

ECON 2010-200: Principles of Microeconomics

Lecture: RAMY C250, MWF 2:30pm—3:20pm

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Office hours: MW 11:00am-12:30pm 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 a 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

- Labor Day (No class): Monday, September 4
- Last day to drop a class without penalty: Wednesday, September 13
- Exam 1: Wednesday, September 13 (tentative)
- Exam 2: Wednesday, October 4 (tentative)
- Exam 3: Wednesday, November 1 (tentative)
- Fall Break (No class): Monday through Wednesday, November 20-22
- Thanksgiving (No class): Thursday through Friday, November 23-24
- Exam 4: Wednesday, November 29 (tentative)
- Last day of classes: Thursday, December 14
- Reading Day (No class): Friday, December 15
- Final Exam: 1:30pm—4:00pm, Monday, December 18 (tentative)
- Deadline to post final grades: Thursday, December 21 (tentative)

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 slides and 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 once a week by teaching assistants, who will review the key elements of the core material and work on the recitation worksheets—posted on Canvas before each session—in a small group environment. While answer keys to these worksheets will be posted at the end of every week, students should not rely on them and must strive to complete the exercises during the recitation sessions. To emphasize the importance of practice, recitation attendance is mandatory and will 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, a homework assignment will be posted on Canvas at the end of every chapter 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 posted answer key. To encourage this practice, two randomly selected homework assignments will be graded for correctness at the end of the term. For the homework assignments, students are permitted to work in groups, however, if they choose to do so, they must ensure that each member of the group submits their own copy and that the names of all group members are indicated on each one of their submissions. While both handwritten and typed up solutions will be accepted, students are expected to submit their homework assignments in a PDF format. A failure to do so will result in an immediate zero grade on the assignment in question.

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 and will feature questions exclusively from the previous exams. 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 at least 95% 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 valuable 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 of 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 provides virtual access to the textbook supplementing the course via the *Materials* tab on the Canvas page at a discounted price. Should the student plan to use 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 for the final grade are as follows:

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

Late submissions are not accepted in any form, under any circumstances and will result in an automatic zero grade for the assignment. Make-up exams are not given. If the student misses a midterm exam, that exam automatically becomes the lowest, and as such dropped. If a student needs to miss an additional exam due to extenuating circumstances the weight of that exam is automatically distributed between the remaining two exams. Any further missed exam will result in an automatic zero grade. Missing the final exam will also result in an automatic zero grade. Note that once an exam is started, it counts towards the final grade and the student cannot opt out later!

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote, or online. Failure 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 race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation, or political philosophy.

For more information, see the [classroom behavior policy](#), the [Student Code of Conduct](#), and the [Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance](#).

REQUIREMENTS FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Members of the CU Boulder community and visitors to campus must follow university, department, and building health and safety requirements and all public health orders to reduce the risk of spreading infectious diseases.

The CU Boulder campus is currently mask optional. However, if masks are again required in classrooms, students who fail to adhere to masking requirements will be asked to leave class. Students who do not leave class when asked or who refuse to comply with these requirements will be referred to Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution. Students who require accommodation because a disability prevents them from fulfilling safety measures related to infectious disease will be asked to follow the steps in the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus.

For those who feel ill and think you might have COVID-19 or if you have tested positive for COVID-19, please stay home and follow the [further guidance of the Public Health Office](#). For those who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms and have not tested positive for COVID-19, you do not need to stay home.

ACCOMMODATION FOR DISABILITIES, TEMPORARY MEDICAL CONDITIONS, AND MEDICAL ISOLATION

[Disability Services](#) determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so your needs can be addressed. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance.

If you have a temporary medical condition or required medical isolation for which you require accommodation, please contact the instructor of record immediately. Also see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) on the Disability Services website.

PREFERRED STUDENT NAMES AND PRONOUNS

CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.

HONOR CODE

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the [Honor Code](#). Violations of the Honor Code may include but are not limited to: plagiarism (including use of paper writing services or technology [such as essay bots]), cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty.

All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution: honor@colorado.edu, 303-492-5550. Students found responsible for violating the [Honor Code](#) will be assigned resolution outcomes from the Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution as well as be subject to academic sanctions from the faculty member. Visit [Honor Code](#) for more information on the academic integrity policy.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND/OR RELATED RETALIATION

CU Boulder is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. University policy prohibits [protected-class](#) discrimination and harassment, sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner violence (dating or domestic violence), stalking, and related retaliation by or against members of our community on- and off-campus. These behaviors harm individuals and our community. The Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) addresses these concerns, and individuals who believe they have been subjected to misconduct can contact OIEC at 303-492-2127 or email cureport@colorado.edu. Information about university policies, [reporting options](#), and support resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and graduate instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when they are made aware of incidents related to these policies regardless of when or where something occurred. This is to ensure that individuals impacted receive an outreach from OIEC about their options for addressing

a concern and the support resources available. To learn more about reporting and support resources for a variety of issues, visit [Don't Ignore It](#).

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

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. In this class, please contact the instructor of record for such accommodations.

See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The University of Colorado Boulder is committed to the well-being of all students. If you are struggling with personal stressors, mental health or substance use concerns that are impacting academic or daily life, please contact [Counseling and Psychiatric Services \(CAPS\)](#) located in C4C or call (303) 492-2277, 24/7.

Free and unlimited telehealth is also available through [Academic Live Care](#). The [Academic Live Care](#) site also provides information about additional wellness services on campus that are available to students.