
Intermediate Microeconomic Theory

The University of Colorado, Boulder

Economics Department

ECON 3070-030

Instructor:	Sara Truesdale
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Office Hours:	Monday and Wednesday 1:00pm-2:30pm
Office Location:	ECON 414
Lecture Time:	MWF 2:30pm-3:20pm
Lecture Location:	ECON 117

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce the theory used to study the decision making of individual economic agents. We will begin with a brief review of relevant mathematical concepts as well as supply and demand analysis. Next we will discuss consumer choice and how consumers make choices to maximize their utility. Then we will turn to the firm side of the market and evaluate producer decision making. Once we have a thorough understanding of the two sides of the market, we will put them together to show how price and output are determined in the market. Finally we will differentiate and analyze different market structures.

PREREQUISITES

A minimum grade of C- in ECON 2010. A minimum grade of C- in one of the following courses: ECON 1088, MATH 1081, MATH 1300, MATH 1310, MATH 1330, the two course sequence: APPM 1340/APPM 1345, APPM 1350, or FNCE 2010.

TEXTBOOK

Microeconomics, 6th Edition, by Devid Besanko and Ronald Braeutigam (ISBN:978-1-119-55484-4), Wiley. 2020.

Students may optionally purchase the textbook. Graded problems will not be assigned from the textbook. However, the class will follow the textbook closely so it is strongly recommended that students read the relevant chapters as they are covered in class. Some students might also find the practice problems helpful when studying for exams.

GRADING

Your grade will be calculated as per the following:

Attendance	5%
Recitations	10%
Problem Sets	20%
Midterm I	20%
Midterm II	20%
Final Exam	25%

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following chart.

Grade	Percentage
A	94 & Above
A-	90-93.99%
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	Below 60%

EXAMS

Midterm I	February 20th (Fri)	Chapters 1-5
Midterm II	April 3rd (Fri)	Chapters 6-9
Final Exam	May 1st (Fri)	Cumulative

The two midterms will be held during regular lecture time in the lecture classroom. The midterms will not be cumulative, but will consist of the content covered in the indicated chapters. The final exam will be cumulative and will be held in the lecture classroom on Sunday, May 4th. There will be no make-up exams. If you miss a midterm due to a proven emergency or other unusual circumstances (you should inform me prior to each midterm), the weight of the midterm will be shifted to the final exam (e.g. if you miss a midterm I will re-weight the final exam to be 45% of your final grade). Moverover, you must take the final exam in this course: there will be no make-up final exam.

ATTENDANCE

5% of your final grade will be determined by attendance. I will take attendance at random in lecture. In order to allow for some leeway, you only need to be counted for 85% of the time to receive the full 5% for your attendance grade. If you are in lecture for attendance fewer than 85% of the times it is taken, your attendance grade will be the proportion of the lectures for which you were counted. As such, there is no need to email me to let me know you will be absent or why, unless you are very sick and will be out for than two weeks. If this is the case, you should contact me to discuss how the missed classes will be handled.

PROBLEM SETS

Problem sets serve as a important component of the class to help you learn and apply the course material. You are allowed to work with other students in the course on the problem sets, but each student must turn in their own set of answers. A physical copy of your answers must be turned in during the lecture that they are due. Late problem sets will not be accepted. Problem sets will be graded on correctness and partial credit will be awarded. The two lowest graded problem set will be dropped from your grade. In the case that you miss an assignment due to an extreme illness or emergency, I will shift the weight of the missed one to subsequent assignments.

RECITATION

Starting the second week of the semester you will have a weekly recitation session with the TA for this course. The goal of recitation is for you to review, practice, and have an opportunity to ask questions about the material covered in the course. Your TA will determine exactly how recitations are run and how they will be graded.

COMMUNICATION

Outside of lectures and office hours, the optimal way to contact me would be through email. Please use your colorado.edu account to email me because sometimes other email accounts are filtered into my spam folder. Please allow 24 hours for a response during the week, and 48 hours on weekends. I am not allowed, by law, to discuss grades with you or anyone else via email. Please do not email me with questions about your grades: instead, see me during office hours.

EXAM POLICIES

Exams are the only components of the final grade for which collaboration is explicitly prohibited. If you are caught cheating you will receive a 0 on the associated assignment. Non-graphing calculators are allowed to be used during exams; use of any other device will not be permitted.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Please note that this is a tentative schedule and due dates are subject to change. Any such change will be communicated clearly in class and on Canvas.

Week	Dates	Chapters Covered	Problem Sets & Exams
Week 1	Jan 9	Ch. 1	
Week 2	Jan 12, Jan 14, Jan 16	A.1-A.7, Ch. 2	
Week 3	Jan 21, Jan 23	Ch. 3	PS1 due Jan 23 (Fri)
Week 4	Jan 26, Jan 28, Jan 30	Ch. 3, 4	
Week 5	Feb 2, Feb 4, Feb 6	Ch. 4, 5	PS2 due Feb 4 (Wed)
Week 6	Feb 9, Feb 11, Feb 13	Ch. 5	PS3 due Feb 11 (Wed)
Week 7	Feb 16, Feb 18, Feb 20	Review, Ch. 6	PS4 due Feb 18 (Wed), Midterm 1 Feb 20 (Fri)
Week 8	Feb 23, Feb 25, Feb 27	Ch. 6, 7	
Week 9	Mar 2, Mar 4, Mar 6	Ch. 7, 8 & 9	PS5 due Mar 6 (Fri)
Week 10	Mar 9, Mar 11, Mar 13	Ch. 8, 9	PS6 due Mar 13 (Fri)
Week 11	Mar 16 - 20	No Class, Spring Break	
Week 12	Mar 23, Mar 25, Mar 27	Ch. 9	PS7 due Mar 27 (Fri)
Week 13	Mar 30, Apr 1, Apr 3	Review, Ch. 10	PS8 due Apr 1 (Wed) Midterm 2 Apr 3 (Fri)
Week 14	Apr 6, Apr 8, Apr 10	Ch. 11, 13	
Week 15	Apr 13, Apr 15, Apr 17	Ch. 13, 14	PS9 due Apr 17 (Fri)
Week 16	Apr 20, Apr 22, Apr 24	Ch. 16, Review	PS10 due Apr 24 (Fri)
Week 17			Final Exam May 1 (Fri) 1:30pm - 4:00pm

UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

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.

ACCOMMODATIONS 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.

If you have a temporary illness, injury or required medical isolation for which you require adjustment, please email me and we will work for an appropriate accommodation.

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, please let me know ahead of any conflict with class assignments and tests and we can discuss how to rearrange those to accommodate your religious observance.

See the campus policy regarding religious observances for full details.

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.

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.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, DISCRIMINATION, HARRASMENT, 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 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 that individuals impacted receive outreach from OIEC about their options and support resources. To learn more about reporting and support for a variety of concerns, visit the [Don't Ignore It](#) page.

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.

Updated 1/7/2026