

ECON 3070 - Intermediate Microeconomic Theory

Spring 2025

Tu/Th 3:30-4:45PM Economics Bldg 117

Recitation Times and Locations:

Tu 8:00-8:50AM Eaton Humanities Bldg 186

Tu 5:45-6:35PM Eaton Humanities Bldg 186

Instructor: Professor Richard Mansfield

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Office: ECON206C

Office Hours: Tu 1:00PM-3:00PM, W 3:30PM-4:30PM

Teaching Assistant: Jiyun Kim

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TA Office: ECON 414

TA Office Hours:

Tuesday 9:00AM-10:00AM

Wednesday 1:00PM-2:00PM

August 21, 2025

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 two in-class midterm examinations (tentative dates: Tuesday, September 23rd and Tuesday, November 4th). Each midterm will comprise 22.5% of each student's grade, so that the midterms collectively will account for 45% of the grade. 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 4:30PM to 7:00PM on December 11.

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 should 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 \$80 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 \$259 fee. If you wish to opt out of purchasing the online version of the textbook, you must do so by September 5th 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.

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-iclicker-reef-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-reef-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 during Midsemester Reading Day (October 9th) and Fall Break (November 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 26/28	Perfect Competition Overview	Ch. 2
Sep 2/4	Consumer Preferences	Ch. 3
Sep 9/11	Demand Curves	Ch. 4
Sep 16/18	Nonlinear Budget Constraints	Ch. 3
Sep 23/25	1st Midterm Exam & Consumer Welfare	Ch. 4
S/O 30/2	Production Functions	Ch. 6
Oct 7/NC	Cost Minimization	Ch. 7
Oct 14/16	Cost Min. & Elasticities	Ch. 2
Oct 21/23	Profit Maximization, Supply Curves	Ch. 8
Oct 28/30	Short-Run Perfect Competition	Ch. 8
Nov 4/6	2nd Midterm Exam & Long-Run Perfect Competition	Ch. 8
Nov 11/13	Taxes and Welfare Analysis	Ch. 9
Nov 18/20	Monopoly & Imperfect Competition	Ch. 10 & 12
Nov NC/NC	Fall Break	None
Dec 2/4	Price Discrimination (if time permits) & Review	Ch. 11
Dec 11	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 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.

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 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.

10.5 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.

10.6 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.