

Econ 1088-001 Math Tools for Economists II

Spring 2020

Instructor: Matthew Hurt	Class Time: M/W/F 10:00 – 10:50
Email: matthew.hurt@colorado.edu	Room: MUEN E131
Office Hours: 9:00 – 9:50 M/W 2:00 – 4:00 T	Office: Econ 306

Course Information

Course Website: <https://canvas.colorado.edu/>

Recommended Textbook: Knut Sydsaeter, Peter Hammond, Arne Strom and Andres Carvajal, Essential Mathematics for Economic Analysis, Pearson, 5th ed., 2016 (3rd or 4th edition are also acceptable)

Prerequisites: Econ 1078 or equivalent

Course Description: This class is the second of a two course sequence, building upon the basic foundation developed in ECON 1078. We will study derivatives, optimization, and integrals (chapters 6 + in the textbook). These tools will help you understand the mathematical structure of modern economics and the models used to explain human behavior. A strong grasp of these concepts is necessary, but not sufficient, to succeed in later economics courses.

Course Policies

General Policies

- Class time will be devoted to lecture, but will also present you an opportunity to practice problems in peer groups and get assistance from the instructor.
- Please allow up to 24 hours for an email response. Plan accordingly.
- No make up assignments will be given.
- Use of electronic devices is allowed, but if your use of these devices harms your peer's efforts at learning you will be asked to surrender the device or leave the classroom.
- You are required to bring your own materials, such as pencil and paper.
- This is a math course, so I expect all quizzes and homework to be completed in pencil. I won't take away points if you use pen, I will just be disappointed.
- There is no required attendance, but if the class average on a quiz falls below 70% I will require attendance. If attendance is required, there will be no excused absences.

Grades

- Your course grade will be constructed based on the below rubric.

Homework (10) : 5%	Participation: 5%
Quizzes (5): 15% each	Final: 30%

- Grades will be uploaded to canvas as assignments are graded.
- I will not curve any individual assignment or quiz, but I may apply a curve at the end of the course.
- Below I provide some guidance for how an average student acquires the below grades. There is nothing wrong with being an average student – most are. You are an average student unless you have very compelling evidence to the contrary.

A	You attend class regularly, work on homework in groups and insist on using the group work as an opportunity to teach your peers each week. You are diligent with your time outside of class, consume all the extra material I provide and scour the web for more practice. You are an office hour regular and encourage your peers to join you. By the end of the semester you have mastered the material and would be able to teach this course yourself.
B	You attend class regularly, work on homework in groups and use the opportunity to enrich your learning. You actively pursue outside learning and consume all of the extra material I provide. You attend office hours regularly. Together we build you a solid understanding of the material that you can confidently take into your intermediate and advanced coursework.
C	You attend class regularly, work on homework in groups and use the opportunity to enrich your learning. You attend office hours the day before the quiz. You make no effort at outside learning and refuse to utilize the extra resources I provide. Together we develop your understanding of the material, but there is obvious room for improvement.
D	You attend class regularly, present clear effort on the homework assignments, but make no effort at outside learning and refuse to utilize the extra resources I provide. Then, either because I am not a good fit for you, or you are not mentally prepared to engage in a rigorous coursework, you consistently fail the quizzes and fail the final.
F	You make the conscious decision to not engage with the course.

Homework

- The pre-test is due by 1/17 and counts as homework.
- Going forward, one homework will be due each week on Monday (including week's that we have quizzes).
- Homework will be graded based on completion - not accuracy.
- Completion means serious effort. I want you to attempt every problem, and if you don't finish a problem, give an explanation for why (What concept are you struggling with? Could you solve a similar problem if a small part of it was changed? Etc?)
- You are encouraged to work in groups of any size, but at most five names can be submitted per copy of homework.
- I will post the answer key for the homework end of business day Monday.
- **I will drop two homework assignments.**

Exams

- Quizzes: We will have 5 quizzes. The calendar for quizzes is online. Quizzes are held on **Wednesday**. No makeups or separate time quizzes will be given unless you have documented accommodation. You must notify me with documentation of your accommodation before the first quiz by 1/20/20. All quizzes will be held in the normal classroom during the normal time. **I will drop your lowest quiz score at the end of the course.**
- If you will travel during the semester for **university sponsored content**, you **must** meet with me at the **start of the semester** so we can map out which quizzes you will miss and develop a fair plan for evaluation.
- Final: The final is cumulative. The final exam is on Saturday 5/2 4:30 – 7:00 pm in our normal classroom. Partial credit will be awarded on all quizzes and the final.

Cheating

Don't do it. If I catch you cheating, I will not give you any indication other than providing you with a 0 for the quiz/final and reporting you to the Honor Code Council for review. If I catch two instances of cheating, I will fail you for the entire course. Really, just don't do it.

University Policies

- **Disability Policy:** I am committed to providing everyone the support and services needed to participate in this course. If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to your instructor a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by e-mail at dsinfo@colorado.edu.
- **Honor Code:** 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. Incidents of academic misconduct will 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 myself and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion).

- **Religious Observation 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 make arrangements with me no later than the first week of the semester.
- **Code of 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 we express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences or race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance and nationalities.
- **Discrimination and Harassment Policy:** CU Boulder's policy on Discrimination and Harassment can be found on the university website. The policy on Sexual Harassment and on Amorous Relationships applies to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status 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 discrimination and harassment resources can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>.