



---

Intermediate Microeconomic Theory  
ECON 3070-020  
Summer 2026 - Term A

---

**Instructor:** Dr. Mark Valkovci

**Email:** [mark.valkovci@colorado.edu](mailto:mark.valkovci@colorado.edu)

**Office:** ECON 04D

**Website:** [Canvas.colorado.edu](http://Canvas.colorado.edu)

**Zoom contact:** <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/markvalkovci>

**Office Hours**

TWTH: 11am-12pm

Appointments also available

**Lecture:** M-F 1:00-2:35p

**Teaching Assistants:** Megan Rice

**INSTRUCTOR BIO:**

Dr. Mark Valkovci received his Doctorate in Economics from the University of Colorado Boulder in 2021. In his research he explores the economic impacts of environmental and labor policies, the political economy of pollution, climate change and many other topics. Mark enjoys teaching macroeconomics and environmental economics due not only to his personal interests in those areas, but also because the connections between the economy and the environment grow ever-more-important for the global society. In his free time, Mark enjoys being a huge nerd by reading books/comics, binge watching the shows/movies, and playing the board/video games of many fandoms. His favorite fandom is Star Wars, but he also loves Critical Role and is avid Dungeons and Dragons player.

**Required Materials**

*There are no required materials for this course. All lecture slides, notes, exercises, etc., are provided by the instructor*

**Recommended Materials**

These materials ARE NOT REQUIRED. However, components of the course were developed using these resources. You may find it helpful to acquire some of these materials (or share with fellow students!) in order to gain additional perspective on numerous microeconomic topics. Many of these were used as source material for this course.

**Principles of Microeconomics Review:**

Klein and Bauman *The Cartoon Introduction to Economics Volume 1: Microeconomics*

A free pdf copy of this book is available on Yoram Bauman's website. If you have trouble locating it, please let me know and I would be happy to send you a link.

Acemoglu, Laibson, and List. *Microeconomics* 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Pearson Publishing

Coppock and Mateer. *Principles of Microeconomics* 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Norton Publishing

Intermediate Microeconomic Theory Books:

Besanko and Breautigam *Microeconomics* 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Wiley Publishing

Nechbya. *Microeconomics: An Intuitive Approach with Calculus*. Cengage Learning

Goolsbee, Levitt and Syverson. *Microeconomics* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Worth Publishers

Frank. *Microeconomics and Behavior*. McGraw Hill Publishing

Other Resources:

Grant. *Economic Analysis of Social Issues V2*. Flatword Publishing

Again, I want to stress that these are **not** required materials! Only purchase them if you feel that you need the additional help that these books provide.

**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 3070-020 Intermed. Micro Theory”
  - o Navigate to the recitations homepage in Canvas to find homework assignments, worksheets, and helpful video guides as well as to keep up-to-date with upcoming assignments
- Note: All email correspondence will be through your CU Boulder email address.
  - Do not use the Canvas email or messages, it is not checked.

**CLASS CONTACT EMAILS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

To make sure you receive class emails and announcements:

1. Develop a routine of checking Canvas daily
2. (Optional): Update Canvas email address: Use the “account” link on the left toolbar to update your email and notification settings. Make sure you have all announcements notify you “immediately” because important course information is shared through announcements
  - a. Announcement will also appear on the Canvas course homepage every time you enter the course site
3. Update University email: <https://oit.colorado.edu/identikey-accounts/students> to make sure that the address is the one you regularly check

**COURSE CONTENT:**

Microeconomic theory is a powerful tool that is used as the foundation of problem-solving throughout the majority of economic analyses. This course provides a comprehensive introduction to microeconomic theory and its practical applications. We focus on the behavior of households, firms, and the strategic interactions between these agents in the marketplace. You will learn how economists use microeconomic theory to explain how individuals decide what and how much to buy, how firms decide and how much to sell under various economic environments (e.g, market structure, regulation, economic shocks). We will also extend our analyses to include discussions of market failures and public goods, international trade, taxes, and decision-making under uncertainty.

## **PREREQUISITES:**

Requires prerequisite courses of:

1. ECON 2010 (Principles of Microeconomics): grade of C - or higher
2. ECON 1088, MATH 1081, MATH 1300, MATH 1310 OR APPM 1350: grade of C- or higher

This course is restricted to students with 22-180 units completed

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

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

- Identify the fundamentals of microeconomic theory
- Explain how consumers make decisions in the face of scarcity and how these decisions vary in response to changes in the economic environment
- Explain how firms make decisions in the face of scarcity and how these decisions vary in response to changes in the economic environment
- Compare consumer and producer behavior resulting from the different type of market structures
- Apply algebraic, graphical, and calculus tools to microeconomic theory
- Apply microeconomic principles, theories and models to critically analyze and explain economic situations encountered in the real world that involve microeconomics
- Communicate the results of economic analysis in a clear and professional way

## **COURSE STRUCTURE:**

This course utilizes physical problem sets as well as online problem sets that will be available directly on Canvas. All due dates for assignments are 11:59 pm Mountain Time on the due date unless otherwise specified. The methods of assessment in this course are grouped into the following categories, expanded upon below: attendance & participation, in-class practice sets, take-home problem sets, recitation, quizzes, research proposal, final exam.

### **Attendance & Participation**

Attendance for this course is mandatory and accounts for 50% of your attendance and participation grade category. I will take attendance via attendance sheet or role call at the beginning of each class. Note: being late by more than 15 minutes will result in the loss of attendance points for that day. The second half of this grade category comes from class participation. Class participation means actively engaging in class discussions, asking and answering questions, and working on in-class practice sets during the allotted time.

For the purpose of calculating your course grade, I will drop the three lowest attendance and participation grades

Missing Class: Excused absences are granted on a case-by-case basis. If you will be missing class due to illness, you must notify me prior to class in order to be excused. Other valid reasons for excused absences include family or pet emergencies or University approved activities (sports, clubs, etc. Note: fraternity and sorority events do not count as valid excuses for missing class or assignments)

### **In-class Practice Sets**

### **Take-home Problem Sets - 15%**

Each day students will be given a set of questions and problems to complete outside of class and return the next day.

### **Recitation**

Recitation in this course are mandatory. Students will have recitation twice a week starting in the second week of classes. Recitations will consist of the Teaching Assistant for this course conducting guided walkthrough problem sets.

### Quizzes

Quizzes occur each Tuesday starting June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Quizzes will occur at the beginning of class and will have a quizzing period of 30 minutes. Quizzes are not cumulative and the material covered on each quiz will represent that last week's worth of material (Monday-Monday). Quizzes are graded for correctness. Makeup quizzes are only given in the case of an excused absence on a quiz date. Excused absences follow the rules in the above section.

### Research Proposal - 8%

Each student will be responsible for the development of a research proposal. The research proposal is due on the last day of class, Friday June 26<sup>th</sup> at the beginning of class. For this project, students will develop a novel research question that they wish to pursue. They will then propose a simple mathematical model to be optimized in an attempt to answer their research question. The research proposal grade will be broken into several components: research question approval (10 pts), checkpoint 1 (5 pts), checkpoint 2 (5 pts), and the research project (80 pts). Further details regarding the research proposal will be discussed on the first day of class.

### Final Exam

The University requires final examinations for each course. The final examination in this class is mandatory and worth 18% of your final grade in the course. The final exam will take place in-person in our normal classroom. For a schedule of final exams, please consult the registrar's website or your BuffPortal. University policy allows you to change the date or time of the final exam **ONLY IF** you have at least 3 final exams scheduled for the same day. If this is the case, please let me know no later than April 10<sup>th</sup> so that accommodations may be made.

### ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

See the table below for a quick breakdown of class assignments and grade weights.

Assignment Group	Individual Item Weight	Number of Items	Number of Graded Items	Number of Items Dropped for final grade calculation	Total Weight of Assignment Group
Attendance & Participation	0.5%	23	20	3	10%
In-class Practice Sets	0.72%	20	18	2	13%
Take-home Problem Sets	1%	17	15	2	15%
Recitation	1%	8	2	6	6%
Quizzes	5.5%	4	4	0	22%
Research Proposal	8%	1	1	0	8%
Final Exam	26%	1	1	0	26%
				Total	100%

## Opportunities for Bonus Points

There are several opportunities for bonus points that reflect a semester-long commitment to completing coursework and going above and beyond.

### 1. *Perfect Attendance*

This is an accelerated course and we will be moving quickly through material. As a result, each and every lecture day is important in order to not fall behind on material. Students who achieve perfect attendance will receive a 2% bonus added to their final exam score.

### 2. *Perfect Take-home Problem Set Completion*

Students who turn in every take-home problem set on time will receive a 2% bonus added to their final exam score.

### 3. *Practice Final Exam (up to 4%)*

Toward the end of the semester, a practice final exam will be made available on Canvas. The practice final is graded 50% for completeness and 50% for correctness. The practice final will appear as a Canvas quiz. Students who complete the practice final can earn up to 4% bonus on the final exam (partially determined by their score on the practice final).

## Course Grading Scale

Grading Scale	
A	≥ 93%
A-	90-92.99%
B+	87-89.99%
B	83-86.99%
B-	80-82.99%
C+	77-79.99%
C	73-76.99%
C-	70-72.99%
D+	67-69.99%
D	63-66.99%
D-	60-62.99%
F	<60%

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### **NETIQUETTE**

All students should be aware that their behavior impacts other people, even online. I hope that we will all strive to develop a positive and supportive environment and will be courteous to fellow students and your instructor. Due to the nature of the online environment, there are some things to remember.

1. Always think before you write. In other words, without the use of nonverbals with your message, your message can be misinterpreted. So please think twice before you hit submit.
2. Keep it relevant. There are places to chat and post for fun everyday stuff. Do not stray from the discussion in the assigned questions.
3. Never use all caps. This is the equivalent of yelling in the online world. It is not fun to read. Only use capital letters when appropriate.

Make sure that you are using appropriate grammar and structure. In other words, I don't want to see anyone writing "R U" instead of "are you". There are people in the class that may not understand this

- type of abbreviation, not to mention it does nothing to help expand your writing and vocabulary skills. Emoticons are fine as long as they are appropriate. A smile 😊 is welcome, anything offensive is not.
4. Treat people the same as you would face-to-face. In other words, it is easy to hide behind the computer. In some cases, it empowers people to treat others in ways they would not in person. Remember there is a person behind the name on your screen. Treat all with dignity and respect and you can expect that in return.
  5. Respect the time of others. This class is going to require you to work in groups. Learn to respect the time of others in your group and your experience will be much better. Always remember that you are not the only person with a busy schedule, be flexible. Do not procrastinate! You may be one that works best with the pressures of the deadline looming on you, but others may not be that way. The same is true for the reverse. The key to a successful group is organization, communication and a willingness to do what it takes to get it done.

Website: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

*Compiled by Melissa Landin, Instructor, Dept. of Communication, Inver Hills Community College,*  
[mmlandin@inverhills.edu](mailto:mmlandin@inverhills.edu)

## **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](#).

Students causing serious disruptions, creating unsafe or intolerant learning environments, or repeated disruptions will be removed from the classroom, Canvas course, and online homework platform. Any remaining assignments will be given a grade of zero.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE DROPS**

In line with University policies and standards, any students that do not attend any lectures, complete assignments, or email me by the end of the first full week of classes may be administratively dropped from the course to make room for participating students on the waitlist. Once a student is administratively dropped from the course, it will not be possible to re-enroll in the course.

## **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

The use of artificial intelligence including, but not limited to, ChatGPT, Dall-E 2, etc., are prohibited for this course. This means that students are not allowed to use artificial intelligence to complete assignments or pass off work as their own. However, artificial intelligence may offer students a quick way to help organize information when studying and preparing for quizzes or exams. The use of AI to develop study plans or tools is allowed. Please keep in mind that the information received from AI text generators is not always accurate or complete and could create further confusion on course concepts. For this reasons, I highly discourage the use of AI tools to study concepts in this course.

If you have any questions about the AI policy in this course, please feel free to talk to me after class or stop by my office hours!

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES

### REQUIREMENTS FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Members of the CU Boulder community and visitors to campus must follow university, department, and building health and safety requirements and all public health orders to reduce the risk of spreading infectious diseases.

The CU Boulder campus is currently mask optional. However, if masks are again required in classrooms, students who fail to adhere to masking requirements will be asked to leave class. Students who do not leave class when asked or who refuse to comply with these requirements will be referred to Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution. Students who require accommodation because a disability prevents them from fulfilling safety measures related to infectious disease will be asked to follow the steps in the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus.

For those who feel ill and think you might have COVID-19 or if you have tested positive for COVID-19, please stay home and follow the [further guidance of the Public Health Office](#). For those who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms and have not tested positive for COVID-19, you do not need to stay home.

### 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 or required medical isolation for which you require accommodation, please contact Disability Services and send an email to me as soon as possible. I am willing to be as flexible as I can be. Also see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) on the Disability Services website.

### PREFERRED STUDENT 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.

All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution: [honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@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 [cureport@colorado.edu](mailto:cureport@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 HOLIDAYS**

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. In this class, since it is online and assignments are open for at least a week, there are no extensions given for assignments for which the due dates fall on holidays. However, if a holiday falls during an exam, please reach out to me as soon as possible (and at least 2 weeks prior to the exam) so that we can schedule an alternative time. 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.

Free and unlimited telehealth is also available through [Academic Live Care](#). The [Academic Live Care](#) site also provides information about additional wellness services on campus that are available to students.

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT**

What are the basic computer specifications for Canvas?

- Visit the official [Canvas Computer Specifications Page](#) for the latest list of recommended system requirements.

Which browsers does Canvas support?

- Visit the [Supported Browsers Page](#) for the detailed list of internet browsers in Windows, MacOS, iOS and Android.

Skill Requirements

- Students also need to possess basic computer skills, such as:
  - How to use a web browser and word processor
  - How to send and receive email
  - How to locate a file and attach it to an email or upload a file into a course
  - How to copy and paste
  - Must know basic typing skills and keyboard commands
  - Must know basic computer terminology

## 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](mailto: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.
- MyLab tech support:
  - [https://help.pearsoncmg.com/ccng/ccng\\_instr/ccng\\_xmel\\_instr\\_help\\_support\\_bridge.html](https://help.pearsoncmg.com/ccng/ccng_instr/ccng_xmel_instr_help_support_bridge.html) or <https://support.pearson.com/getsupport/s/>

## COURSE WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Any student who wishes to withdraw from the course must submit a request directly to [Continuing Education](#). For complete information, please visit their website at <https://ce.colorado.edu/resources/topics/dates-and-deadlines-general-info/>

## 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 in Canvas.