

University of Colorado Boulder — Department of Economics
ECON 3070-020 Intermediate Microeconomic Theory
Spring 2026

Course Information

Lecture	MWF 4:40pm–5:30pm, Duane Physics G131
Course Website	Canvas
Instructor	Bikalpa Baniya
Office	ECON 313
Office Hours	MW 3:30pm–4:30pm, and by appointment
Email	bikalpa.baniya@colorado.edu
Teaching Assistant	Lucas Ladenburger
TA Office	ECON 414
TA Office Hours	TBD
TA Email	luscas.ladenburger@colorado.edu
Recitations	(1) ECON 3070-021 Mon 2:30pm–3:20pm, Economics Bldg 2 (2) ECON 3070-022 Wed 9:05am–9:55am, Ketchum A&S Bldg 1B44

Course Description

This course develops the analytical framework for intermediate microeconomic theory. We study how individual decision-makers (consumers and firms) make choices under constraints, and how those choices aggregate to determine market outcomes and welfare. Core tools include optimization, comparative statics, and equilibrium analysis; applications include consumer demand, production and costs, competitive markets and market power.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- formulate and solve constrained optimization problems;
- analyze consumer choice and demand using preferences, utility, and duality;
- analyze firm behavior using production, cost, and profit maximization;
- characterize equilibrium and welfare in competitive markets and evaluate policy interventions;
- analyze market power and strategic interaction using standard models of imperfect competition.

Prerequisites

- ECON 2010 (Principles of Microeconomics) with a minimum grade of C–; and
- one approved mathematics prerequisite (e.g., ECON 1088, MATH 1081, MATH 1300, MATH 1310, APPM 1350, or FNCE 2010) with a minimum grade of C–.

Course Materials

The primary textbook for this course is *Microeconomics*, 9th edition, by Robert Pindyck and Daniel Rubinfeld. The lectures closely track the structure and content of the textbook, and students are therefore strongly encouraged to obtain a copy. However, there is not a one-to-one correspondence between lecture content and the textbook, and all assessments are based exclusively on material covered in class. Accordingly, while the textbook is highly recommended, it is not formally required.

Grading

Component	
Lecture and Recitation Attendance	5%
In-class iClicker Questions	5%
Reflection Assignments	5%
Problem Set Quizzes	15 %
Discussion Assignments	15 %
Midterm 1	15 %
Midterm 2	15 %
Final Exam	25 %

- **iClicker and Attendance**

Regular lecture and recitation attendance is important for success in this course. An iClicker question will be used in most class meetings to record attendance and support in-class participation. Students must have an active iClicker Student account and a physical iClicker remote for this course, as iClicker responses will be used to determine attendance and participation.

Please note that the classroom does not have sufficient Wi-Fi capacity to support mobile polling for the entire class so students are required to use a physical iClicker remote rather than a personal device. **A limited number of remotes are available for semester-long checkout on a first-come, first-served basis from the Norlin Library East Service Desk.** Students must activate their CU-provided iClicker account and register their remote before use. The iClicker mobile app cannot be used for in-class voting in this course.

- iClicker checkout (Norlin Library): [link](#)
- Norlin Library East Service Desk: [link](#)
- Set up your CU iClicker account: [link](#)
- Register your iClicker remote: [link](#)

Students are allowed to miss two recitations and three lectures without penalty.

- **Reflection Assignments:**

There will be three brief reflection assignments designed to support students' engagement with the course material through structured preview and review (for example, identifying unclear points or summarizing key takeaways). Details and due dates will be provided on Canvas.

- **Problem Set Quizzes:**

Six problem sets will be assigned for practice and will not be graded. Instead, short in-class quizzes that closely reflect the problem sets will be given on scheduled dates. These quizzes will be used to assess understanding of the material, and the dates will be posted on Canvas. **The lowest quiz score will be dropped** when computing the Homework Quiz component of your grade.

- **Discussion Assignments:**

There will be three discussion assignments involving a combination of written Canvas discussion contributions, peer response, and in-class group discussion focused on applying course concepts to real-world examples. Specific instructions, expectations, and grading criteria will be provided on Canvas.

- **Exams:**

Two midterms will be held in class during the regular lecture period, and the final exam will be scheduled according to the university final exam calendar.

- **Midterm 1:** Friday, Feb 13, 2026
- **Midterm 2:** Friday, Mar 27, 2026
- **Final Exam:** TBD (per university schedule)

Unless otherwise announced, exams are closed-book/closed-notes and require a non-programmable calculator.

Course Policies

- **Communication:** Email is the primary method of communication outside of class and office hours. Please use your `colorado.edu` account and include ECON 3070-020 in the subject line. Course-wide announcements, updates, and clarifications will be posted on Canvas.
- **Collaboration and Academic Integrity:** You are encouraged to discuss concepts and problem-solving approaches with classmates on unproctored learning activities, unless an assignment explicitly prohibits collaboration. **All exams and quizzes must be completed individually.** All submitted work must comply with the University of Colorado Boulder Honor Code and academic integrity policies.
- **Late Work:** Late work is not accepted unless explicitly stated otherwise on Canvas. Because the lowest Homework Quiz score is dropped, students should generally not request extensions for occasional missed quizzes.
- **Electronics:** Laptops and tablets may be used during class only for course-related purposes. The use of electronics during exams is not permitted except as explicitly allowed by the instructor.

Tentative Course Schedule

The schedule below is **tentative** and may be adjusted as needed. The most up-to-date schedule, including any announcements and due dates, will be posted on Canvas.

Date(s)	Topic	Reading
1/9	Course overview; economic models	Ch 1
1/12–1/16	Markets and policy basics	Ch 2.1–2.3, 2.7
1/21–1/30	Consumer theory	Ch 3.1–3.4, 4.1–4.2
2/2–2/6	Demand analysis	Ch 4.3–4.4
2/9–2/11	Production and costs I	Ch 6.1–6.2, 7.1–7.3
2/13	Midterm 1	Ch 1–4.4
2/16–2/18	Production and costs II	Ch 7.4–7.7
2/20–2/27	Competitive markets	Ch 8.1–8.4
3/2–3/13	Welfare, externalities, and public goods	Ch 9.1–9.5, 10.1–10.3
3/16–3/20	Spring Break (no class)	
3/23–3/25	Firm theory and monopoly I	Ch 7.1–7.3, 10.2
3/27	Midterm 2	Ch 6–8.7
3/30–4/3	Monopoly II and pricing strategies	Ch 10.4, 11.1–11.3
4/6–4/10	Oligopoly and market power	Ch 12.1–12.2, 10.4
4/13–4/20	Regulation, collusion, and strategy	Ch 10.4, 10.7, 12.4
4/22–4/24	Dynamic competition and review	Ch 12.5
Final Exam		—

University Policies

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.

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 3 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.

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.

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 in 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 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 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 CUreport@colorado.edu. Information about university policies, reporting options, and support resources including confidential services can be found on the OIEC website. Please know that faculty and graduate instructors must 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 outreach from OIEC about resolution options and support resources. To learn more about reporting and support for a variety of concerns, visit the Don't Ignore It page.

Religious Accommodations

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

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).