

Lecture participation accounts for 10% of your final grade. Participation will be recorded using iClicker. There will be iClicker questions during lectures. You will receive 2 points for a correct answer, 1 point for an incorrect answer, and 0 points for no answer. The total score will be the sum of all your responses. **10 answers with the lowest score will be dropped.**

## 2. RECITATION ATTENDANCE

Recitations begin in the second week of the semester. Attendance at recitation is mandatory and accounts for 10% of your final grade. You are required to attend the recitation section in which you are registered. Your recitation attendance grade will be recorded and posted by your TA(s) at the end of the semester.

If you are unable to attend your assigned recitation due to illness or other valid reasons, you may attend another recitation during that week. However, you are not permitted to permanently change your recitation without officially updating your schedule. If you attend a different recitation during the week, you must notify both TAs so that your grade is properly recorded.

**You may miss two recitations without penalty.**

## 3. ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments will be completed through MindTap. You do not need to pay for MindTap separately; it is included in your Day 1 Access materials. Homework assignments will be due each week on Sunday at 11:59pm (see the tentative schedule below). In rare instances, homework due dates may be extended, and this will be clearly communicated in lecture and on the course Canvas page. Homework due dates will never be moved to an earlier date.

The score for each homework is based on the highest percentage of correctly answered questions across three attempts. You may submit homework up to 24 hours (1 day) late, but 20 points will be deducted. For example, a late submission of a 100-point assignment by Monday 11:59pm will incur a 20-point deduction, in addition to any points lost for incorrect answers. Beyond that 24-hour window, late assignments will not be accepted and will receive a score of 0.

**The two lowest homework grades will be dropped.**

## 4. MIDTERM EXAMS

There will be **two** multiple-choice midterm exams that will take place in person during lecture. Each midterm will have **25 multiple-choice questions and 50 minutes** to complete. **Formula sheets or other aids are not permitted for the midterm exams.**

You may use a non-graphing calculator and scratch paper. The dates of these midterms are given in the tentative course schedule. This means that if we get behind in lecture and are unable to cover all of the material listed for the midterm, the midterm will still occur on the scheduled date but will only include material that has been covered. In the extremely rare event that we are ahead on material, only the chapters listed in this syllabus will be included on the corresponding midterm. **For students with documented accommodations for exams, please notify me within the first two weeks of classes.**

**Note: Make-up midterm exams are not offered.** If you have an unavoidable conflict and know you will not be present for one of the exams, the missed midterm will be dropped, and the other midterm will count for 30% of your final grade. If an emergency causes you to miss both midterm exams, you must contact me as soon as possible to discuss your options.

## 5. FINAL EXAM

The final exam will be held on **Dec. 10** in our usual classroom. The final exam will not be given on any date or time other than that assigned by the university's finals schedule. The only exceptions are those covered by campus guidelines on absences due to religious observance (see below) or for students who have more than three final exams scheduled on the same day. If that is the case, you must contact me before September 15th.

The final is cumulative, and it will have **50 multiple-choice questions and 100 minutes** to complete. You are allowed to create a one-sided, 8.5" × 11" formula sheet to use during the exam. No other study materials or aids will be permitted during the examination period. You may use a non-graphing calculator and scratch paper.

If your scores on both midterms are in the top 5% of the class, your final exam score will be increased by 10 percentage points.

## 6. BONUS POINTS

### a) Lecture Bonus Points

- If more than **80%** of your lectures have an iClicker grade recorded (which basically means you have attended more than 80% of the lectures), **1** bonus percentage point will be added directly to your final grade.
- If more than **90%** of your lectures have an iClicker grade recorded (which basically means you have attended more than 90% of the lectures), **2** bonus percentage points will be added directly to your final grade.

### b) Extra credit assignment

There will be an extra credit assignment after the second midterm on Canvas. A maximum of 2% can be earned.

### c) FCQ Bonus Point

At the end of each semester, there will be an FCQ (Faculty Course Questionnaire). The FCQ allows students to evaluate the course and their instructor and provide opinions and suggestions. If the FCQ response rate for this class is higher than 70%, 1 bonus percentage point will be added directly to everyone's final grade.

**NO OTHER BONUS POINTS WILL BE PROVIDED.**

## 7. REPORTING

Grades will be posted in Canvas as assignments are graded.

## 8. CURVING

Midterms grades may be curved individually. The overall course grade may also be curved to conform to departmental standards. I will not curve grades down.

## GRADING SCALE

Grading Scale	
A	$\geq 94\%$
A-	90-93
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%
D	63-66%
D-	60-62%
F	$<60\%$

I will round all final grades to **the nearest percentage**. For example, if a student receives an 89.5%, I will round up to a 90%. Meanwhile, a student with 89.49% will remain at 89%.

To maintain fairness, all grades will be determined with strict adherence to the policies listed in this syllabus. Individual requests for grade bumps or additional extra credit opportunities will be ignored, unless there are extreme extenuating circumstances approved by the University. This does not apply to requests to review grades if you believe an error in calculation has been made.

## COURSE POLICIES

1. Each student is responsible for reading and understanding this syllabus. Lack of knowledge of listed policies is not a valid excuse for violations.
2. If you would like to contact me or TAs through email, please use your official school email address (#####@colorado.ed). I will not respond to emails sent through personal email address. On weekdays, I will respond to emails within 24 hours; on weekends, within 48 hours. If I have not responded after a day, please feel free to send me a follow-up email
3. Announcements regarding any changes to the course schedule or homework due dates will be clearly communicated in lecture and posted on the course Canvas page.
4. In accordance with federal law (FERPA), I will not discuss grades with you or anyone else over emails. Please do not email me with questions about your grade - see me after class or during office hours

5. If you are caught cheating in any manner (on homework, exams, or attendance-recording instruments), you will receive an F for the semester and will be reported to the Honor Code Council for review.
6. The use of artificial intelligence including, but not limited to, ChatGPT, Dall-E 2, etc., are prohibited for this course. This means that students are not allowed to use artificial intelligence to complete assignments or pass off work as their own. The MindTap Homework application offers excellent explanation for question answers that I believe will be much more helpful to you than AI. Though not allowed on homework assignments or exams, artificial intelligence may offer students a quick way to help organize information when studying and preparing for quizzes or exams. The use of AI to develop study plans or tools is allowed. Please keep in mind that the information received from AI text generators is not always accurate or complete and could create further confusion on course concepts.

Please read carefully before email me, I will not respond to emails containing questions that are clearly answered in this syllabus.

- 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 a 24 hours grace period for each assignment, with a 20 point penalty. Beyond the 24-hour window, late assignments are not accepted and will receive a score of 0.
- Missed midterm:  
If you miss one of the midterms, the weight will automatically be shifted to the other midterm. However, if you miss both midterms due to medical reasons, you must inform me as soon as possible to discuss your options. There will be no make-up exams or make-up extra credit.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

1. What are the basic computer specifications for Canvas?
  - Visit the official [Canvas Computer Specifications Page](#) for the latest list of recommended system requirements.
2. Which browsers does Canvas support?
  - Visit the [Supported Browsers Page](#) for the detailed list of internet browsers in Windows, MacOS, iOS and Android.
3. 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.
- Cengage(Mindtap) tech support:  
[Cengage support services](#)

## POLICIES

We will comply with all CU Boulder policies including:

### **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 [classroom behavior policy](#), the [Student Code of Conduct](#), and the [Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance](#).

### **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](mailto: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, please contact Dr. Valkovci as soon as possible either via text (814) 418-0665 or email: [mark.valkovci@colorado.edu](mailto:mark.valkovci@colorado.edu) and reach out to Disability Services.

## **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.

## **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 in adhering to the Honor Code.

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

## **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 [cureport@colorado.edu](mailto:cureport@colorado.edu). Information about university policies, [reporting options](#), and [support resources](#) including confidential services can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and graduate instructors must inform OIEC when they are made aware of incidents related to these policies regardless of when or where something occurred. This is to ensure that individuals impacted receive outreach from OIEC about resolution options and support resources. To learn more about reporting and support for a variety of concerns, visit the [Don't Ignore It](#) page.

## **Religious Accommodations**

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, you must contact Dr. Valkovci at least 3 days prior to the assignment due date or one (1) week prior to a scheduled exam if there is a schedule conflict with a religious obligation so that alternative arrangements can be made. Dr. Valkovci will not reopen past due assignments or closed exams if contact after the due date has passed.

See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

## **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 [Academic Live Care](#). The [Academic Live Care](#) site also provides information about additional wellness services on campus that are available to students.

## **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. CU Boulder currently requires COVID-19 vaccination and boosters for all faculty, staff and students. Students, faculty and staff must upload proof of vaccination and boosters or file for an exemption based on medical, ethical or moral grounds through the MyCUHealth portal.

The CU Boulder campus is currently mask-optional. However, if public health conditions change and masks are again required in classrooms, students who fail to adhere to masking 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.

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](mailto: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](mailto:contacttracing@colorado.edu)).

### **Tentative Course Schedule\***

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topics/Chapters</b>	<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Assignments Due Date</b>
Week1: 08/21-08/22	Introduction	Register iClicker/iClicker app Register Cengage (MindTap)	N/A
Week2: 08/25-08/29	CH1: Ten Principles of Economics CH2: Thinking Like an Economist	Orientation (Not graded)	N/A
Week3: 09/01-09/05 <b>09/01- NO CLASS LABOR DAY</b>	CH4: The Market Forces of Supply and Demand	CH1 CH2	09/07
Week4: 09/08-09/12	CH4 continued	CH4	09/14

	CH5: Elasticity and Its Application	CH5	
Week5: 09/15-09/19	Ch7: Consumers, Producers, and the Efficiency of Markets Ch6: Supply, Demand, and Government Policies.	CH6 CH7	09/21
Week6: 09/22-09/26	CH8: The Costs of Taxation	CH8	09/28
Week7: 09/29-10/03	Wrap-up & Review for <b>MIDTERM 1</b> <b>Covers Chapters 1,2,4,5,6,7,8</b>	N/A	N/A
Week8: 10/06-10/10	Ch3: Interdependence and the Gains from Trade Ch9: International Trade	CH3 CH9	10/12
Week9: 10/13-10/17	Ch14: The Costs of production	CH14	10/19
Week10: 10/20-10/24	Ch15: Firms in Competitive Markets Ch16: Monopoly	CH15	10/26
Week11: 10/27-10/31	Ch16 continued Ch19: Factor Markets	CH16 CH19	11/02
Week12: 11/03-11/07	Wrap-up & Review for <b>MIDTERM 2</b> <b>Covers Chapters 3,9,14,15,16</b>	N/A	N/A
Week13: 11/10-11/14	CH22: The Theory of Consumer Choice	CH22	11/16
Week14: 11/17-11/21	Ch10: Externalities CH11: Public Goods and Common Resources	CH10 CH11	11/23
<b>Week15: 11/24-11/28</b>	<b>NO CLASS – FALL BREAK</b>	<b>NO CLASS</b>	<b>NO CLASS</b>
Week16: 12/01-12/05	Wrap up & Review for <b>Final</b> <b>Covers Chapters 1-11, 14-16, 19</b>	N/A	N/A
Midsemester Reading Day: 10/09			
Reading Day: 12/06-12/07			
<b>Midterm 1: In class on Fri.10/03</b>			
<b>Midterm 2: In class on Fri.11/07</b>			
<b>Final: Wed. 12/10</b>			

*\*Any changes to assignment due dates will be clearly communicated during lecture and posted on the course Canvas page. Exam dates will not change.*