

ECON 2010-400: Principles of Microeconomics

University of Colorado Boulder

Fall 2026

Lecture:	TTh at 2:00pm - 3:15pm in CHEM 140
Instructor:	Jack Krolak
Email:	jack.krolak@colorado.edu
Office:	ECON 414
Office Hours:	TTh 12:00pm - 1:30pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, we will examine and develop an understanding of the basic concepts and mechanisms of microeconomics. Among other topics, we will discuss how consumers and businesses make decisions, how markets work and why they might fail, and how government actions affect markets.

PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites for this course. A good understanding of basic algebra and graphing concepts will be helpful.

IMPORTANT DATES

We will have two in-class midterm exams and a final exam. Midterm dates are tentative; the final exam date and time are set by the university and will not change.

- Midterm I: Thursday, 9/24
- Midterm II: Thursday, 11/5
- Final Exam: Wednesday, 12/9 (1:30 PM - 4:00 PM)

REQUIRED MATERIALS

For the course, the required text is: Paul Krugman and Robin Wells: *Microeconomics*, 7th edition, 2024, Macmillan Learning. Weekly readings will be assigned from this textbook.

To keep the cost of your course materials as low as possible and access those materials as conveniently as possible, you will have access to the materials through a program called “Inclusive Access” which will appear on your tuition and fee bill as “Day 1 Digital Access”.

- You will receive access to all digital course materials on the first day of classes through your Canvas page
- You will see a “Day 1 Digital Access” charge on your tuition and fee bill. The charge covers a low price, discounted by the publisher and not available outside this course
- You have the option to opt out of Inclusive Access. This means you won’t pay for anything but you lose all access to the course materials

We will also make use of iClickers in this course, which requires either a physical iClicker remote, the iClicker app on your mobile device, or access to the iClicker website. Information on how to set up a free iClicker student account can be found on the Office of Information Technology website.

RECITATION

Recitation is a weekly meeting with your recitation instructor intended to apply the concepts from lecture to problems that help you prepare for assignments and exams. Attendance is mandatory; you may miss up to 2 recitations without penalty. If you experience circumstances that require you to miss more than 2 recitations, please contact your TA. You must attend the section that you are enrolled in. Recitation worksheets and answer keys are available on the course website. **Recitations begin on the second Thursday of the semester.**

RECITATION INSTRUCTORS (TAS)

You may attend any TA's office hours, regardless of which recitation you are enrolled in.

TA	Email	Office Hours	Office
Warren Hendricks	Warren.Hendricks@colorado.edu	M 12:30pm - 1:30pm, W 12:30pm - 2:30pm	ECON 306
Yoontae Cho	Yoontae.Cho@colorado.edu	M 1:30pm - 4:30pm	ECON 309A

LECTURE

Lecture attendance is mandatory and will be monitored through iClicker questions starting in the second week of classes. You must answer all of the questions posed in a given lecture to earn credit. Please refrain from using your laptop or phone during class. Instead, please be prepared to take notes on paper.

You may miss up to 3 lectures throughout the semester for any reason, including illness or family emergency, without penalty. You do not generally need to notify me of your absence. If you experience circumstances which require you to miss more than 3 lectures, please contact me as soon as possible.

To sign up for iClicker, you must complete a two-step process:

1. Register your iClicker: <https://oit.colorado.edu/tutorial/cuclickers-set-up-your-iclicker-student-account>
2. Enroll in the course: <https://join.iclicker.com/LPZU>

HOMEWORK

Weekly homework assignments will be due on the course canvas page. These homework assignments will be due by 11:59 PM on Sunday nights. Your grade for each homework assignment will be the highest of 2 attempts. You may submit homework assignments up to 72 hours late with a penalty of 20% for each 24 hours past due. You may miss 1 homework without penalty.

EXAMS

We will have two in-class midterm exams and a cumulative final exam. *The higher of your two midterm exam grades will count for 20% of your course grade while the lower will count for 10%.* There will be no make up exams. If you miss one midterm due to a medical reason (you must notify me prior to the exam), I will use your other midterm grade in its place (so it would count for 30% of your course grade). If you miss *both* midterms due to a medical reason, I will use your final exam grade in their place (so it would count for 60% of your overall grade).

EXTRA CREDIT

There will be three extra credit assignments on the course website, corresponding to the three exams. You can earn up to a 3% bonus on each exam by completing these extra credit assignments. Each extra credit assignment will be due at 11:59 PM of the day before the respective exam.

GRADING

The above assignments will contribute to your final grade as follows:

Lecture Participation:	10%
Recitation Attendance:	10%
Homework:	20%
Higher Midterm Exam Grade:	20%
Lower Midterm Exam Grade:	10%
Final Exam:	30%

Letter grades will be assigned according to the table below:

Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage
A	≥ 94	C	73 – 76.9
A-	90 – 93.9	C-	70 – 72.9
B+	87 – 89.9	D+	67 – 69.9
B	83 – 86.9	D	63 – 66.9
B-	80 – 82.9	D-	60 – 62.9
C+	77 – 79.9	F	< 60

I may curve individual assignments. I will round up to the next higher letter grade if you are within 0.1% of reaching that grade. No further increases to grades will occur. You will be responsible for monitoring your own grades. If you are worried about your grade, come to me early to make a plan for your success.

COURSE PAGE

The course syllabus, notes, handouts, and homework problems can be found on the canvas course page: <https://canvas.colorado.edu/>. Please check the canvas page frequently, as I will be updating it with materials and assignments. You are responsible for checking the canvas webpage regularly to avoid missing any assignments or announcements.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. Any act of cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty may 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. Use of generative AI on homework assignments is strongly discouraged, but will not *per se* constitute academic dishonesty. See Honor Code policy below for more information.

COMMUNICATION

If you have a question or concern outside of class or office hours, please send me an email and allow up to 24 hours during the week or 48 hours during weekends for a response. If your question or concern is better answered in person, I may request that you attend office hours to discuss.

By law, I am not allowed to discuss grades over email.

ACCOMMODATIONS

If you require any disability accommodations for this course, please contact me within the first two weeks of class via email in addition to providing documentation through the portal. If you are dealing with circumstances that prevent you from completing your work on time, please contact me immediately. I will not accept late assignments or reschedule exams unless you contact me prior to the due date. Exams cannot be rescheduled for personal travel.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Content Covered	Read Prior to Class	Due on Sunday at 11:59 PM
1	Th 8/20	Course Introduction, Intro to Microeconomics	1	
2	T 8/25	Models & Graphs, Production Possibility Frontier	2.1, 2.4, 2A	HW 1
	Th 8/27	Supply and Demand	3.1-3.3	
3	T 9/1	Changes in Supply and Demand	3.4-3.6	HW 2
	Th 9/3	Consumer and Producer Surplus	4.1-4.4	
4	T 9/8	Price Ceilings and Price Floors	5.1-5.3	HW 3
	Th 9/10	Quotas	5.4	
5	T 9/15	Price, Income, and Cross-Price Elasticity	6.1-6.5	HW 4
	Th 9/17	Taxes	7.1-7.3	
6	T 9/22	US Tax System, Review	7.4	Extra Credit 1 (due Wednesday)
	Th 9/24	Midterm Exam I (Ch 1-7)		
7	T 9/29	International Trade	8.1, 8.2	HW 5
	Th 10/1	Trade Protections	8.3, 8.4	
8	T 10/6	Costs, Benefits, Profit, Marginal Analysis	9.1-9.4	HW 6
	Th 10/8	Reading Day – No Class		
9	T 10/13	Rational Consumers	13	HW 7
	Th 10/15	Production Function	14.1	
10	T 10/20	Supply of Labor	19	HW 8
	Th 10/22	Cost Curves	14.2, 14.3	
11	T 10/27	Perfect Competition, Industry Supply Curve	15	HW 9
	Th 10/29	Monopoly	16.1-16.3	
12	T 11/3	Monopoly Policy, Review	16.4	Extra Credit 2 (due Wednesday)
	Th 11/5	Midterm Exam II (Ch 8, 9, 13-16, 19)		
13	T 11/10	Price Discrimination	16.5	HW 10
	Th 11/12	Types of Markets, Monopolistic Competition	18.1-18.4	
14	T 11/17	Externalities and Policy	10.1-10.4	HW 11
	Th 11/19	Public Goods and Common Resources	11	
	T 11/24 Th 11/26	Thanksgiving Break – No Class		
15	T 12/1	Semester Review		HW 12
	Th 12/3	Review of Practice Final Exam		
	W 12/9	Final Exam (1:30 - 4)		Extra Credit 3 (due Tuesday)

Note: This schedule may change slightly as we move through the semester.

UNIVERSITY 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, please let me know ahead of the scheduled lecture. I will handle each situation on a case by case basis, but the most common accommodation will be excusing your attendance for the lectures that you must miss so they do not count against your attendance grade. Missed midterm exams will have their overall weight shifted to either the other midterm or the final exam.

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 let me know ahead of any conflict with class assignments and tests and we can discuss how to rearrange those to accommodate your religious observance. 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.