

University of Colorado at Boulder, Fall 2014
Math Tools for Economists I
Econ 1078-001

Meeting Time: MWF 1200-12:50 p.m.

Room: MUEN E131

Instructor: Joshua Schabla

Office: Econ 206

E-Mail: joshua.schabla@colorado.edu

Web: <https://learn.colorado.edu>

Office Hours: Tue 10:30-12:00, Fri 10:30-12:00 or by appointment. Don't be shy about asking questions either in class or in my office hours.

Textbook: *Essential Mathematics for Economic Analysis, 4th*, by Kurt Sydsaeter, Peter Hammond, and Arne Strom. You will also use this book for Econ 1088, and having a math book around later in life isn't a bad thing, so I suggest buying one rather than renting it. Previous editions of the text are also acceptable to use, however the page numbers might be different.

Course Description and Objectives:

This course is the first of two designed to give you the mathematical background necessary for future courses in business and economics. Topics to be covered in this course include basic "college" algebra, systems of equations, simple linear and nonlinear equations, set theory and summation notation.

It is important to remember that what makes math difficult for some isn't the math itself, it's the language we use to describe it. If I asked you to perform some mathematical operation, such as driving a car (something that uses some incredibly advanced mathematical techniques), you could do it. The difficulty lies in describing what your brain is actually doing. To that end, **calculators will not be allowed on tests**. I will make sure that any actual calculations you need to perform on the test will be very straight forward, but I want you to understand what you are doing and calculators are a major impediment to understanding.

Grading:

There will be homework assignments, posted on D2L by 3pm Friday, and due by the end of class the following Friday. Late homework will not be accepted without a doctor's note for any reason. If you are going to miss class for any reason you can drop off the homework in the Economics main office or my office any time **before the start of class**, any homework turned in after I leave the classroom Friday will be considered late and receive a 0.

The midterms are not cumulative, they will only cover the material since the previous test. There will be no make-up exams, if you miss an exam it will count as a zero. **If you miss more than 2 midterm exams for any reason, the weight of that exam will carry over onto the final as there will be no make-up**

exams. That is, if you miss two exams, you will have the third that you did take worth 20% of your grade, and the final becomes worth 50% of your grade.

The final exam is **cumulative** and will be given on **Monday Dec 15th from 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m** in our normal class room.

Your grade will come from the following breakdown:

30% - Homework (Top 10 out of 11)

40% - Midterms (Top 2 out of 3)

30% - Final

There will be 11 homework assignments given throughout the semester, with one being dropped, and graded out of 10 points. Thus, each homework assignment will be worth 3% of your total grade. The midterms will be out of 100, with only the top two counting towards your final grade, thus each midterm is worth 20% of your final grade.

Grading Scale:

93% to 100% A	72% to 77% C
90% to 92% A-	70% to 71% C-
88% to 89% B+	68% to 69% D+
82% to 87% B	62% to 67% D
80% to 81% B-	60% to 61% D-
78% to 79% C+	59.5% or lower F

- University policies regarding classroom behavior are available at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-classroom-and-course-relatedbehavior>.
- The Honor Code Council can be contacted by email at athonor@colorado.edu or by telephone at 303-735-2273. Additional information regarding the University Honor Code is available at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://honorcode.colorado.edu/>.
- Disability Services can be contacted by telephone at 303-492-8671, or in person at the Center for Community. University policies regarding disabilities are available at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>.
- University policies regarding religious practice are available at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html.
- The Office of Discrimination and Harassment can be reached by telephone at 303-492-2127. University policies regarding Sexual Harassment and Amorous Relationships are available at <http://hr.colorado.edu/dh/Pages/default.aspx>
- The Office of Student Conduct (formerly the Office of Judicial Affairs, for those keeping score) can be reached at 303-492-5550. Its website is <http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/studentconduct/index.html>.
- <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/> is the repository of all campus policies.