
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

ECON 2010 SYLLABUS, FALL 2025

PROFESSOR: BILLY MERTENS

Email: mertens@colorado.edu

Online Office Hours: MWF: 1:25am – 2:10pm through Zoom:

<https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/5838330659>

While email is the best way to contact me, be aware that I check my email and respond (if time) exactly twice every weekday. Once in the morning (typically between 9 and 10am, sometimes earlier). There is usually not enough time to respond to all emails during that time, but I will respond in the afternoon. I typically do not check emails at other times or over the weekend, but there are some exceptions such as exam times. We can set up times to Zoom over the weekend if you give me plenty (2 weeks) of advance notice.

Office Phone: (303) 492-4784

Please leave a message including your name, number, and brief explanation of the reason for the call. Please keep in mind that email is the best way to contact me, and if you seek a quicker response, I recommend emailing me.

INSTRUCTOR BIO:

Billy Mertens, PhD, University of Colorado, 2000, is a senior instructor specializing in teaching undergraduate classes in economic theory. His research interests are in the fields of public choice economics and international trade. He has examined the political effects of international political economic sanctions policies, particularly as applied to dictatorships. He has also conducted a public choice analysis of the motivations behind uses of different immigration policies, and more recently he is focused on research into the pedagogy of economics. Billy enjoys running, coaching (running), mogul skiing, and spending time with family and friends.

COURSE WEBSITE:

Term Start: September 2, 2025

Term End: December 5, 2025 (our final exam will be open until 12/7)

Canvas is our class website:

- Login using your University of Colorado Boulder identikey and password
<https://canvas.colorado.edu/>
- Under Course List, click "ECON 2010-581: Prin of Microeconomics"
- Note: all email correspondence will be through your CU Boulder email address.

○ **Please do not use the Canvas email or messages.**

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course 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.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to

1. Define the basic economic terms presented.
2. Distinguish between different economic terms and concepts and recognize how those concepts apply to different economic problems.
3. Analyze different economic principles and use those principles to differentiate between the illogical and the sensible, between the misleading use of statistics, misleading anecdotal evidence, and the reasonable presentation of information.
4. Synthesize the information given in each section to explain key concepts and set up and solve problems that utilize the economic principles.
5. Acquire the ability to think about complex economic issues in a logical objective manner, so that you discriminate between correct solutions to economic problems, and common misconceptions.
6. Evaluate different economic arguments and interpret the reasons why some are well-founded, while others are not.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

Textbook (required): Mankiw, N. Gregory; **Principles of Microeconomics** 10th edition with MindTap. MindTap is where you will read your textbook and complete some graded assignments. You will access MindTap through our course website, Canvas.

Course Website: <https://canvas.colorado.edu/> (Canvas) Grades and any further additional readings will be posted on Canvas. Please check Canvas frequently for any relevant notifications/changes that may occur throughout the course.

SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS:

Supplemental readings and other materials will be provided in Canvas system, via the CU Library electronic reserve, or by links to websites.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY AND DELIVERY:

This course is delivered via distance education format using the CU Canvas system. This format will use a combination of readings, online discussion, and other web-based resources. You will interact with the instructor and other students using the communication functions provided by Canvas. You will submit assignments in accordance with the course outline using Canvas.

COURSE PRESENTATION AND PROCEDURES:

There will be 13 modules corresponding to the 13 weeks of the course. You should proceed through one module per week, which will be comprised of readings from the course texts, supplemental class notes,

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graded discussion questions, homework and quizzes, exams, and various outside sources of information such as additional readings and video content, among other content.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Review the separate class schedule titled “Class Schedule” found on Canvas under the “Introduction” section in “Modules”.

CLASS PARTICIPATION:

This course is designed to engage you through class discussions on the topics covered in the course materials. It is important that you participate in class discussions to facilitate learning by other students and gain exposure to different viewpoints of other students in the class. It is therefore necessary to participate throughout the course in the discussion questions, not wait until the last minute to post on discussion topics.

EVALUATION AND GRADING:

Course grades will be determined by the completion of assignments, exams, and discussions, as shown below:

Assignment*	Points per Assignment	Frequency	GRADE POINTS	GRADE PERCENTAGE
Discussions (post and response)	(30)	* (5)	= 150	15%
Quizzes	(20)	* (10)	= 200	22%
Homework	(10)	* (10)	= 100	11%
Practice Midterm Exam	(20)	* (1)	= 20	1%
Proctored Midterm Exam	(200)	* (1)	= 200	20%
Practice Cumulative Final Exam	(30)	* (1)	= 30	1%
Proctored Cumulative Final Exam	(300)	* (1)	= 300	30%
TOTAL			= 1000	= 100%

*Keep a copy of all work created for the course, including work submitted through Canvas.

COURSE GRADING CRITERIA

Grade	Percentage Grade	Indicates
A	92-100	Excellent
A-	90-91.99	
B+	88-89.99	
B	82-87.99	Above Average
B-	80-81.99	
C+	78-79.99	
C	72-77.99	Average
C-	70-71.99	

D+	68-69.99	
D	62-68.99	<i>Below Average</i>
D-	60-61.99	
F	0-59.99	<i>Failure</i>

ASSIGNMENTS:

Discussions (150 POINTS) – There will be online discussion posts and discussion comments associated with many modules. The discussions will occur asynchronously; I will post a discussion question and you will respond to the questions at your convenience prior to the due date. It is important to participate within the appropriate time period so that you can interact with your fellow students. Each time you participate, you earn up to 30 points. There are 6 discussions, and your lowest one (1) discussion is dropped from your final grade calculation. Discussions are open book and open note and will be submitted through Canvas. See the class schedule for due dates of posts and comments. The discussion post is always due by Thursday at 11:59pm, and the discussion response is always due by Sunday at 11:59pm.

Quizzes (220 POINTS) – There will be quizzes associated with most modules each worth 20 points. The format of the quizzes will be multiple choice, calculations, and short answers and will be open book and open notes. There are 12 quizzes, and your lowest one (1) quiz is dropped from your final grade calculation. Quizzes will be submitted through MindTap. Quizzes are always due by Sunday at 11:59pm

Homework (110 POINTS) – There will also be homework associated with most modules. The format of the quizzes will be calculations, and short answers and will be open book and open notes. There are 12 sets of homework, and your lowest one (1) homework is dropped from your final grade calculation. Homework will be submitted through MindTap. Homework is always due by Thursday at 11:59pm.

Practice Exams (50 POINTS) – There will be two (2) practice exams, worth 20 and 30 points respectively.

Exams (500 POINTS) – There will be two (2) exams. The proctored midterm exam is worth 200 points and the proctored cumulative final exam is worth 300 points. The format of the exam will be multiple choice and calculations and will be closed book. The exams are completed in MindTap (accessed through Canvas) in a proctored setting.

PROCTORING:

This course requires proctored examinations. Exams are proctored which will require planning on your part. Proctors are individuals who administer the exam process following the guidelines provided by University of Colorado Boulder to ensure academic integrity.

Who can be my proctor?

If you are in Boulder or nearby, you can take your exam:

- With me (or another assigned Professor)** at the Department of Economics. There is no cost for using this proctor. This option is only on selected days during the exam period.
- At the **University Testing Center** on-campus in Boulder, CO. There may be a cost for using the testing center. This option is only available M-F during regular business hours.

- c. With **Proctorio**. Online proctoring is a service that uses a webcam and microphone to ensure academic integrity. To use this service, you must have access to a computer with a webcam and a microphone. There is no cost for using this proctor.

If you are outside of Boulder, you can take your exam:

- a. At an **accredited college or university testing center** in your town or nearby. There may be a cost for using this testing center.
- b. With **Proctorio or a comparable online proctoring service as determined by your instructor**. Online proctoring is a service that uses a webcam and microphone to ensure academic integrity. To use this service, you must have access to a computer with a webcam and a microphone. There is no cost for using this proctor.

Please see Canvas for detailed information about proctoring, including the contact information for the UTC, Proctorio, and a nationwide list of accredited college or university testing centers. If you are in a rural area or on a military base, you may need to be approved to use a person as a proctor and information is provided on Canvas for this approval process.

EXTRA CREDIT:

There will be 30 points of extra credit available (= 3% of the course grade).

1. Problems and Applications in MindTap. Each time you complete an assigned P&A activity by the due date, you will receive 2 points extra credit, up to 22 points total (= 11 * 2 points).
2. An additional 8 points extra credit will be available during the semester for completing certain activities, such as listening and commenting on a podcast, etc. These extra credit opportunities will be determined by the instructor and announced on Canvas.

EXPECTATIONS OF INSTRUCTORS:

As a student enrolled in this course, one of your responsibilities is to submit course work by the due dates listed in the Schedule. With that said, I take my role as your instructor very seriously, and, in fact, I care about how well you do in this course and that you have a satisfying, rewarding experience. That said, I am adamant about giving each student an equal opportunity to perform well in the course

To that end, it is our commitment to you to respond individually to the work you submit in this class and to return your work in a timely manner. If, however, due to unforeseeable circumstances, the grading of your work takes longer than the times I have listed here, I will keep you informed of my progress and make every effort to return your work with feedback as soon as I can.

General Course Announcements

- **Announcements:** Please check the “announcements” section on Canvas often.

COURSE POLICIES:

POLICY ON CHEATING:

IF YOU ARE FOUND TO HAVE VIOLATED THE HONOR CODE (SEE BELOW), BY BOTH THE HONOR CODE COUNCIL AND I, YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY FAIL THE COURSE!

NETIQUETTE:

All students should be aware that their behavior impacts other people, even online. I hope that we will all strive to develop a positive and supportive environment and will be courteous to fellow students and your instructor. Due to the nature of the online environment, there are some things to remember.

Keep in mind that operating online requires us to communicate with each other through written text. Therefore, the online environment is missing many of the nuances that we can provide in face-to-face communication (tone of voice, facial expressions, etc.). Thus, online, be sure to pay close attention to: tone of voice (is your language possibly strong or offensive?); clearness of communication (did you clearly explain your thoughts, or do excessive typos confuse your message?). Some additional steps to consider:

1. Always think before you write. In other words, without the use of non-verbals with your message, your message can be misinterpreted. So please think twice before you hit submit.
2. Treat people the same as you would face-to-face. In other words, it is easy to hide behind the computer. In some cases, it empowers people to treat others in ways they would not in person. Remember there is a person behind the name on your screen. Treat all with dignity and respect and you can expect that in return.
3. Respect the time of others. Always remember that you are not the only person with a busy schedule, be flexible. Do not procrastinate! You may be one that works best with the pressures of the deadline looming on you, but others may not be that way, and I need to give them the same helpful feedback that you may require.
4. Keep it relevant. There are places to chat and post for fun everyday stuff. Do not stray from the discussion in the assigned questions.
5. Never use all caps. This is the equivalent of yelling in the online world. It is not fun to read. Only use capital letters when appropriate.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS:

You **MUST** have a consistent, high-speed Internet connection to view the lecture videos and the other content in this course. When you take quizzes, we recommend you use either a desktop computer or a laptop in a quiet location with a secure **AND RELIABLE** connection. We do **NOT** recommend using an iPad or other mobile device to take a quiz. If you have access to a high-speed wired connection, that's preferable to a wireless connection. We recommended that you have installed the latest versions of Adobe Flash, Adobe Reader, and QuickTime.

- Windows XP (Service Pack 2), Vista, or Windows 7 and above
- Minimum 2GB RAM
- High speed internet connection: 20 Mbps or above (Cable, DSL, FiOS)
- Working soundcard and speakers/headphones
- Mozilla Firefox browser is recommended with Java and cookies enabled (Internet Explorer 10 and 11 are not supported by D2L)

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- Sun Java Runtime Environment (JRE) Macintosh • Mac OS X (Ventura 13.1 and above) • Minimum 4GB RAM
- High speed internet connection: 20 Mbps or above (Cable, DSL, FiOS)
- Working soundcard and speakers/headphones

TECHNICAL HELP

Canvas technical support

- Click the “help” (?) icon on the left side of Canvas, once logged in

MindTap tech support:

- <https://www.cengage.com/contact>

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

A variety of instructional support services, such as writing center, guidance on personal or educational issues, tutoring questions and library resources are available to the students. For more information about their services, visit their websites linked under “additional resources” on Canvas.

POLICY ON DUE DATES:

As stated above, in each module you will complete assignments that reflect material from the various delivery formats and required readings. It is your responsibility to turn in each assignment on the required date. If you are late to submit a MindTap assignment, you will receive a zero. All discussion assignments turned in after the scheduled due date will be lowered by 10 points for each 12-hour period late.

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 are sick and will need an excused absence, unless you are incapacitated, you must notify me immediately (by email) in order to obtain that excused absence status.**

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. **Let me know if you have any religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance within the first week of class and we will make arrangements.**

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.

ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR INFORMATION

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

Any University policies that are in conflict with my own policies will supersede my policy!