

University of Colorado at Boulder
Fall Semester 2026

Econ 2010-100: Principles of Microeconomics

LECTURE:	CHEM 140, Tue.Th. 8am-9:15am
INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Sergey Nigai
OFFICE:	ECON 122
EMAIL:	sergey.nigai@colorado.edu
WEB-SITE:	CANVAS
OFFICE HOURS:	Tue.Th. 10:30am-11:30am and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

The objective of this course is to develop an understanding of the core concepts and mechanisms of microeconomics. Among other topics, we will address the following questions: How do firms and households make production and consumption decisions? How do market mechanisms operate, and under what conditions do they fail? What is the role of government regulation and taxation? Why do countries trade? These and related questions will be examined through the lens of microeconomic theory and real-world data.

REQUIREMENTS AND PREREQUISITES:

There are no formal prerequisites for this course.

IMPORTANT DATES:

The dates for the midterms and final exam are as follows:

- **Midterm I:** Tuesday, September 22nd, in class
- **Midterm II:** Tuesday, October 27th, in class
- **Final:** Thursday, December 10th, 7:30 – 10 p.m., CHEM 140

POLICY ON USING LAPTOPS, PHONES, AND AI:

Laptops and tablets may be used only in the designated note-taking section of the lecture hall. Seats there are available on a first-come basis; if the section is full, no laptop. Devices in this section are for note-taking. I reserve the right to close the section if it is used otherwise. Everywhere else in the hall, laptops and tablets stay closed. Students who require a laptop or tablet due to a documented medical condition or approved accommodation should inform me in advance, and I will make appropriate arrangements regardless of seating.

Phones are permitted only for answering iClicker and Kahoot questions. When no question is on screen, your phone should not be in your hand or your lap. Each question has a short response window, announced in class; phones go down when the window closes. Students who need a phone for a medical device should inform me in the first two weeks.

AI tools are not permitted during lectures, exams, or clicker questions. Many in-class questions depend on material shown or discussed only in the room, and the response windows are too short for outside help to be useful. For homework on Achieve, you may use AI to check your understanding after attempting a problem, but submitting AI-generated answers you cannot explain will leave you unprepared for the exams, which are closed-device and account for a substantial portion of your grade.

REQUIRED BOOK, WEB-PLATFORM AND CLICKERS :

The required text is: – *Paul Krugman and Robin Wells, Microeconomics, 7th edition, 2024, Worth Publishers*. In addition to the text you are required to sign up for **Achieve** to complete weekly assignments.

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 “Inclusive Access”, which will appear on your tuition and fee bill as “Day 1 Digital Access”.

What does this mean for you?

1. You will receive access to all your digital course materials on the first day of classes through your Canvas page.
2. You will see a “Day 1 Digital Access” charge on your tuition and fee bill. This is a low price discounted by the publisher, and not available outside this course
3. You have the option to opt out. This means: you won’t pay for anything, but you lose all access to the course materials, including homework manager
 - 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 1st 2026, otherwise you will be charged for the materials.
4. Please keep in mind that “opting out” means that your access to these materials will be turned off.

Achieve Platform

Achieve Platform allows you to access ebook and homework assignments. To gain access you will need to sign up in CANVAS. You can find the instructions on how to sign up on CANVAS under the “*Achieve Instructions*” tab. Every week you will need to complete one homework assignment. The deadline for each assignment will be announced in class and posted on CANVAS homepage. There will be no make-up assignments for missed homework. I will discard one homework assignment with the lowest score when calculating your final grade. Achieve Platform is also used for extra-credit assignments and contains non-graded pre-class videos.

COURSE STRUCTURE: The course will consist of lectures, in-class clicker questions, weekly homework, and recitations:

- Attendance and Clicker questions: It is essential for you to attend the lectures to understand the material. Each class opens and closes with a short clicker question worth 1 point; there is no separate attendance

system and no way to make them up. Your clicker answers will be graded and will count toward the final grade. You will get 1.5 points for a correct answer, 1 point for an incorrect answer, and 0 for no answer.

- Most classes will include 1 group clicker question. Students will be able to discuss and coordinate their answers. I will award 2 bonus points if 70% of students in class answer correctly.
- We will often run Kahoot sessions as opportunities for the class to earn extra credit collectively. Each session in which the class reaches a 60% average will earn everyone 5 bonus clicker points.
- Bonus points from group questions and Kahoot sessions are added to your earned points for that class but do not increase the day's available points. Only students present receive them.
- Because the number of clicker questions varies across classes, your score for each class is the share of that day's available clicker points you earn. **At the end of the semester I will discard your 4 lowest class scores, so you can miss up to 4 lectures without penalty.** Please do not email me about excused absences: this policy covers them, and there will be no further accommodations beyond it except as required under the accommodation policies below.
- Homework: There will be weekly homework assignments. Each assignment will be due by the end of the week, i.e., by midnight of the corresponding Sunday. There will be no make-up assignments for missed homework.
- Recitations: There will be weekly recitations. They will start on August 27th.

RECITATIONS:

Recitations will begin the **second week** of classes. It is essential for you to attend the recitations to grasp the material. TA's conducting recitations will grade your performance which will count toward the final grade. You must attend the recitation to which you have been assigned.

OFFICE HOURS & COMMUNICATION POLICY:

You can find the schedule for office hours on CANVAS under the "*Office Hours*" tab. When contacting me or TA's by email, make sure to conduct communication in a professional manner. This includes using your colorado.edu email address and stating your name and section number. Before writing an email, read the syllabus and make sure that it doesn't have the answer to your question.

EXAMS AND GRADING:

We will have two in-class midterms and a cumulative final exam. There will be no make up exams. The weights of the final grade are as follows:

FINAL EXAM:	35%
MIDTERMS 1-2 (LOWEST SCORE DROPPED):	30%
CLICKER QUESTIONS:	10%
HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS:	10%
RECITATIONS:	10%
PARTICIPATION:	5%
TOTAL:	100%
EXTRA CREDIT:	2%

When calculating the final course grade, the lowest midterm score will be dropped. As a result, if you miss one midterm for any reason, that exam will be automatically dropped.

If you miss both midterms due to a documented medical reason (**you must inform me prior to each missed midterm**), the weight of the missed midterm(s) will be reallocated to the final exam. There will be no make-up exams and no additional extra-credit assignments beyond those listed above.

As a performance bonus, students whose scores on both midterms place them in the top 5% of the class will receive a 10% bonus added to their final exam score.

Extra credit assignments are not required. Only complete them if you need additional practice/help with your reading or you feel that you will need extra points. Extra-credit points can account for a maximum of 2% of your total grade. Extra-credit assignments will have deadlines and are accessible via *Achieve*.

RULES OF CONDUCT:

This is a large class and we will observe a set of classroom rules to ensure effective learning environment.

- Arrive on time & do not leave early. Do not start packing before the end of class.
- Students will check in at 8:00 am and check out at the end of each class using clickers. Special instructions will be provided in class. (1 clicker point will be awarded for checking in/out on time).

All students start the semester with 5% for participation. If you break (1) and(2) below, your participation score will decline to 0%. These regulations hold for both lectures and recitations.

1. Devices used outside the policy above.
 - Laptops and tablets outside the note-taking section, or phones in hand when no question is on screen.
2. No side conversations that would disrupt the classroom

POLICIES:

We will comply with all CU Boulder policies including:

- Classroom Behavior
 - Both students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote or online. Those who fail 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 policies on [classroom behavior](#) and [the Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution policies](#).

- 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.
 - Submit your letter during the first two weeks of classes. If the accommodation letter becomes available later in the semester, please inform me immediately such that I have time to make proper accommodations.
- 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.
- Academic Integrity: <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/academic-integrity-policy>. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. Any act of cheating, plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will 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.
- Honor Code
 - All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code academic integrity policy. 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 the Honor Code (honor@colorado.edu; 303-492-5550). Students found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found on the Honor Code website.
- Examination: <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/final-examination-policy>
- 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:

- Students who miss homework assignment or the midterm exam due to religious holidays must notify me at least two weeks in advance explaining the reason for absence. If this is the case, the weight of the missed homework will be shifted to the remaining assignments and the weight of the midterm exam will be shifted to the final exam. There will be no make up exams or extra-credit assignments.
- 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.

In addition, the following policies govern FAQs. Please read carefully before contacting me.

- Missed clicker questions due to absence:
 - Your score for each class is the share of that day's available clicker points you earn. I will discard your 4 lowest class scores, which covers absences for any reason. There will be no other way to make up for missed points.
- Missed homework:
 - There will be deadlines (announced in advance in class) for submitting homework assignments. If you miss an assignment due to a medical reason the weight of this homework will be shifted to the remaining ones. However, you must inform me in advance before the deadline. There will be no make-up assignments.
- Missed midterm:
 - If you miss one of the midterms, the score for this test will be automatically dropped. However, if you miss both midterms due to a medical reason (you must inform me prior to each midterm), the weight of the midterm will be shifted to the final exam. There will be no make up exams or extra-credit assignments.