



University of Colorado Boulder
SYLLABUS
ECON 2010
PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS
Fall 2026

INSTRUCTOR: DR. KAREN GEBHARDT

Email karen.gebhardt@colorado.edu

Office Hours

- Mondays 9-11am on Zoom
- Tuesdays 12-2pm on Campus

On-Campus Office Location: 203 Economics ([link to map](#))

Chat or Call on Microsoft Teams

- Call or text anytime between Monday – Friday, 9am – 8pm MTN. I sometimes have my phone turned off during the middle of the day, but leave a message when it is a good time to get a hold of you and I will get back to you.

INSTRUCTOR BIO

Dr. Karen Gebhardt is the Director of the Online Economics Program with the Department of Economics and Division of Continuing Education at CU Boulder. Her research focuses on using learning analytics to improve student learning outcomes in economics education with an emphasis on improving grades and completion rates in online courses. She is an early adopter of technology in the classroom and advocates strongly for it because she sees the difference it makes in student engagement and learning. In her free time, Dr. Gebhardt enjoys rock climbing and traveling in the Colorado Rockies and beyond.

TERM START: August 31, 2026

TERM END: December 4, 2026 + Final Exam (available through December 6)

COURSE WEBSITE

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: Principles of Microeconomics”
- Note: all email correspondence will be through your CU Boulder email address.
 - Please avoid using the Canvas email or messages, it is not as easily checked.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

From General Catalog: 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.

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COURSE PREREQUISITES

None

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course you should be able to:

- **Analyze how markets allocate resources.** Explain the roles of supply, demand, and price mechanisms in determining equilibrium price and quantity in competitive markets, and predict how shifts in supply or demand affect market outcomes.
- **Apply the concept of opportunity cost to decision-making.** Use marginal analysis and cost-benefit reasoning to evaluate consumer, producer, and firm-level decisions under conditions of scarcity.
- **Evaluate market structures and firm behavior.** Compare and contrast how firms make production and pricing decisions under perfect competition, monopoly, monopolistic competition, and oligopoly, and assess the market outcomes of each.
- **Assess market failures, the rationale for government intervention, and types of government intervention.** Identify externalities, public goods, market power, and describe policy tools used to combat market failures.

COURSE TIME COMMITMENT

The university requires a minimum number of contact hours per credit hour. For this 4-credit course, a minimum of 140 hours of total instructional contact is required. Total instructional contact comprises both in-class and out-of-class work. This means that, on average, expect to work at least 11 hours per week on this class (= 140 hours / 13 weeks).

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

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.

Calculator: You need a basic calculator. Although Dr. Gebhardt will often use a TI-84 or an online calculator in the instructional videos, most any calculator will be ok.

Textbooks (required): The Micro Economy Today with CONNECT, by Schiller and Gebhardt. Published by McGraw Hill, 2025 release.

CU Book Access: <https://www.cubookstore.com/bookaccess>

CU Book Access, CU Boulder's equitable access course materials program, provides degree-seeking undergraduate students access to all of their required course materials before the first day of class for a flat-rate price. **The cost of the program for the 2026-27 academic year will be \$269 (plus tax) per semester, fall and spring.**

Materials in this program are provided in a digital first format on or before the first day of class via Canvas, CU Boulder's online learning platform. Should a particular class require print materials, students will receive an email letting them know they have a pick up at the CU Book Store or this information can be found on their My Course Materials tab in Canvas.

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

ONLINE COURSE STRUCTURE

This course is delivered via online education format using the CU Canvas system. The asynchronous format will use a combination of readings, online discussion, and other web-based resources. Asynchronous learning does not require real-time (or synchronous) interaction; instead, content is available online for you to access when it best suits your schedule, and assignments are completed prior to the deadlines listed in the schedule. You will interact with the instructor and other students using the communication functions provided by Canvas. You will submit assignments using Canvas, email, or through another online system.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Review the separate weekly class schedule found on Canvas under "Syllabus" link.

EVALUATION AND GRADING

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

Assignment	Points per Assignment	Frequency	Points Assigned	Points Counting Towards Final Grade	GRADE PERCENTAGE
Small Assignments	2-10	4-10 assignments per module	430	400	40%
Proctored Quiz	80	5	400	400	40%
Proctored Cumulative Final Exam	200	1	200	200	20%
Total			1025	1000	100%

COURSE GRADING CRITERIA, *THERE IS +/- GRADING IN THIS CLASS.*

Grade	Percentage Grade	Equivalent Points	Indicates
A	93-100	930 – 1000	Excellent
A-	90-92.99	900 – 929	
B+	87-89.99	870 – 899	
B	83-86.99	830 – 869	Above Average
B-	80-82.99	800 – 829	
C+	77-79.99	770 – 799	
C	73-77.99	730 – 769	Average

C-	70-72.99	700 – 729	
D+	67-69.99	670 – 699	
D	63-67.99	630 – 669	<i>Below Average</i>
D-	60-62.99	600 – 629	
F	0-59	600 or lower	<i>Failure</i>

ASSIGNMENTS

Small Assignments (400 POINTS) – four to ten (4-10) small assignments will be completed each module. Small assignments are each worth 2-10 points. These assignments may be quizzes (e.g., reading quiz, update the data quiz, conceptual quiz, calculating quiz), reflection assignments (where you individually reflect on a topic), or engage and contribute assignments (where you interact with fellow students on a topic). These assignments are meant to keep you on track, help you know if you are understanding the material, and connect you with your classmates.

Proctored Quizzes (400 POINTS) – There will be five (5) 80-point quizzes. The format of proctored quizzes will be multiple choice, calculations, and short answers and will be closed-book and closed-note. The exams are completed on Canvas or Connect in a proctored setting.

Proctored Cumulative Final Exam (200 POINTS) – There will be one final exam. The proctored cumulative final exam is worth 350 points. The format of the exam will be multiple choice, calculations, and short answer and will be closed book and closed note. The exam is completed on Canvas or Connect in a proctored setting.

This course requires proctored quizzes and examinations. Proctoring requires 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:

1. **With me** at the Department of Economics. There is no cost for using this proctor. This option is only on selected days during the quiz or exam period.
2. 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.

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

1. At an **accredited college or university testing center** in your town or nearby. There may be a cost for using this testing center.
2. 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, 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

Up to 30 points of extra may be available (= maximum 3% of the course grade).

- Up to 30 points extra may be available during the semester for completing certain activities, such as listening and commenting on a podcast, completing special activities, etc. These extra credit opportunities will be determined by the instructor and announced in on Canvas.

POLICY ON DUE DATES

Each module you will complete a series of critical thinking questions that reflect material from the various delivery formats and required readings. It is your responsibility to turn in each assignment on the required date. ***Late assignments are not accepted for proctored quizzes or proctored exams. All other assignments can be turned in up to three days late with a 10% grade penalty.*** The exceptions that may be considered is due to sickness, university excused function, or circumstances beyond the students' control. The instructor reserves the sole right to determine what grounds constitute a reasonable excuse for missing or submitting a late work assignment and the right to require the student to submit proper verification of such excuse.

EXPECTATIONS OF INSTRUCTOR

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. To that end, it is my 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, I will keep you informed of my progress and make every effort to return your work with feedback as soon as I can.

Communication – I am nice and I want you to succeed. Do not hesitate to contact me about anything. Yes, anything.

E-mail

Instructor Karen Gebhardt karen.gebhardt@colorado.edu

- All e-mail sent to me should contain the following: Course Name and Number (i.e., "ECON 2010" or "Micro"), Your Name, Short Description of your question. I will respond to email within 12-24 hours, but usually within 4-6 hours. I always respond to email if the email necessitates a response. If you have not had a response within 36 hours I did not receive the email. Be sure to use your CU email address because sometimes gmail and yahoo email accounts are filtered into my spam folder.

Office Hours

- Mondays 9-11am on Zoom
- Tuesdays 12-2pm on Campus (Economics 203)

Chat or Call on Microsoft Teams

- Call or text anytime between Monday – Friday, 9am – 8pm MTN. I sometimes have my phone turned off during the middle of the day, but leave a message when it is a good time to get a hold of you and I will call you back.

General Course Announcements

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

COURSE POLICIES

NETIQUETTE

All students should be aware that their behavior impacts other people, even online. I expect that we will all strive to develop a positive and supportive environment and will be courteous to fellow students and your instructor.

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. 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.
- McGraw Hill Connect Support:
 - <https://www.mheducation.com/highered/support/contact/connect-support.html>
- Proctorio Support: <https://proctorio.com/support>

ACCOMMODATION FOR DISABILITIES, TEMPORARY MEDICAL CONDITIONS, AND MEDICAL ISOLATION

[Disability Services](#) determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so your needs can be addressed. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance.

If you have a temporary medical condition or required medical isolation for which you require accommodation, please contact me through email, text, or phone call as soon as possible. Also 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, contact the professor immediately to request accommodation.

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, 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](#).

HONOR CODE

"ON MY HONOR, AS A UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER STUDENT

I HAVE NEITHER GIVEN NOR RECEIVED UNAUTHORIZED ASSISTANCE."

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.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) STATEMENT: LEARNING, EFFORT, AND THE USE OF AI

Learning is an active and sometimes challenging process that requires consistent effort, practice, and reflection. Struggling with new material is a normal and important part of learning and it is often how understanding is built. The goal of this course is not simply to complete assignments, but for you to develop your own understanding and be able to explain, apply, and use the information ***in your own brain***.

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools can be valuable supports for learning when used appropriately. For example, to help clarify concepts, generate practice questions, or provide feedback as you study. ***However, AI should not be used to do your thinking, writing, or problem-solving for you.*** Using AI in place of your own effort undermines the learning process and will leave you unprepared to demonstrate your understanding. In this course, AI is encouraged as a learning aid, but the responsibility for learning and demonstrating mastery always rests with you.

Dr. Gebhardt may, on occasion, integrate into assignments a 1-on-1 where you meet with one of the instructional team to verbally explain a concept or reflect on your learning. These types of assignment integrations are meant to verify that learning is happening ***in your own brain***.

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, contact the professor immediately to request accommodation.

ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS OBLIGATIONS

Instructional faculty members must make every reasonable effort to accommodate all students who have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignment deadlines or required attendance due to a religious observance. Whenever possible, students must notify the instructional faculty member at least two weeks in advance of the expected exam, assignment deadline, or attendance conflict to request an accommodation for religious observance. If the start date of the course is less than two weeks before the date of requested accommodation, students must notify the instructional faculty member on the start date of the course. See the [Student Academic Accommodations for Religious Observances Policy](#) for more information.

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 a name other than your legal name appear on your instructors' class rosters and in Canvas, or if you wish to choose pronouns to 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](#).

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND/OR RELATED RETALIATION

CU Boulder is committed to fostering a productive 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- or off-campus. Denial of an approved accommodation for disability, religious observance, or pregnancy or pregnancy related medical conditions may be discriminatory.

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, [OIEC reporting options](#), and [OIEC support resources](#) including confidential services can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Faculty and graduate instructors are required to inform OIEC when someone discloses misconduct regardless of when or where it occurred. This is to ensure that those impacted receive outreach from OIEC about resolution options and support resources. To learn more about reporting and support options for a variety of concerns, visit the [Don't Ignore It page](#).

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The University of Colorado Boulder is committed to supporting students' mental health and overall wellbeing. If personal, academic, or emotional challenges are affecting your wellbeing or success, [Counseling and Psychiatric Services \(CAPS\)](#), is here to help. CAPS offers counseling, referrals, psychiatric care, crisis support, and much more. Visit CAPS in the C4C, or call (303) 492-2277, 24/7..

COURSE WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Any student who wishes to withdraw from the course must do so by Thursday, October 29. Students can withdraw from a class using [Buff Portal](#) by October 29. See [Drop a Class](#).

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 modules on Canvas.

Class Schedule, ECON 2010 Principles of Microeconomics, Fall 2026 with Gebhardt				
Due By	Date	Chapter	Topic	Graded Assignments
Module 1				
Monday	8/31		Course Introduction	Small Assignments
Tuesday	9/1	1	The Core Issues: Scarcity, Opportunity Costs, Three Basic Decisions, The Mechanisms of Choice, What Economics is All About	Small Assignments
Wednesday	9/2	1	The Core Issues: Production Possibilities	Small Assignments
Thursday	9/3	3	Supply and Demand: Market Participants, The Circular Flow	Small Assignments
Module 2				

ECON 2010: PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS

Monday	9/7	3	Supply and Demand: Demand, Supply, and Equilibrium	Small Assignments
Tuesday	9/8	3	Supply and Demand: Changes in Equilibrium	Small Assignments
Wednesday	9/9	3	Supply and Demand: More Changes in Equilibrium	Small Assignments
Thursday	9/10		Proctored Quiz Preparation	
Module 3				
Monday	9/14		Proctored Quiz 1	Proctored Quiz 1
Tuesday	9/15	5	Consumer Choice: Determinants of Demand, Utility Theory	Small Assignments
Wednesday	9/16	5	Consumer Choice: Consumer Surplus, Price Discrimination	Small Assignments
Thursday	9/17	5	Consumer Choice: Choosing Among Products	Small Assignments
Module 4				
Monday	9/21		No Class, Labor Day Holiday	
Tuesday	9/22	6	Elasticity: Price Elasticity of Demand	Small Assignments
Wednesday	9/23	6	Elasticity: Cross-Price Elasticity, Income Elasticity	Small Assignments
Thursday	9/24		Proctored Quiz Preparation	
Module 5				
Monday	9/28		Proctored Quiz 2	Proctored Quiz 2
Tuesday	9/29	7	The Costs of Production: The Production Function, Marginal Productivity, Resource Costs	Small Assignments
Wednesday	9/30	7	The Costs of Production: Dollar Costs	Small Assignments
Thursday	10/1	7	The Costs of Production: Economic vs. Accounting Costs, Long-Run Costs, Economies of Scale	Small Assignments
Module 6				
Monday	10/5	8	Perfect Competition: The Profit Motive, Economics vs. Accounting Profit, Market Structure, The Nature of Perfect Competition	Small Assignments
Tuesday	10/6	8	Perfect Competition: The Production Decision, Profit-Maximizing Rule, Shutdown and Investment Decisions	Small Assignments
Wednesday	10/7	9	Competitive Markets: Competitive Markets Example	Small Assignments
Friday	10/9		Proctored Quiz Preparation	
Module 7				
Monday	10/12		Proctored Quiz 3	Proctored Quiz 3
Tuesday	10/13	10	Monopoly: Market Power, Market Power at Work: The Computer Market Revisited	Small Assignments
Wednesday	10/14	10	Monopoly: Comparative Perspective or Market Power, Pros and Cons of Market Power, More about Barrier to Entry from Chapter 11	Small Assignments
Thursday	10/15	13	Natural Monopolies: Regulation and Deregulation: Natural Monopoly	Small Assignments
Module 8				

Monday	10/19	11	Oligopoly: Market Structure, Oligopoly Behavior: No Coordination	Small Assignments
Tuesday	10/20	11	Oligopoly: Game Theory: A Focus on Uncertainty, Oligopoly Behavior: Coordination	Small Assignments
Wednesday	10/21	12	Monopolistic Competition: Monopolistic Competition Structure and Behavior	Small Assignments
Thursday	10/22		Proctored Quiz Preparation	
Module 9				
Monday	10/26		Proctored Quiz 4	Proctored Quiz 4
Tuesday	10/27	4	The Role of Government: Market Failure, Public Goods, Market Power	Small Assignments
Wednesday	10/28	4	The Role of Government: Externalities, Inequity	Small Assignments
Thursday	10/29	4	The Role of Government: Growth of Government, Taxation, Government Failure	Small Assignments
Module 10				
Monday	11/2	22	Global Poverty: Global Poverty, Goals and Strategies, Income Redistribution	Small Assignments
Tuesday	11/3	22	Global Poverty: Economic Growth	Small Assignments
Wednesday	11/4	22	Global Poverty: Policy	Small Assignments
Thursday	11/5		Proctored Quiz Preparation	
Module 11				
Monday	11/9		Proctored Quiz 5	Proctored Quiz 5
Tuesday	11/10	21	International Trade: US Trade Patterns, Motivation to Trade	Small Assignments
Wednesday	11/11	21	International Trade: Pursuit of Comparative Advantage, Terms of Trade	Small Assignments
Thursday	11/12	21	International Trade: Protectionist Pressures, Barriers to Trade	Small Assignments
Module 12				
Monday	11/16	21	International Trade: Application	Small Assignments
Tuesday	11/17	13	Natural Monopolies: Regulation and Deregulation: Application	Small Assignments
Wednesday	11/18	3	Supply and Demand: Business Financial Statement Application	Small Assignments
Thursday	11/19	22	Global Poverty: Application	Small Assignments
11/23 – 11/27 FALL BREAK, no class				
Module 13				
Monday	11/30		Review Day 1	Small Assignments
Tuesday	12/1			
Wednesday	12/2		Review Day 2	Small Assignments
Thursday	12/3			
Friday	12/4		Proctored Cumulative Final Exam Opens 12am	
Sunday	12/6		Proctored Cumulative Final Exam Closes 11:59pm	

