

ECON 3070 - Intermediate Microeconomic Theory

Fall 2026

MWF 11:15AM-12:05PM Economics Bldg 117

Recitation Times and Locations:

M 3:35-4:25PM Stadium Building 136C

W 8:00-8:50AM Clare Small A&S 212

Instructor: Professor Richard Mansfield

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Office Hours: M 1:00-2:30PM, W 2:00-3:30PM

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TA Office: ECON 306

TA Office Hours: M 2:15-3:15PM, W 9:30-10:30AM

August 20, 2026

1 Course Overview

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to microeconomic theory. The content includes consumer choice of products, firm production decisions, equilibrium market-level prices and quantities, and evaluation of the impact of government policies on consumer and producer welfare. However, the chief aim of the course is to teach you how to develop and work with formal economic models. Specifically, in this course you will learn:

- The ingredients of an economic model
- How to combine the ingredients to formulate a fully specified model
- What it means to (and how to) solve a model
- How to adjust model assumptions in the face of new evidence in order to improve the accuracy of its predictions

We will apply these tools by formulating and solving economic problems from the perspective of the consumer, the firm, the worker, and the government, respectively.

More fundamentally, in the course of learning to work with economic models, you will develop a deeper understanding of how to represent economic logic verbally, graphically, and algebraically (and how to easily move back and forth between these forms). Of particular importance is learning how to convert intuitive statements into mathematical representations by choosing appropriate functional forms.

2 Prerequisites

Economics Prerequisites: ECON 2010 Mathematics Prerequisites: Either the combination (ECON 1078 AND ECON 1088) or MATH 1081 or the combination (MATH 1080, MATH 1090 and MATH 1100)

3 Assignments and Grading

Weekly problem sets will be distributed that are designed to reinforce and expand upon the topics covered in class. These problem sets will not be graded, and solutions will be provided separately at the time they are distributed. Instead, quizzes tied closely to these problem sets will occur in recitation each week. Scores on these quizzes will comprise 10% of each student's grade. At most one quiz may be made up, and each student's lowest score over the course of the semester will be dropped.

There will be three in-class midterm examinations (tentative dates: Friday, September 18th, Wednesday, October 14th, and Wednesday, November 11th). Each midterm will comprise 15% of each student's grade, so that the midterms collectively will account for 45% of the grade. Makeup midterm exams are offered for those with sickness or major conflict, but will be harder than the original exam.

The final exam will comprise 30% of the student's grade. The final exam will be comprehensive, but will focus primarily on untested content from the final third of the semester. Only non-programmable calculators may be used on exams. The final 15% of each student's grade will be based on class attendance (5%), scores on in-class clicker questions (5%), and oral classroom participation (5%).

The final exam will last 2.5 hours, and will take place from 1:30PM to 4:00PM on Tuesday, December 8.

Each student's weighted average score will be calculated, and a final letter grade will be computed based on a curve that ensures that the distribution of grades will be similar to that observed in other sections of ECON3070.

4 Course Website

Students must enroll in this course's Canvas webpage. This syllabus will be posted there, along with problem sets, lecture notes, announcements, grades, and the online textbook.

5 Textbook

The primary textbook for the course is *Microeconomics*, 9th edition, by Robert Pindyck and Daniel Rubinfeld. An online version of the textbook is provided by default for \$99.74 as part of the CU's Select Access program, and will be available via the course's Canvas website (via the "Access Pearson" tab). You may also choose to pay for your textbooks for all of your classes via the Book Access program with a single \$269 fee. If you wish to opt out of purchasing the online version of the textbook, you must do so by September 4th in order to avoid being billed. Because the content and sequence of lectures closely follows the book, and all extra practice problems are taken from the book, buying the textbook is *extremely strongly* encouraged. However, not all lecture material will be covered in the textbook, and not all textbook material will be covered in class. Furthermore, all problem sets and exams will be based only on the content covered in lecture. Thus, purchase of the textbook is not explicitly required. However, extra ungraded practice problems will be posted through the Access Pearson tab on Canvas.

6 iClicker Student App

Students are required to purchase an iClicker Student App subscription for this class. iClicker information will be used to help determine your attendance and participation grade. You are responsible for setting up the iClicker Student App application by the first day of class, August 21st. Information on how to register for an account is available at <https://oit.colorado.edu/tutorial/cuclickers-set-up-your-iclicker-student-account>. Information on how to add this course to your iClicker Student App account and how to use the application during class is available at <https://oit.colorado.edu/tutorial/cuclickers-using-iclicker-student-app-class>.

7 Makeup Exams

If you communicate to me prior to the day of the exam that you will need to miss an exam due to a religious holiday or due to illness, a makeup exam may be scheduled with the professor. If the makeup is taken after the originally scheduled exam, then the makeup exam will be more difficult than the original exam due to the additional time you will have to study.

8 Administrative Drops

Students who do not attend at least two of the first three classes may be administratively dropped from the course in favor of students on the wait list.

9 Course Schedule

A tentative schedule of lecture topics, textbook reading assignments, and exam dates is provided below. The chapters listed refer to Pindyck and Rubinfeld's *Microeconomics*, 9th edition. Note that there will be no class on Labor Day (September 7) nor during Fall Break (November 23th, 25th, and 27th). These dates are replaced with "NC" for "no class" on the course schedule below.

Week	Topics	Book Chapters
Aug 21	Introducing the Economic Model	Ch. 1
Aug 24/26/28	Perfect Competition Overview	Ch. 2
A/S 31/2/4	Consumer Preferences	Ch. 3
Sep NC/9/11	Demand Curves	Ch. 4
Sep 14/16/18	Nonlinear Budget Constraints & 1st Midterm Exam	Ch. 3
Sep 21/23/25	Consumer Welfare	Ch. 4
S/O 28/30/2	Production Functions	Ch. 6
Oct 5/7/9	Cost Minimization	Ch. 7
Oct 12/14/16	Elasticities & 2nd Midterm Exam	Ch. 2
Oct 19/21/23	Profit Maximization, Supply Curves &	Ch. 8
Oct 26/28/30	Short-Run Perfect Competition	Ch. 8
Nov 2/4/6	Long-Run Perfect Competition	Ch. 8
Nov 9/11/13	3rd Midterm Exam & Taxes and Welfare Analysis	Ch. 9
Nov 16/18/20	Monopoly & Imperfect Competition	Ch. 10 & 12
Nov NC/NC/NC	Fall Break	None
N/D 30/2/4	Price Discrimination (if time permits) & Review	Ch. 11
Dec 8	Final Exam	

10 University Policies

10.1 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 classroom behavior policy, the Student Code of Conduct, and the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance.

10.2 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.

10.3 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.

10.4 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.

10.5 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.

10.6 Religious Accommodations

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. If you expect to miss an exam in order to observe a religious holiday, you must communicate this request to the professor prior to Friday, August 28th.