

Syllabus for Principles of Microeconomics

ECON 2010 Spring 2024

9:05-9:55am on Monday, Wednesday, Friday.

Instructor and contact information

Instructor: Dr. Daria Bottan (O'Brien, I just got married and am in process of changing last name).

Email: daria.bottan@colorado.edu

Office: 04B Economics Building (basement of Econ Building next door to the male bathroom)

I am always happy to receive an email from you. Having said that: I typically do not answer emails during the weekends. I found out that I am able to be more thoughtful and show up at work as a better and happier person if I disconnect from work over the weekend.

My Office Hours:

I will hold *office hours* during 3 different times every week. Feel free to stop by, ask questions, and just chat.

If you would like to talk to me but your schedule does not allow you to come during office hours, email me and we can arrange a personal appointment.

I realize that coming to office hours may be uncomfortable and even a little scary. But once you do come to office hours, you'll probably realize it isn't as bad as you imagined. I also feel like going to office hours can be really useful: I can help you resolve a lot of questions and issues if we speak one on one. Do not hesitate to reach out no matter how small or large your issue is. I am here to help. I am available to you, your issues matter to me and office hours is the best way to discuss them (I prefer it to email).

I'll give office hours in my office:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 12:10-1:10

Coffee Hour:

I also realize that sometimes maybe you want to talk to me but it feels intimidating to come to office hours or approach me after class. Coffee Hour is my attempt to provide a space where we can speak in an informal and relaxing way. I'll be in my office drinking coffee every Wednesday from 2:30 to 3:30 (once the weather gets warmer, I'll move to a bench in front of the economics building), you are welcome to join me. Feel free to stop by and introduce yourself, chat about Econ, career or whatever is on your mind. I look forward to meeting you!

TA office hours:

TA office hours will be posted on the Canvas web page below the syllabus by the end of the first week of classes. Our TAs are very competent and I highly recommend their office hours too.

Questions about technical issues:

I'll cover these questions in more detail further in the syllabus however note that I can't help students with most of the technical issues regarding our class website (Achieve), however technical support can and here is the link for it: <https://macmillan.force.com/macmillanlearning/s/chat-with-us> If you email me, I'll just give you the same link.

If you still have questions after chatting with technical support, please email your TA who will be able to get back to you faster than me or come to office hours.

Description of the course

In this class you will learn tools to analyze how individuals, firms and governments make economic decisions. Among other things you will be introduced to trade-offs, opportunity costs, how the forces of supply and demand shape prices, how firms make their production and pricing decisions, why certain goods are provided by the government while others are provided by the free market, cases when free markets fail to deliver efficient outcomes.

Course goals

By the end of the semester, you will learn basic tools of economic reasoning and will be able to apply those tools to your daily life decisions. In addition to that you will be able to use these tools to form your own judgment about issues like minimum wages, free trade, drug related crimes, and antitrust laws.

Class format

The class will be taught in a flipped format: you will watch short videos and answer some questions before coming to class (the Pre-Lecture assignments will be due almost every Monday and Wednesday before class, but sometimes also on Fridays). The work you do before class will allow us to free up some class time for a richer experience during the class.

During the classes we will: 1. Discuss more challenging aspects of the material in detail (because you already know the basics from the pre-lecture videos). 2. Practice answering questions through iClicker similar to those that will appear on the exams. 3. You will not have to read the textbook, though the textbook will be available for a richer experience. 4. The lectures will be easier to follow because you will already know something on the topic before class. 5. You will get bonus extra credit points from the iClicker questions. The flipped format will help you learn better and be more prepared for the exams.

There will also be recitation with weekly quizzes which will be graded generously (shouldn't be stressful) but require attendance.

After class and the recitation you will do homework (due Sundays), to further practice the concepts you learned.

Note: **Pre-lectures do NOT replace lectures!** Just watching Pre-lectures will NOT give you enough information to answer questions on homework and most importantly exams. However Pre-lectures will help you make the most out of our time during the class time.

The most important thing for doing well in this class: *During the lectures I will ask you questions through iClicker. I recommend you to really try to answer the questions on your own*

before you hear my explanations. I know it seems like an extra effort and most people (including myself) are always lazy to put in the extra effort. However contemplating questions is the best way to learn! Learning happens in your head, not on my slides. Attempting these questions on your own will aid your learning so much and will really help you get a higher grade on the exams (there is a lot of pedagogy research suggesting that). The one best thing you can do for yourself in this class is attempting to solve those questions.

Why are Homework, in class questions and practice tests so important? Imagine yourself watching a video of someone playing guitar. Would you expect to pick up a guitar and be able to play immediately after watching the video? Intermediate Microeconomics is no different from playing guitar: you can't expect to see me solve problems and then be able to actually solve them on the exams. Just like with the guitar you absolutely need to practice. I know it isn't easy to practice, but it is the only way to get good at it.

Recitation

Recitations will be led by teaching assistants and will include: additional practice questions (best way to learn), discussion of topics covered in class. A recitation is a great opportunity to ask additional questions and get clarifications. Different thoughts, questions and opinions are valuable. recitations will occasionally have extra credit opportunities and will have weekly graded quizzes. The first week of class the recitation will NOT meet.

In the past semesters I would not do recitation quizzes and recitation attendance was very low, while exam grades were not great. I am making attendance of recitations a part of the grade because I think it will incentivize you to practice more questions and hence learn more and hence do better in this class. Your success matters to me! Recitation quizzes will be 5% of the grade.

You cannot recover the missed recitation regardless of the reason why you missed it (only exception, religious reasons). However, you can miss 2 recitations per semester without any penalty to your grade.

Grading

Your grade will consist of:

10% Average Pre-lecture assignment grade (both video and questions)

15% Average Homework Grade

5% Recitation Quizzes

20% Midterm Exam 1

20% Midterm Exam 2

30% Final Exam

+ up to 1% from the iClicker

Grading Scale

93% and above corresponds to A, 90-92% corresponds to A-; 87-89% corresponds to B+, 83-86% is B, 80-82% is B-; 77-79% corresponds to C+, 73-76% is C, 70-72 is C-; 60-69% corresponds to D; below 60 corresponds to F.

There is no rounding. This rule holds regardless of how close you are to a grade cutoff. For example, 89.99 is a B+ and will not be rounded to an A-.

Extra Credit

To compensate for the fact that there is no rounding I will occasionally offer extra credit activities. Those are bonus points and there is no way to recover them if you miss them.

Exams

Exams will consist of multiple choice questions. The questions will be based on the material covered during lectures. During most of the classes some time will be devoted to practicing multiple choice questions similar to those that will appear on the exams.

If you miss an exam without *documented excused absence*, the grade for that exam will be zero. In case of an excused absence for the midterm exam, the weight of the midterm will be shifted to the final (final exam will have a weight of 55%). It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor about the excused absence as soon as possible.

Currently **Midterm Exam 1 is scheduled for February 26th and Midterm Exam 2 is scheduled for April 8th.** The exams will take place during class time.

Final Exam will be in person on **Tuesday, May 7th 4:30-7pm 1:30-4pm.** In our usual lecture hall (in person).

Lectures

I will post the slides from the lectures after class however I strongly recommend you to come to class. You will get extra credit for it and will learn more!

Pre-lecture assignments

You will do and submit Pre-lecture assignments through the following website: [achieve.macmillanlearning.com](https://www.achieve.macmillanlearning.com) To get full points for a pre-lecture assignment, you need to both watch videos (Pre-lectures) *and* answer questions regarding them (Bridge Questions) before the video lectures I'll post. If either of the two is incomplete the grade for that Pre-lecture assignment is zero. Typically, we will have 2 Pre-lecture assignments per week. One assignment will be due at 9:00am before Monday class and the second assignment will be due at 9:00am before Wednesday class. Information about pre-lectures and when they are due will be available in a tentative calendar (posted in the same folder as the Syllabus on Canvas) and on canvas. The grade for *pre-lectures will be based on completion rather than on correctness*, you will get a full grade as long as you put reasonable effort in and complete the assignments.

The due date of pre-lecture assignments will NOT be extended for any reason. However, I will drop the 2 Pre-lecture assignments with the lowest grades when calculating the final grade for the semester.

Important note regarding technical problems: there will be absolutely NO excuses accepted for technical problems. If you had technical problems you will have to use your free assignments (which is partly the reason they are offered). If you leave the assignment for the last minute, you are taking the risk of not having enough time in case a technical problem comes up during the submission process. I assume all of you are rational individuals and considered this risk at the time of making your decision to leave the assignment for the last minute.

Homework assignments

There will be approximately 11 Homework assignments. These will consist of multiple-choice questions. Homework assignments can only be submitted online through the Achieve website. Homework will be due on Sunday by 11:55pm. Information about Homework Assignments will be posted on Canvas.

The homework questions are graded based on correctness. However, if you answered the question incorrectly, you have several more attempts to answer the same question. Each extra time you attempt the question you receive a grade penalty but it is just 5% per attempt. I hope Homework is a learning experience for you, rather than something stressful.

The due date on homework assignments cannot be extended for any reason. However, I will drop the homework assignment with the lowest grade when calculating your final grade for the semester. Again, there will be absolutely no excuses accepted for technical problems.

Information about Achieve access

Access to achieve will happen through CU Book Access. Unfortunately, students have to pay for it. But it is a flat fee which covers all your book materials for all classes in the semester. You can read more about it here: <https://www.cubookstore.com/bookaccess>

Course Webpages and Materials

Course Website

Announcements for the class, information about Pre-lecture assignments and Homeworks, along with due dates, lecture slides and grades will be posted on Canvas. It is your responsibility to check the announcements regularly.

The main website you will use is Achieve website. All the assignments except for Midterm and Final Exams will be submitted through there.

Books

I think the Pre-lectures, Lectures and all the practice questions are enough to succeed in this class. However, if you would like a book, there is a book for this class which will be available on Canvas through the same platform as Achieve.

Stevenson, B. and Wolfers, J., 2020. Principles of microeconomics. Worth Publishers.

I picked this book because it has particularly good examples and I think examples are key for understanding and further applying the material.

Technical issues with Achieve

You might experience technical issues with Achieve. I know that is very frustrating and I am frustrated with you. I personally don't know how to address most of the technical issues. I just know that the videos Achieve uses are the best in the industry and are substantially cheaper than most textbooks. So I hope you find it a worthwhile system to use as well.

What to do if you experience technical issues:

STEP 1: SELF-TROUBLESHOOT

- Google Chrome is the recommended browser for the best Achieve experience
- Allow pop-ups on your browser
- Clear cache/cookies in your browser settings
- Use a desktop or laptop computer
- Reliable internet connection. Are others sharing bandwidth (streaming movies)?

STEP 2: CONTACT CUSTOMER SUPPORT

CLICK HERE to contact Customer Support

(Chat with Customer Support, then either call tech support or email with Customer Support)

STEP 3: EMAIL YOUR INSTRUCTOR

If AFTER you contact tech support the issue is not resolved, please email me. When doing so, you MUST provide the CASE NUMBER from your phone call or email with tech support. I will not be able to help you without the case number.

Missing work due to technical issues with Achieve

There is no way to recover an assignment if you missed it due to technical issues. Please do assignments in advance to give yourself enough time to resolve technical issues if they appear. There are 400 students in the class, it is not possible to address the missed assignments on a case by case basis because then it is very hard to be fair and treat everyone the same way in this situation. I can't give points back to one student who emails me and not to another student who was too shy to email or agreed with the policy in the syllabus. I find the fair way is having the same policy for everyone and making no exceptions to the policy. And you can use your free assignments for those assignments with technical issues. And there are a lot of assignments so even missing several will not affect your grade by a lot. I am not trying to be mean; I am just really trying to be fair. I think fairness is critical for an academic community.

Only exceptions: Religious holidays and multiple week sickness during the semester (email me in this case).

Clicker

We will use iClicker to answer questions during class. Do NOT purchase access to iClicker. We can get it for free and will start using it during the second class: I will provide you with all the necessary info for it during the first and second week of class.

Grading: if you do all the iClicker questions throughout the semester you will get +1% to your overall grade in the end of the semester. The grade you get for iclicker is proportional to the amount of questions you answer. The grade is based on completion not on correctness, however if I see

throughout the semester that students do not put the effort into answering the questions, I might make it dependent on performance.

Iclicker points are bonus point, there is absolutely no way to recover them if they were missed regardless of why they were missed.

Accommodation for Disabilities

If the only thing you require as an accommodation in this class is extended time on the exam you do not need to email me in advance, just fill in the form below at least 2 weeks prior to the first midterm exam. It is very important that you fill in this form because otherwise you will NOT receive the extra time on the exam.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpOLScRfTAnO0eiIyY2TXY0pqzF4kcgzXPVfXwaEWSlmIIGtYbFdA/viewform?usp=sf_link

If you would like to talk to me about your experience with learning disabilities and you think I can be of help, please reach out. I would love to talk. I have a learning disability myself and I am committed to your success.

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) on the Disability Services website.

Classroom Behavior

Both students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote or online. 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 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 COVID-19

As a matter of public health and safety, all members of the CU Boulder community and all visitors to campus must follow university, department and building requirements and all public health orders in place to reduce the risk of spreading infectious disease. CU Boulder currently requires COVID-19 vaccination and boosters for all faculty, staff and students. Students, faculty and staff must upload proof of vaccination and boosters or file for an exemption based on medical, ethical or moral grounds through the MyCUHealth portal.

The CU Boulder campus is currently mask-optional. However, if public health conditions change and masks are again required in classrooms, students who fail to adhere to masking requirements

will be asked to leave class, and students who do not leave class when asked or who refuse to comply with these requirements will be referred to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. For more information, see the policy on classroom behavior and the Student Code of Conduct. If you require accommodation because a disability prevents you from fulfilling these safety measures, please follow the steps in the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus.

If you feel ill and think you might have COVID-19, if you have tested positive for COVID-19, or if you are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated and have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, you should stay home and follow the further guidance of the Public Health Office (contacttracing@colorado.edu). If you are fully vaccinated and have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, you do not need to stay home; rather, you should self-monitor for symptoms and follow the further guidance of the Public Health Office (contacttracing@colorado.edu).

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. Most importantly feel free to email me any information you find important regarding this matter.

Artificial Intelligence

The use of artificial intelligence including, but not limited to, ChatGPT, Dall-E 2, etc., are prohibited for this course. This means that students are not allowed to use artificial intelligence to complete assignments or pass off work as their own. However, artificial intelligence may offer students a quick way to help organize information when studying and preparing for quizzes or exams. The use of AI to develop study plans or tools is allowed. Please keep in mind that the information received from AI text generators is not always accurate or complete and could create further confusion on course concepts. For this reasons, I highly discourage the use of AI tools to study concepts in this course.

If you have any questions about the AI policy in this course, please feel free to talk to me after class or stop by my office hours!

Honor Code

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code academic integrity policy. Violations of the Honor Code may include, but are not limited to: plagiarism, 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 the Honor Code (honor@colorado.edu); 303-492-5550). Students found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found on the [Honor Code website](#).

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner violence (dating or domestic violence), stalking, or protected-class discrimination or harassment by or against members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or email cureport@colorado.edu. Information about OIEC, university policies, reporting options, and the campus resources can be found on the OIEC website.

Please know that faculty and graduate instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, dating and domestic violence, stalking, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about their rights, support resources, and reporting options.

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 email me if you have any conflicts for religious reasons.

The class policies are subject to change due to unexpected external conditions and to ensure better student learning.