

**ECON 3070-040: Intermediate Microeconomic Theory**  
**Spring 2026**

Instructor: Professor Yongmin Chen

<https://www.colorado.edu/faculty/chen-yongmin/>

Office: Econ 108

Class Time and Location: TTH 9:30-10:45am; University Club 4

Office Hours: Tuesday 2:50-4:50pm; Thursday 2:50-4:50pm

**Course Description:** Microeconomics studies the behavior of individual economic agents and their interactions. This course consists of three parts. Part 1 studies consumer behavior and market demand. After a quick introduction to the basics of microeconomic analysis, we will examine how a consumer may make optimal choices, how individual demands are formed, and how market demand can be derived. Part 2 discusses the firm's technologies, production functions, and optimal input choices to minimize production costs. This is followed by the analysis of firms' supply decisions under perfect competition and the competitive equilibrium. Part 3 studies price and output under imperfect competition, with topics including monopoly, oligopoly, and game theoretical analysis of strategic interaction, as well as economic efficiency and public policy.

**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)

**Course Material:** The textbook is *Microeconomics, 5th or 6th edition*, by David Besanko and Ronald Braeutigam, published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc. The required readings are indicated below.

**Homework assignments** are very important for you to review concepts and solve problems. Each homework assignment is due at the beginning of the class at the indicated date on Canvas. Homework assignments will be graded, and their solutions will be explained during recitations. One lowest score for homework assignments will be dropped in computing grades.

**Grading:** Grades are based on homework (20%), midterm exam 1 (20%), midterm exam 2 (20%), and the final exam (40%). No makeup exams will be given. If there is a proven emergency that causes you to miss an exam, your grade for your missed exam will be filled in by reweighing future exams (e.g., if you miss the second exam, I will reweigh the final).

How to Study effectively: **Read the assigned material before each class** to be prepared. **Attend all classes** and take detailed class notes. After each class, **have a quick review within the same or next day**. Complete each homework on time. Get your questions for each class answered without delay.

Course Schedule:

Below is a tentative schedule. Changes to the schedule will be announced in class during the semester, and you are responsible for updating the information accordingly. Chapters and page numbers indicated below correspond to those in the textbook.

Lectures 1-2	Introduction to Microeconomic Analysis Readings: Ch 1; Ch 2. HW 1: pp.70-73: 2.3, 2.8, 2.15, 2.16, 2.17.
Lectures 3-4	Consumer Preferences and Utility Readings: Ch 3. HW 2: pp.102-104: 3.10, 3.13, 3.15, 3.16, 3.17, 3.21.
Lecture 5	Consumer Choice Readings: Ch 4. HW 3: pp.140-145: 4.1, 4.3, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.9, 4.18.
Lectures 6-8	Individual and Market Demands Readings: Ch 5 HW 4: pp.200-203: 5.6, 5.7, 5.12, 5.18, 5.19, 5.23, 5.25.

**EXAM 1 (Week 5):** Thursday, 2/5, at normal class time.

Lectures 9, 10	Inputs and Production Readings: Ch 6. HW 5: pp.243-247: 6.2, 6.5, 6.9, 6.12, 6.17, 6.19, 6.20.
Lectures 11, 12	The Cost of Production Readings: Ch 7. Ch. 8 HW 6: pp.281-284: 7.1, 7.4, 7.5, 7.9, 7.20; pp.323-326: 8.5, 8.6.
Lectures 13-15	Perfectly Competitive Markets Readings: Ch 9, Ch 10

HW 7: pp.382-387: 9.1, 9.6, 9.9, 9.11, 9.15, 9.18.

HW 8: pp.436-438: 10.1, 10.17.

**EXAM 2 (Week 10):** Thursday, 3/12, at normal class time.

Spring Break: Week 11 (3/16-20)

Lectures 16-18      Monopoly  
Readings: Ch 11 (442-478), Ch 12  
HW 9: pp.485-488: 11.1, 11.2, 11.5, 11.6, 11.13; pp.527-529: 12.1, 12.2, 12.3, 12.10

Lectures 19-20      Market Structure and Competition  
Readings: Ch. 13  
HW 10: pp. 568: #13.2, 13.4, 13.5.

Lectures 21-23      Game Theory and Strategic Behavior  
Readings: Ch. 14  
HW 11: pp.601-606: 14.1, 14.2, 14.3, 14.4, 14.5, 14.11, 14.12, 14.21.

Lectures 24-25      Decisions under uncertainty  
Readings: Ch. 15

Week 16, April 23      Review for the final exam

**FINAL EXAM:** Indicated on Canvas.

# **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 of adhering to the Honor Code.

All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution: [StudentConduct@colorado.edu](mailto:StudentConduct@colorado.edu). Students found responsible for violating the Honor Code will be assigned resolution outcomes from Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution and will be subject to academic sanctions from the faculty member. Visit [Honor Code](#) for more information on the academic integrity policy.

## **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](mailto:DSinfo@colorado.edu) for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) on the Disability Services website.

## **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 communicate the need for a religious accommodation in the first two weeks of the semester. See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

## **Preferred Student Names and Pronouns**

CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information does not always align with how they identify. If you wish to have your preferred name (rather than your legal name) and/or your preferred pronouns appear on your instructors' class rosters and in Canvas, visit the [Registrar's website](#) for instructions on how to change your personal information in university systems.

## **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.

### **Additional classroom behavior information**

- [Student Classroom and Course-Related Behavior Policy.](#)
- [Student Code of Conduct.](#)
- [Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance.](#)
- [Student Code of Conduct.](#)
- [Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance.](#)

## **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 [OIEC@colorado.edu](mailto:OIEC@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 the person impacted receives outreach from OIEC about resolution options and support resources. To learn more about reporting and support 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.