
Intermediate Microeconomic Theory

The University of Colorado, Boulder

Economics Department

ECON-3070-040

Instructor:	Joey Kilpatrick	Lecture Location:	Ketchum Arts & Sciences 1B71
Email:	joey.kilpatrick@colorado.edu	Lecture Day/Time:	MWF 5:45pm - 6:35pm
Office Hours:	Mon 2:00pm - 3:30pm Wed 2:00pm - 3:30pm	Recitation 041 Location:	Ketchum Arts & Sciences 1B60
Office Location:	ECON 414	Recitation 041 Day/Time:	Tuesday 8:00am - 8:50am
Teaching Assistant:	Fengyu Zhang	Recitation 042 Location:	Ketchum Arts & Sciences 1B44
TA's Email:	fengyu.zhang@colorado.edu	Recitation 042 Day/Time:	Tuesday 5:45pm - 6:35pm
TA's Office Hours:	Tuesday 9:00am - 11:00am	Term:	Fall 2026
TA's Office Location:	ECON 313	Credit Hours:	4

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Explores theory and application of models of consumer choice, firm and market organization, and general equilibrium. Extensions include intertemporal decisions, decisions under uncertainty, externalities, and strategic interaction.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this class a student should be able to:

- **Apply Intermediate Level Concepts:** Demonstrate a solid understanding of intermediate microeconomic concepts, including consumer choice theory, producer behavior, market equilibrium, and welfare analysis.
- **Evaluate Consumer Choice:** Evaluate consumer preferences, utility maximization, and demand theory, and utilize indifference curve analysis to understand how changes in prices and income impact consumer choices.
- **Assess Producer Decision-making:** Analyze producer decisions regarding profit maximization using concepts such as production functions, cost curves, and revenue curves.
- **Analyze Market Structures:** Analyze and differentiate between various market structures, including perfect competition, monopoly, monopolistic competition, and oligopoly, considering their implications for pricing, output, and economic efficiency.
- **Employ Mathematical Techniques:** Utilize mathematical techniques, such as calculus and algebra, to analyze and solve complex microeconomic problems, including optimization and equilibrium calculations.

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(*optional*):

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

Students may optionally purchase the textbook. Owning the textbook is not required for any graded assignments in the course. The class will follow the textbook closely so students may find reviewing the chapters and practice problems useful when studying for exams.

GRADING

Grading Scheme	
Attendance	5%
Recitations	10%
Problem Sets	15%
Midterm I	17.5%
Midterm II	17.5%
Midterm III	17.5%
Final Exam	17.5%

Letter grades will be assigned with a "+/-" according to the following chart. Following guidelines set out by the Economics Department, the overall average grade of the course will be curved to a B-/C+ (around 80%). The size of this curve will not be known until after all components of the course have been graded.

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	September 25th (Fri)	Chapters 1-5
Midterm II	October 21st (Wed)	Chapters 6-8
Midterm III	November 18th (Wed)	Chapters 9-13
Final Exam	December 7th (Mon)	Cumulative

The three midterms will be held during regular lecture time in the lecture classroom on September 25th, October 21st, and November 18th. The midterms will not be cumulative, but will consist of the content covered in the indicated chapters. The exams are structured solely with short answer questions. The final exam will be held in the lecture classroom on Monday, December 7th from 7:30pm to 10:00pm. It will be cumulative and consist of short answer questions. Moverover, you must take the final exam in this course: there will be no make-up final exam. In order to allow students to make up for earlier poor performances in the course, and the fact the final is cumulative, your final exam score can replace your lowest midterm score. 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 35% of your final grade).

ATTENDANCE

5% of your final grade will be determined by attendance. At the beginning of each lecture I will have an attendance sign-in sheet at the front of class. As you come into class please sign your name so you get credit for attendance. If you arrive late to class, you must wait until the end of lecture to sign-in. In order to allow for some leeway, you can miss up to 5 lectures without an excused absence and still receive the full 5% for your attendance grade. If you have more than 5 unexcused absences, your attendance grade will be the proportion of the lectures you did attend.

PROBLEM SETS

Problem sets will serve as a primary component of the course for you to test your knowledge of the material before exams. 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. There will be 6 total problem sets through the semester. In order to allow for some leeway, your lowest graded problem set will be dropped.

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, however attendance will be a primary component of the final recitation grade.

COMMUNICATION

Outside of lectures and office hours, the best 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.

MISSED ASSIGNMENTS

In general, late assignments will not be accepted. In the case that you miss an assignment due to an extreme illness, I will shift the weight of the missed one to subsequent assignments. If you miss a midterm exam the weight will be shifted to the final exam.

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 be considered cheating.

ELECTRONICS

Cell phone use is not permitted during class. If there is an emergency requiring the use of a cell phone please step outside the classroom. The use of tablets and laptops for educational purposes (i.e. lecture slides, Canvas, note taking) is of course permitted.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Dates	Chapters Covered	Special Notes
Week 1	Aug 21	Syllabus	
Week 2	Aug 24, Aug 26, Aug 28	Ch. 1, Math Review, & Ch. 2	
Week 3	Aug 31, Sept 2, Sept 4	Ch. 2 & 3	
Week 4	Sept 9, Sept 11	Ch. 3 & 4	Sept 7 Labor Day; PS1 due Sept 11
Week 5	Sept 14, Sept 16, Sept 18	Ch. 4 & 5	
Week 6	Sept 21, Sept 23, Sept 25	Ch. 5 & Review	PS2 due Sept 23; Midterm I Sept 25
Week 7	Sept 28, Sept 30, Oct 2	Ch. 6	
Week 8	Oct 5, Oct 7, Oct 9	Ch. 7	PS3 due Oct 5
Week 9	Oct 12, Oct 14, Oct 16	Ch. 8	PS4 due Oct 12
Week 10	Oct 19, Oct 21, Oct 23	Review & Ch. 9	Midterm II Oct 21
Week 11	Oct 26, Oct 28, Oct 30	Ch. 9 & 10	
Week 12	Nov 2, Nov 4, Nov 6	Ch. 10 & 11	PS5 due Nov 2
Week 13	Nov 9, Nov 11, Nov 13	Ch. 11 & 13	PS6 due Nov 13
Week 14	Nov 16, Nov 18, Nov 20	Review & Market Comparisons	Midterm III Nov 18
Week 15			Nov 23–25 Fall Break; Nov 26–27 Thanksgiving
Week 16	Nov 30, Dec 2, Dec 4	Cumulative Review	Dec 4 Last Day of Classes
Week 17			Mon, Dec 7 Final Exam (7:30–10:00 p.m.)

UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

ACCEPTABLE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN THIS CLASS

AI may not be used for obtaining answers to assignments in this course. If caught, you will receive a 0 grade on the assignment. While AI can be useful in many settings, I encourage students to utilize other course resources before using AI. In my own experience, it does not always produce correct answers. However, it is a useful tool to aid in learning so long as it is given proper scrutiny and you have a solid knowledge base of the material. If you have any questions on the concepts in the course and how to solve problems, I encourage you to reach out to the instructor or TA of the course via email as well as utilize office hours and recitations as opportunities to get answers to any questions you may have about the material. We are happy to help!

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.