

University of Colorado - Department of Economics  
Principles of Microeconomics  
Econ 2010 – 600  
Fall 2026

**Instructor:** Dr. Alexander Cauley ([alexander.cauley@colorado.edu](mailto:alexander.cauley@colorado.edu))

**Office:** [ECON 10](#)

**Class Time:** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 2:30 – 3:20 PM in [CHEM 140](#).

**Office Hours:** Monday and Wednesday from 8:30 - 9:30 AM; Friday from 9:30 – 10:30 AM; also, by appointment.

**Course website:** <https://canvas.colorado.edu/>

I will upload homework assignments, grades, and other helpful class materials on Canvas. Check it regularly by:

- Logging in using your University of Colorado Boulder identikey and password.
- Under your Course List, click “ECON 2010-600: Prin of Microeconomics.”

To get started in our class, visit the "[Getting Started for Class](#)" page on Canvas, found under the “Modules” tab.

**Prerequisites:** None, but basic algebra and graphing skills are assumed (partial review in recitation).

**Teaching Assistants:**

Paro Suh ([Paro.Suh@colorado.edu](mailto:Paro.Suh@colorado.edu))

Alec Truax ([Alec.Truax@colorado.edu](mailto:Alec.Truax@colorado.edu))

Kevin Starnes ([Kevin.W.Starnes@colorado.edu](mailto:Kevin.W.Starnes@colorado.edu))

**Required Materials:** To succeed in this class and to complete your homework, you will need:

- *Principles of Microeconomics* (5th edition) by Dirk Mateer and Lee Coppock (class textbook).
  - The Ebook can be found on Canvas under the “Modules” tab in the “Other Course Materials” section.
- Norton’s Smartwork (online platform where all homework assignments will be completed).
  - Links to your homework assignments will be provided in Canvas under the “Modules” tab, within the section of each chapter.

Please ensure you have access to the above materials through one of the following options:

1. CU Book Access program, or
2. Select Access plan, or
3. Direct purchase from the publisher (W. W. Norton and Co) if you opt out of the above plans.

There is a copy of the textbook on reserve in Norlin Library. You may check it out for 24 hours.

**Course Description and Goals:** This course is an introduction to the concepts of microeconomics. Microeconomics is broadly defined as the study of individuals' and firms' decisions – why do people do what they do in a market setting? The course serves as an introduction to the basics of economic theory. Its central goal is to help you learn how to model economic behavior. Developing the ability to interpret the world through the lens of economics will add substantially to your ability to understand the world around you. As this is an introductory course, you will spend a lot of your time learning the language of the field, as well as learning how to 'think like an economist.'

Throughout this course, we will explore a variety of topics that serve as your gateway to the diverse fields of economics. Think of it as a sampler plate, offering a taste of what economics has to offer.

**iClickers:** We will use iClickers to answer questions during class. By participating, you can earn up to 1% extra credit towards your overall class grade. Starting on August 28, you will receive points as follows:

- 0.8 point for each answer
- An additional 0.2 points for each correct answer (when applicable)
- No points for unanswered questions

At the end of the semester, your total points will determine your extra credit. Your iClicker student app will track your points. Here's an example:

- A student earned 43 points out of a possible 50
- The iClicker student app shows this as 86%
- The student's overall class extra credit is 0.86%

**Mystery Box 📦:** Randomly, some iClicker questions will contribute to a "mystery box" progress. If the class correctly answers 10 of these questions, a random reward is unlocked. However, if the class answers 3 questions incorrectly before reaching 10 correct answers, the progress resets. A question is considered correctly answered if over 50% of the class selects the right answer.



To start using iClickers:

1. Obtain a physical iClicker remote (recommended).
  - You may buy it at [CU Book Store](#) or borrow one from [Norlin Library Commons Service Desk](#).
  - *Note:* You may use your phone, laptop, or tablet instead of a physical iClicker. However, classroom WiFi can be unreliable, so using a physical remote is the surest way to avoid missing points.
2. Create an [iClicker student account](#) (if you haven't already).
3. Add our course to your iClicker account (invite code: <https://join.iclicker.com/TTLP>).
4. Register your iClicker remote to your iClicker student account (if you have a physical remote).
5. Once the class is in session, join the course and participate with your remote or a digital device.

For more detailed instructions, visit the "[Getting Start for Class](#)" page on Canvas (under "Modules").

In general, missed clicker points cannot be made up.

**Lectures:** Attendance for main lectures is not graded, but it is strongly recommended that you attend all classes. You are responsible for all information covered in lectures. If you miss a class, please get notes from a classmate.

*Class-wide worksheet game:* To encourage attendance beyond iClicker's extra credit and to promote group collaboration, we will hold a class-wide worksheet game at the end of some chapters. By simply participating, you will earn 0.25% extra credit toward one of the examinations. If the class (collectively) answers all the questions correctly by the end of the session, the extra credit will be doubled to 0.50%. Each student gets one attempt per question. Each student may submit a maximum of two correct answers.

**Grading:** Your course grade will consist of recitation, homework, two midterm exams, a cumulative final exam, and iClickers extra credit questions. Each portion of your grade is weighted as follows:

|                         |     |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Recitation              | 3%  |
| Slide Architect project | 7%  |
| Homework assignments    | 15% |
| Lowest-graded midterm   | 20% |
| Highest-graded midterm  | 25% |
| Final exam              | 30% |
| iClickers extra credit  | 1%  |

**Examinations:** Exams will consist of multiple-choice questions and will take place in our regular classroom unless a student has CU-approved accommodation. At the end of the exam, submit the physical booklet and the scantron. You may receive your booklet back after grades have been posted. Exams are closed book and closed notes. There will be no make-ups for unexcused missed exams. The final exam is cumulative – this means that you will be tested on the material from the entire semester. The dates for the examinations are as follows:

|            |                                                     |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Midterm 1  | Wednesday – September 30 <sup>th</sup>              |
| Midterm 2  | Wednesday – November 4 <sup>th</sup>                |
| Final exam | Friday – December 11 <sup>th</sup> , 1:30 – 4:00 PM |

Each exam will include two extra credit questions, each worth 0.5%. One question will be based on podcasts posted on Canvas; the other question may cover any topic briefly mentioned during class.

**Homework Assignments:** Homework will be completed through Norton's Smartwork. Links to your homework assignments will be available on Canvas, under the "Modules" tab, within the section of each chapter. I will announce in class and via email when they are posted. I view homework as a learning phase and aim to minimize your stress by providing lenient terms. You will have an unlimited number of attempts to answer each question, with a small 5% penalty applied to your grade for each additional attempt. You may also miss one assignment as your lowest problem set grade will be dropped. You will have one week to complete the assignment from the date when it is posted. If you submit your homework late, there will be a penalty to your grade:

|                        |                                          |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| One day late           | 25% deduction of your assignment's grade |
| Two days late          | 50% ...                                  |
| Three days late        | 75% ...                                  |
| Four or more days late | 100% ...                                 |

Note that students do not need to pay for Norton's Smartwork separately. Students are automatically given access to the materials when enrolled through the CU Book Access program or Select Access (unless purchased directly from the publisher).

**Recitation:** Recitations are led by your TA and will meet once a week. Recitations will start on Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup>.

Your recitation leader will decide how the recitation grade will be determined. This is a four-credit course with one credit coming from the recitation, so I expect you to take it seriously. TAs are an extremely valuable resource, and I encourage you to go to their office hours as often as possible if you have questions.

**Slide Architect:** This assignment is designed to provide a personalized learning experience based on individual interests. Students will create their own PowerPoint lesson presentation on the topic(s) from the later chapters that they want to learn more about. Eligible topics may come from:

- Ch 14: The Demand and Supply of *Resources*
- Ch 15: Income, Inequality, and Poverty
- Ch 16: Consumer Choice
- Ch 18: Health Insurance and Health Care
- Ch 19: International Trade
- Or: other topics relevant to Microeconomics

The project will be graded on completion. You may complete it individually or in a group of up to five people. To submit your work, email your PowerPoint presentation to any class TA and include the names of all group members.

The submission window for this assignment is November 6 through November 30. If you have a valid reason for submitting before November 6, please discuss it with me. Late submissions will receive a 25% deduction for each day they are late.

Students who put a good amount of effort into their work may submit their presentation directly to me for consideration.<sup>1</sup> I will then select one winning submission, which will be presented in class on December 2 by either the winning students or by me.

The winning student creators will receive:

- ❖ A \$500 prize per winning submission
- ❖ A letter of recommendation (upon request)

If the winning creators choose to present their lesson in class, they will also receive from me:

- ❖ The *Slide Architect Award* (comes with a plaque)
- ❖ A hint for one question on the final exam, which will be shared with the entire class!

One or two questions on the final exam will be based on material covered in the December 2 lecture.

### Grading Scale:

| A   | A-    | B+    | B     | B-    | C+    | C     | C-    | D+    | D     | D-    | F    |
|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| 94+ | 90-93 | 87-89 | 83-86 | 80-82 | 77-79 | 73-76 | 70-72 | 67-69 | 63-66 | 60-62 | ≤ 59 |

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<sup>1</sup> Additional submission requirements will be announced later in the semester.

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

## **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](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 adjustments, please contact me and we will brainstorm some possible solutions (e.g. making up missed work, extra space to store crutches, etc.).

## **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.

## **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, 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.

All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution: [studentconduct@colorado.edu](mailto:studentconduct@colorado.edu), 303-492-5550. 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 violence (dating or domestic violence), stalking, and related retaliation by or against members of our community on- and off-campus. These behaviors harm individuals and our community. The Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) addresses these concerns, and individuals who believe they have been subjected

to misconduct can contact OIEC at 303-492-2127 or email [oiiec@colorado.edu](mailto:oiiec@colorado.edu). Information about university policies, [reporting options](#), and support resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and graduate instructors have a responsibility to 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 an outreach from OIEC about their options for addressing a concern and the support resources available. To learn more about reporting and support resources for a variety of issues, visit [Don't Ignore It](#).

### **Religious Observance Policy**

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. If you have a conflict, please contact me at the beginning of the term so that we can make proper arrangements.

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.

### **Tutoring**

The Economics Department provides a free drop-in tutorial office which offers assistance for all core courses in the major, and occasionally for other undergraduate courses in the Department. Its website is <https://www.colorado.edu/economics/tutor-lab>.

Additionally, the Economics Department maintains a list of tutors who are available for private hire. Its website is <https://www.colorado.edu/economics/private-tutor-list>.