

Math Tools for Economists I

ECON 1078-002, Fall 2016

Instructor Richard Peterson
Class Meetings MWF 10:00am-10:50am, HLMS 211
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This is the best way to contact me. If you do not receive a reply within 24 hours, please assume I did not get your email and resend it.

Office ECON 4
Office Hours Monday and Wednesday 11:00am,
and by appointment, via email

Course Website The course website is accessed through Desire2Learn where you will find all related course materials.

Course Description and Objectives

Economics is an extremely mathematical discipline. This course and the following course (ECON 1088) are designed to get all students interested in Economics well acquainted with mathematical tools necessary for success in Economics courses. See tentative schedule for topics covered in this course.

Expectations

You can expect me to do my best to help you succeed in this course. I will try my best to answer all questions, provide practice material, provide applications of the material and encourage active thought in the classroom. You may expect me to be respectful and professional at all times by arriving on time, silencing my phone, reserving personal conversation for before and after class, and being courteous with everyone.

I expect you to take the class seriously and to ask questions when something is unclear and actively participate to help us all understand the material better. I also expect you to be respectful and professional at all times by arriving on time, silencing your phone, reserving personal conversation for before and after class, and being courteous with everyone.

Succeeding in a Math class

Math is learned and mastered through practice. Anyone who practices math is capable of doing math well. I will assign homework each class. It is your responsibility to do all of the homework problems to make sure you are getting sufficient practice with the material. To encourage practice and completion of homework assignments, there will be several quizzes and tests in this course.

Textbook

Essential Mathematics for Economic Analysis, 4th edition, by Knut Sydsater, and Peter Hammond with Arne Strom. Economics 1088 uses the same textbook. This is a very good reference book, which you may use in the future to refresh your knowledge of algebra and calculus.

Calculator Note

I will always try to write exams that will not require a calculator. However, I understand the comfort of checking simple math so I will allow a simple scientific calculator on exams. Although you may find using a graphing calculator useful in doing some of the homework problems, **NO GRAPHING CALCULATORS OR CELL PHONES WILL BE ALLOWED DURING EXAMS.** (for homework I also strongly recommend the website Wolfram Alpha in place of a graphing calculator.)

Laptop Note

Nothing works better than good, old fashioned paper and pencil for taking notes in a math class. In general, **NO OPEN LAPTOPS ALLOWED** during lecture. If you have a specific, valid reason for a laptop in class, please speak with me about your situation individually.

Grading

Your grade will come from the following breakdown:

- 20% Quizzes (Drop lowest quiz)
- 25% Midterm 1
- 25% Midterm 2
- 30% Final Exam (Cumulative)

FERPA

In accordance with the law, I am not allowed to ever email your grades to you or to distribute them in any way that is identifiable. As such, I will post grades only on D2L, or you may come to office hours to get your grades. Never ask me to email them or bring them to class; I will not do either.

Quizzes

There will be approximately 5 quizzes throughout the semester. These will not be long and you will be given 20-25 minutes to complete the quiz. I will announce quiz dates in advance during lectures. Although no homework is graded, quizzes provide a chance to prove you have done and understood the homework. Quizzes will be similar to questions from your homework. **THERE ARE NO MAKE UP QUIZZES.** If you miss a quiz, then it will simply be your lowest score and it will be dropped.

Exams

We will take a total of three exams in this course: two midterms and the final exam. The second midterm will be somewhat cumulative by the nature of math, but will focus on new material. The midterm exams will be held during the normal class time. There are no makeup exams. If you miss a midterm then your final will be worth 55% of your final grade. The final exam will be cumulative and cannot be dropped for any reason. If you have three or more final exams scheduled on the same day and this is the last final of the day, you are entitled to arrange an alternative exam time for the last exam or exams scheduled on that day. To qualify for rescheduling final exam times, you must provide evidence that you have three or more exams on the same day, and arrangements must be made with me no later than the end of the sixth week of the semester.

Exam Schedule

Midterm 1 Friday, September 30th

Midterm 2 Friday, November 11th

Homework

For each chapter, I will suggest a list of problems from the book that will be good practice for the exams and quizzes. Homework is NOT graded, but note that doing and understanding the assigned problems will help you on quizzes and exams.

Attendance

Like homework attendance is not a part of your grade. However, as math is a skill best learned by practice students benefit from seeing the material in class (with examples that may appear on exams), reading the textbook, and then also completing homework problems. If you have to miss class then make sure to get notes from another classmate.

Students with Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services at least two weeks before exams so that your needs be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Center for Community N200, and <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>.

If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see guidelines at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/go.cgi?select=temporary.html>.

Disability Services' letters for students with disabilities indicate legally mandated reasonable accommodations. The syllabus statements and answers to Frequently Asked Questions can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>.

Religious Observance Policy

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly 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 the first week of class so that we can make proper arrangements. See full details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html.

Classroom Behavior Policy

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail 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 differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code.

Discrimination and Harassment Policy

The University of Colorado at Boulder Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures, the University of Colorado Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedures, and the University of Colorado Conflict of Interest in Cases of Amorous Relationships Policy apply to all students, staff, and faculty. Any student, staff, or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of sexual harassment or discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127, or the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>.

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; 303-735-2273). 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/>.

Tentative Schedule

Week of	Course Material	Topics	Notes
Aug. 22	1.1, 1.2, 1.3	Numbers, Powers, Rules of Algebra	Pretest
Aug. 29	1.4.1.5, 1.6	Fractions, Inequalities	
Sept. 5	1.7, 2.1	Intervals & Absolute Values, Simple Equations	No class 9/5 (labor day)
Sept. 12	2.2, 2.3	Equations cont.	
Sept. 19	2.4, 2.5, 4.1	Equations cont., Nonlinear Equations, Functions	
Sept. 26	4.2, Review I, MTI	Functions cont.	MIDTERM I Sept. 30
Oct. 3	4.3, 4.4, 4.5	Graphs of Functions, Linear Functions, Linear Models	
Oct. 10	4.6, 4.7, 4.8	Quadratic Functions, Polynomials, Power Functions	
Oct. 17	4.9, 4.10, 5.1	Exponential Functions, Logarithmic Functions, Shifting Graphs	
Oct. 24	5.2, 5.3, 5.4	New Functions from Old, Inverse Functions, Graphs of Equations	
Oct 31	5.5, 5.6, 3.1	Distance in the Plane, General Functions, Summation Notation	
Nov. 7	3.2, Review II, MTII	Rules of Sums	MIDTERM II Nov. 11
Nov. 14	3.3, 3.4, 3.5	Double Sums, Logic, Mathematical Proofs	
Nov. 21	Fall & Thanksgiving Break		
Nov. 28	3.6, 3.7, 15.1	Set Theory, Induction, Systems of Linear Equations	
Dec. 5	15.2, Final Review	Matrices and Matrix Operations	