Spring 2016 ECON1078-001 Math Tools for Economists 1

Syllabus/Course Information

Course Description

This course is the first of two important prerequisites that teach key math and logic skills required for future economics courses. Topics include algebra, graphs, functions, set theory, basic proofs and probability.

Instructor Info/Schedule

Instructor: Doyoung Park Class Meetings: MWF 11:00 am – 11:50 am at ECON 117 Office: ECON 401 Office Hours: Monday 10:00 – 11:00, Wednesday 10:00 – 11:00 or by appointment Email: dopa3399@colorado.edu

Textbook:

Kurt Sydsæter, Peter Hammond, and Arne Strom: Essential Mathematics for Economic Analysis. 4th Ed., Pearson. Purchase of this edition is highly recommended as ECON 1088 uses the same textbook.

Class Organization:

The class will be normally 50-minute lecture. At the beginning, I will write an overview on the board so that you can take a look what you will learn that day. This overview will be help you to understand which part you are learning and how all contents are related. I will review the previous lecture before we actually talk about the topic of that day. I will try to give many practice problems during class and will give you 2-3 min (per question) to solve it by yourself or in group. You don't need to hand in the answer sheet. We will have lectures on Monday and Wednesday, and group activity on Friday. I will pick questions from the textbook and give you 30 minutes to solve it. The rest of the time will be spent checking answers. You need to submit the group answer sheet. (If we are behind schedule, we will have regular class on Friday.)

Grading:

Your total grade in this course will be determined by the following breakdown.

- Quiz (20% of Grade)
- Friday Class Group Work (10%) will not be graded. (Basically attendance/attitude score)
- 2 Midterms: 1st midterm -20%, 2nd midterm 25%
- Final (35% of Grade): The final will be cumulative.

In Detail,

Quiz:

Total number of quizzes you will have during the semester is not fixed. It will depend on how fast we cover topics. I will NOT announce the date you have a quiz so be prepared! You do not need to be overwhelmed since it will be a group test. (group size: $2 \sim 3$ people)

Friday Group Work:

You will have time on Friday to review and solve questions regarding contents that you learned that week. You can do it on your own or with your partner. I will give you a piece of paper to check the attendance and think of it as attendance/attitude score. This score will be given as extra credit. There is also a chance that you do NOT receive this score if I think your class attitude is inappropriate. (This will be determined subjectively.)

Homework?

There will be NO HOMEWORKS! that you need to turn in. I don't want to keep putting pressure on you. However, you should keep in mind that math/statistics needs a lot of practice to get used to it and eventually to get a good grade. I will give you time to solve practice problems during class and Friday class. I will tell you suggested problems you need to solve as preparation for the quizzes, midterms and the final exam. If you have any questions about the problems, you are always welcome to ask questions! Ask as many questions as you can!

Communication:

If you have questions, you can send me an email. If you are asking for what you can find the answer in the syllabus, I will not answer your email. However, if it is related to the class contents, I will try my best to reply as soon as possible.

Test Policy:

There will be no makeup exams for midterms unless you have acceptable reasons and proofs. If you miss the final, there is NO way to make it up although you have good reasons. Never miss the final exam. You have to show all your works to convince me that you actually know the concept. There will be short proof questions as well. But most questions will require you to show equation expansions and derived results.

The exam is not comprised of multiple-choice questions. This means that you need to show your calculations and everything clearly and neatly. I will value more on the procedure rather than the answer. See below:

Grading Criteria:

- No (Insufficient) procedure & Incorrect Answer: 0% of the total credit
- No (Insufficient) procedure & Correct Answer: 20%
- Procedure with crucial mistakes (subjectively determined) & Incorrect Answer: 50% (same for correct answer)
- Procedure with minor mistakes (subjectively determined) & Incorrect Answer: 80% (same for correct answer)
- Correct procedure & Correct Answer: 100%

All quizzes and exams will follow this grading rule. Exams will be very similar to suggested questions, quizzes and those you did it as a group work. So the tip for preparing exams is to pay attention to these materials!

Calculators:

Not allowed. I will ask you to bring it if I think is needed.

Other Notes:

Student with Disabilities:

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from disability services in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability services determine accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Center for Community N200.

Religious Observance Policy:

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments, or required attendance. If you have a conflict, please contact me at the beginning of the term so we can make proper arrangements.

Classroom Behavior Policy:

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty has the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_cod

Honor Code:

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic

dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at: http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html and at http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/. Discrimination & Harassment Policy The University of Colorado Policy on Sexual Harassment applies to all students, staff and faculty. Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual attention. It can involve intimidation, threats, coercion, or promises or create an environment that is hostile or offensive. Harassment may occur between members of the same or opposite gender and between any combinations of members in the campus community: students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Harassment can occur anywhere on campus, including the classroom, the workplace, or a residence hall. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been sexually harassed should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH and the campus resources available to assist individuals who believe they have been sexually harassed can be obtained at: http://www.colorado.edu/odh/