

Principles of Microeconomics

ECON 2010-400, Spring 2017

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 1:00-1:50 PM, GOLD A2B70

1 Course Info

Instructor: Jacob Howard (jacob.b.howard@colorado.edu)

Office Hours: Tuesday 1:45-3:15 PM and Thursday 9:00-11:00 AM. No appointment necessary to attend office hours. I am also available at other times in the week by appointment.

Office: ECON 401

Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/jacobhowardecon/>, Desire2Learn, and FlipItEcon

Required Text: Paul Krugman, *Microeconomics, Fourth Edition*. Older editions are acceptable, however it will be your responsibility to keep up with any inconsistencies between the fourth edition and the edition you choose to purchase. In addition to the text you will need access to FlipIt to complete your homework for this course. The bookstore has a package that bundles them both together, *ISBN:*

You can access FlipIt for this course at: <https://www.flipitecon.com> using the access key **howardecons16**. You will need your student ID number to gain access to this course. This is NOT the number on your Buff One Card, this is the ID number found in MyCUInfo under the Profile and Settings expandable menu on the right hand side of the the Student tab.

Prerequisites: There are no official prerequisites, however students are expected to have a basic understanding of algebra and graphing

Teaching Assistants:

Solveig Delabroye

Nicole Mundt

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- Office Hours: TBA

- Email: Nicole.Mundt@colorado.edu
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Course Description and Objectives: Economics is the study of how agents (humans, firms, etc...) make decisions under scarcity. Economists typically assume that these decisions are made in a rational manner. For this reason, in this course reasoning skills will be much more important than memorization skills. This course will provide an introduction to the economic thought process which will hopefully benefit you in your future studies. Specifically we will study how consumers and businesses make decisions, how markets work as well as how they fail, and how government actions affect markets.

2 Grading

Grading Scale: Let x be your final percentage grade in the course

Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage
A	$93 \leq x$	C	$73 \leq x < 77$
A-	$90 \leq x < 93$	C-	$70 \leq x < 73$
B+	$87 \leq x < 90$	D+	$67 \leq x < 70$
B	$83 \leq x < 87$	D	$63 \leq x < 67$
B-	$80 \leq x < 83$	D-	$60 \leq x < 63$
C+	$77 \leq x < 80$	F	$x < 60$

Grading Scheme:

Grade Item	Percentage
Midterm 1	20
Midterm 2	20
Recitation (if necessary)	20
Final Exam	30
Homework	10
iClicker	10
Pre-Lecture assignments	5
Bridge Questions	5

Exams: You may drop your lowest midterm exam score and replace it with your recitation grade if your recitation grade is higher than your lowest exam score. **THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS.** If you cannot make an exam because of an emergency/other commitment you can drop the zero and replace it with your recitation grade. **Graphing calculators are not allowed in exams.** Failure to adhere to this policy will result in a zero for the assignment. **You will also need to know your student ID number (the one found on MyCUInfo) prior to the exam.** You will also need a #2 pencil.

In summary you need the following for each exam:

1. Your student ID Number
2. A #2 Pencil
3. A non-graphing calculator (optional)

Midterms will be due at the end of the 50 minutes allotted for class. Failure to turn in your exam in a timely fashion will result in a zero for that exam. This means if you bubble in your answers at the end of the exam, be sure to give yourself time to complete the task of bubbling. Taking extra time on an exam is cheating, even if you are just bubbling in the answers.

The Final The final exam will take place on **DATE NEEDED** in our normal classroom. Recitation may not replace your final exam score. The final exam is mandatory for all students. The same rules for the midterms apply to the Final.

As is university policy, you can reschedule your final exam only if you have three or more exams scheduled for the same day. If this is the case, you may have your exams rescheduled except for the first two exams

scheduled for of that day. However, you must request accommodations for this before the 10th week of classes.

Recitation: Recitation begins the second week of the semester. Grades for your recitation will be determined by your TA's and will be outlined in their syllabus. You must attend the recitation you are registered for.

FlipIt: You will have 3 types of assignments due on FlipIt:

1. **Pre-lecture:** These are sequences of videos and questions about the upcoming lecture. These are due at 8 AM the day of their respective lecture. The purpose of these questions and videos is to simply introduce you to the ideas that will be covered in class. These assignments should take you around 10 minutes to complete on average. If you simply complete the assignment you will earn 100% credit for the assignment. I will drop one (and only one) of these assignments automatically at the end of the semester.
2. **Bridge Questions:** These are questions that you will answer before class that are about the upcoming lecture. They are multiple choice questions along with a space for you to explain why you chose the answer you chose. These are due at 8 AM the day of their respective lecture. The purpose of these questions is to allow me to gain a better understanding of what topics I need to emphasize that day in lecture. We will review all of the bridge questions in class and you will have a chance to answer them again using iClickers in class. If you simply complete the assignment you will earn 100% credit for the assignment. I will drop one (and only one) of these assignments automatically at the end of the semester.
3. **Homework:** These assignments are completed after each lecture and consist of multiple choice questions. You will have 5 attempts to answer a variation of a question. If you are able to answer any variation of that question correctly you will receive full credit for that question. If you cannot answer one of the 5 variations correctly you will not receive credit for that question. I will drop one (and only one) of these assignments automatically at the end of the semester.

iClicker: During class I will randomly ask students to answer questions using their iClicker. It is your responsibility to make sure your clicker is registered to you. This can be done on MyCUInfo. Failure to do so will forfeit all points assigned to your iClicker grade. For instructions on how to register your clicker use the following link: <http://www.colorado.edu/oit/tutorial/cuclickers-iclicker-remote-registration> At the end of the semester I will drop your 5 lowest clicker scores. This is more than a week and a half of drops. For this reason I will not drop scores or excuse students for missed class or for a forgotten clicker.

You will receive 2 points for every clicker question you attempt and an extra point for each question you get correct. You are allowed and encouraged to discuss questions with your classmates. However you are not allowed to bring a classmate's clicker to class. If you are caught with more than 1 clicker you will be asked to leave class for the day, you will be given a grade of F for the semester, and your classmate (whose clicker you have) will also receive a grade of F for the semester.

3 Policies

Note that I reserve the right to change this syllabus at anytime. This is your contract for the course. Please pay attention to the policies and note that given notice I reserve the right to change them throughout the course.

Emails: This is a large class which makes answering every single email extremely costly. Therefore I will only respond to emails if they cannot be answered by the syllabus. In addition when I send out an email to the entire class and you have a follow up question I ask that you do not reply to my email. Please send me

a new email that way I am able to keep each student's question separate from others. Please allow 24 hours for me to respond on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends.

Laptops, Tablets, and Cell Phones: Laptops can be distracting to others in class. For this reason I ask that if you use your laptop to take notes you sit in the first 4 rows of class so I can ensure you are indeed not distracting those behind you. PDF copies of the slides will be posted prior to class and you are more than welcome to download them to your laptop or tablet prior to class to annotate them. Please do not use your laptop for anything other than taking notes. If you are caught using your laptop for something other than taking notes you will be asked to leave. **Please silence your cell phone prior to class and do not use it except in the case of emergencies.**

Curving: There will be no individual curving. Please do not email me at the end of the semester asking for your grade to be changed. I will curve each exam so that the average is at a reasonable level. I will round your final grade up to the nearest whole number. Everyone in the class will receive an equal curve so do not ask for special treatment. I will not curve grades down. Recitations will be curved so that each TA's recitations have the same average.

Cheating: If you are caught cheating in any fashion (on exams, in recitation, or clickers (see above)) you will be given an F for the semester and your case will be reported to the Honor Code Council for review.

4 Tentative Schedule

It is important to note that **there is no recitation the first week of class** (the week of 1/17). Recitation begins on the second week of class (week of 1/23). You can get a link to the course schedule on FlipItEcon. You can simply view the calendar there, you can get link to the calendar to subscribe to the calendar in Google Calendar, or you can download a file to import the calendar into iCal.

The two midterms will take place on February 24th and April 7th during our normal class time in our normal classroom. The final exam date time is TBA.

5 University Policies and Department Resources

Tutoring: The department has a free drop in tutor lab. It is located in the basement of the ECON Building in room near the undergraduate computer lab. The department also collects a list of private tutors you can hire. Information about the tutoring lab can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/Economics/undergraduate/tutorial-lab.pdf> and the list of private tutors can be found at http://www.colorado.edu/Economics/undergraduate/tutor_list.pdf

Accommodation Statement: 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 professor a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner (for exam accommodations provide your letter at least two weeks prior to the exam) 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. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Medical Conditions: Injuries, Surgeries, and Illnesses guidelines under Quick Links at Disability Services website and discuss your needs with me. **Note that your TA's should receive a letter from disability services too, please provide them with one (if necessary) within a reasonable time frame (2 weeks before any large quiz etc) so they may accommodate you as well.**

Religious Observances: 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 assignments/attendance. If this applies to you, please speak with me directly as soon as possible at the beginning of the term.

Classroom Behavior: 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, ability, and nationality. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information, see the policies on class behavior and the student code.

Discrimination and Harassment The University of Colorado Boulder (CU-Boulder) is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. CU-Boulder will not tolerate acts of discrimination or harassment based upon Protected Classes or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. For purposes of this CU-Boulder policy, "Protected Classes" refers to race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Individuals who believe they have been discriminated against should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) at 303-492-5550. The full policy on discrimination and harassment has more information.

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). The Honor Code Office has more information.