

ECON 2010-100: Principles of Microeconomics

Lecture: DUAN G125, MTWRF 9:20am—10:55am

Instructor: Mate Szurop

Office: ECON 309B

Email: mate.szurop@colorado.edu

Office hours: MTWRF 11:00am-12:00pm or by appointment

Course description and objectives

The objective of the course is to develop an understanding of the fundamental concepts, mechanisms, and techniques of microeconomics. Upon successful completion, students should be able to analyze households' and firms' decision-making in a perfectly competitive and monopolistic environment, as well as answer questions about trade, externalities, and government policy using graphs and basic algebra.

Requirements and prerequisites

While the course has no official prerequisites, all students are expected to be able to perform basic algebra on paper or using a calculator.

Notable dates

- Exam 1: Friday, June 9
- Exam 2: Friday, June 16
- Exam 3: Friday, June 23
- Exam 4: Friday, June 30
- Independence Day, university holiday: Tuesday, July 4
- Final Exam: Friday, July 7
- Deadline to post final grades: Monday, July 10

Course structure

Lectures: The course follows an in-person format, and as such for successful completion attendance is inevitable. The instructor will deliver all lecture materials using a virtual whiteboard, and while lecture notes will be posted afterwards, all students are expected to take notes and follow on their own in class. The study of economics is a dynamic subject that revolves around processes and progressions, thus attempts to study using only stationary materials tend to result in failure.

Recitations: The goal of recitations is to further engage students with the nuances of the material and provide them with the opportunity to practice the various steps of solution algorithms. Recitations will be held twice a week by teaching assistants, who will review the key elements of the core material and work on the recitation worksheets posted on Canvas in a small group environment. While answer keys to these worksheets will be posted at the end of every week, students shouldn't rely on them and must strive to complete the exercises during

the recitation sessions. To emphasize the importance of practice, recitation attendance is not only mandatory, but will also count towards the final grade.

Office hours: The instructor and the TA's host a set of office hours every week with the goal of providing struggling students with extra support and resources. This practice is meant to encourage students to seek help immediately if they struggle with a given portion of the material. Failure to do so will have lasting effects on class performance due to the highly layered nature of economics. Office hours are set and posted on Canvas at the beginning of the semester, however, should a student experience a scheduling conflict, often other time slots might be available by appointment.

Homeworks: To further practice the material, two sets of homework assignments will be posted on Canvas every week that the student is required to submit by the posted deadline. These assignments are graded based on completion, but the student should make a meaningful effort to present correct results and check their solutions against the answer key posted on Thursdays. To encourage this practice, two randomly selected homework assignments will be graded for correctness at the end of the term.

Examinations: 4 midterm exams and one final exam will be given in class on the dates presented above. Each exam is **cumulative** to emphasize the layered nature of the class and will feature both multiple choice and computational or graphing questions. While the midterm exams will largely focus on the most recent material with a small number of questions testing the student's knowledge on previous chapters, the final exam will consist of a more even distribution of exercises across the span of the course. The lowest of the four midterm exam grades will be dropped, which is meant to serve as an implicit curve. Further curves might be instituted at the instructor's discretion but must NOT be expected. Note that the use of a calculator (NOT a cell phone) is permitted for all exams.

Extra credit: A 3% overall bonus will be given to any student should they achieve an A+ (at least 98%) on all 4 midterm exams. An additional 1% is given to all students if at least 75% of the class completes the midterm survey by the posted deadline, and another 1% is awarded to everyone for FCQ response rates exceeding 75%. Further extra credit opportunities might be given at the instructor's discretion.

Resources: All relevant resources including lecture notes, recitation worksheets, homework and exam answer keys will be posted on the course's Canvas page under the *Modules* tab, however, the most important resource is the student's own set of written notes.

Required materials: All students are expected to attend class equipped with a set of writing instruments and a calculator (NOT a cellphone). Acceptable examples for writing instruments include pens or pencils with a notebook, or a tablet with a smart stylus. While laptops are permitted for viewing posted materials, they will NOT be suitable for meaningful note taking.

Optional materials: The University virtual provides access to the textbook supplementing the course via the *Materials* tab on the Canvas page at a discounted price. Should the student plan on using a paper copy instead, they need to make sure to opt out by the deadline to avoid any unwanted charges. The textbook is considered merely a supplementary material for this course, and thus its use will not make up for a lack of attendance or insufficient notes. Note that since

owning the textbook is optional, older editions are also permitted which can be accessed at a significantly lower price point.

Grading

The weights of the final grade are as follows:

- The three best midterm exams: 15% each, in total 45%
- Homework completion: 10%
- Two randomly selected homework assignments grade for correctness: 10%
- Recitation: 10%
- Final exam: 25%.

Late submissions are not accepted, and result in an automatic zero for the given assignment. Make-up exams are not given. If the student misses a midterm exam, that exam automatically becomes the lowest, and as such dropped. The weight of each additional missed midterm exam shifts over to the final exam. Missing the final exam will result in an automatic zero grade for the exam. Note that once an exam is started, it counts towards the final grade and the student cannot opt out later!

University policies

The instructor and the students will comply with all University policies and regulations including but not limited to the ones regarding classroom behavior, COVID-19, accommodations for disabilities, student names and pronouns, academic integrity, religious holidays, sexual misconduct, harassment, and discrimination.