

**ECON 2010 – 900: Principles of Microeconomics**  
**Fall Semester 2023**  
**University of Colorado Boulder**

Instructor: Chaz Simmons <a href="mailto:Chaz.Simmons@colorado.edu">Chaz.Simmons@colorado.edu</a>	Office Hours: MWF 11:30am-1pm in ECON 306	Class Meetings: MWF 1:25pm-2:15pm in VAC1B20
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**Course Objective**

This course examines the basic concepts of microeconomics. The objective is to develop and understanding of the behavior and the interactions of individuals, firms, and government. We will develop basic tools that can be used to analyze real world issues through a microeconomic lens. Topics include determining economic problems, how consumers and businesses make decisions, how markets work, how they fail and how government actions affect markets.

**Required Text**

Paul Krugman and Robin Wells, Microeconomics, 6th edition, 2021, Worth Publishers. In addition, you need to sign up for the Achieve platform to complete the weekly homework assignments. The Achieve platform provides you with access to the eBook. You will receive access to all your digital course materials on the first day of classes through your Canvas page.

- While you have the option to opt out, **please do not opt out of access to the course materials – you will not be able to complete the homework assignments if you opt out.**

**Lecture**

Lecture attendance is mandatory and will be monitored through i-Clicker questions starting with the second week of classes. You must answer at least two out of three questions posed in each lecture to earn credit. I do not mind if you choose to take notes via laptop or pen and paper, but I reserve the right to deduct attendance points for disruptive behavior in lecture. Lecture notes will be available on the course website prior to each lecture. You must follow a two-step process to sign your I-clicker up for this course:

1. Register your i-clicker with CU: <https://oit.colorado.edu/tutorial/cuclickers-access-your-cuclickers-account>
2. Enroll in the course (Principles of Microeconomics – Fall 2023 Simmons)

**Recitation**

Recitation is a weekly meeting with your recitation instructor intended to apply the concepts from lecture to problems that help you prepare for the homework assignments and exams. Attendance is mandatory. Recitation worksheets and answer keys are available on the course website. Recitations do not meet the first week of classes – **recitations begin in the second week.**

Recitation Section	Day/Time	Room	Instructor
911	T 11:15am-12:05pm	ECON205	Chaz Simmons
912	Th 10:10am-11am	ECON205	Chad Brown
913	Th 9:05am-9:55am	CLRE104	Pan Chen
914	W 9:05am-9:55am	STAD136C	Chad Brown
915	W 5:45pm-6:35pm	STAD136C	Pan Chen
916	M 8am-8:50am	STAD136C	Chad Brown
917	Th 8am-8:50am	GUGG2	Chad Brown
918	T 5:45pm-6:35pm	STAD136C	Pan Chen

You may attend your TA or any other TA's office hours.

Email	Office Hours	Office/Zoom
Chaz.Simmons@colorado.edu	MWF 11:30-1pm (Office)	ECON 306
Chad.Brown@colorado.edu	M 10-11am (Zoom) Th 9:05-10:05am (Office or Zoom) Th 11:30-1pm (Zoom)	ECON 306 <a href="https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/2547997486">https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/2547997486</a>
Pan.Chen@colorado.edu	MWF 11am-12pm (Zoom)	<a href="https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/2547997486">https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/2547997486</a>

### Course Assignments and Grading

<b>Lecture Participation</b>	<b>10%</b>
You may miss 4 lectures throughout the semester without penalty. This includes missed lectures for sickness, family emergencies, etc. If you are experiencing personal circumstances that require you to miss more than 4 lectures, please contact me as soon as you can.	
<b>Recitation</b>	<b>10%</b>
You are required to attend recitation and cannot earn credit if you are absent. You may miss 2 recitations throughout the semester without penalty. If you are experiencing personal circumstances that require you to miss more than 2 recitations, please contact your TA as soon as you can.	
<b>Homework</b>	<b>20%</b>
Homework will be due every Sunday night at 11:59pm. The score for each homework is the percentage of the questions you answered correctly in your highest of three attempts. You can submit the homework up to 72 hours (3 days) late, but you will lose 20% for each day. For example, a late submission of a 100-point assignment on Tuesday by 11:59pm will lose 40 points on top of whatever points you initially missed in the assignment.	
<b>Midterm Exams</b>	<b>30%</b>
We will have two midterm exams; each midterm will account for 15% of your total grade. Each midterm will have 25 multiple-choice questions and 50 minutes to complete the exam. See the course schedule for midterm exam dates.	
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>30%</b>
Our final exam will include 50 multiple-choice questions and 100 minutes to complete the exam. The exam will take place on the day/time assigned by the registrar's office (see the course schedule). You must complete the exam on that date.	

### Accommodations

If you need any disability accommodation for this course, please contact me within the first two weeks of class via email, in addition to providing the documentation through the portal. If you are dealing with circumstances that prevent you from completing your work on time, please contact me immediately. I will not accept late assignments or reschedule exams unless you contact me prior to the due date. Exams cannot be rescheduled for personal travel.

### Final Grade Allocation

A	94% and above
A-	90-93%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%
D	63-66%
D-	60-62%
F	59% and below

I will round all final grades to the nearest percentage. For example, if a student receives an 89.5%, I will round up to a 90%. Meanwhile, a student with 89.49% will remain at 89%. **I will not do any additional rounding beyond this.** I reserve the right to curve exams.

### Extra Credit

I will offer three extra credit assignments throughout the semester. You can earn up to an additional one percentage point for each assignment you complete. This means you can earn a maximum of three percentage points to your overall grade if you complete all extra credit assignments accurately (though your final grade will not go above 100%). The extra credit assignments will be designed for students to apply the basic concepts taught in this course toward real-world scenarios and provide students with extra exam prep materials. I will not assign any other extra credit opportunities.

### 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 accommodation 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](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu) for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or required medical isolation for which you require accommodation, email me as soon as possible; I will be more accommodating to students who are prompt and proactive about reaching out to me. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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. See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

## Course Schedule

Week	Date	Day	Content Covered	Read Prior to Class	Recitation	Due on Sunday at Midnight
1	8/28	M	Course Introduction		No Recitation	Orientation HW
	8/30	W	Introduction to Microeconomics	Ch1		
	9/1	F	Production Possibilities & Comparative Adv.	Ch2.1,2.2		
2	9/4	M	Labor Day – No Class			
	9/6	W	Using Economic Models & Graphs	Ch2.3,2.4,2.5	Ch2	HW1: Ch1&2
	9/8	F	Supply and Demand	Ch3.1,3.2,3.3		
3	9/11	M	Market Equilibrium	Ch3.4	Ch3	HW2:Ch3
	9/13	W	Changes in Supply and Demand	Ch3.5,3.6		
	9/15	F	Consumer and Producer Surplus	Ch4		
4	9/18	M	Price Ceilings and Price Floors	Ch5.1,5.3	Ch4	HW3:Ch4
	9/20	W	Quantity & Quality Controls	Ch5.4		
	9/22	F	Price Elasticity	Ch6.1,6.2,6.4		
5	9/25	M	Income and Cross-Price Elasticity	Ch6.3,6.5	Ch5,6	HW4:Ch5&6
	9/27	W	Taxes	Ch7.1		
	9/29	F	Costs, Benefits, and Fairness of Taxes	Ch7.2,7.3		
6	10/2	M	US Tax System	Ch7.4	Ch7	HW5:Ch7
	10/4	W	Exam Review			
	10/6	F	Exam 1 (Ch 1,2,3,4,5,6,7)			
7	10/9	M	International Trade	Ch8.1,8.2	Exam1 Review	ExtraCredit1
	10/11	W	Trade Protections	Ch8.3		
	10/13	F	Political Economy of Trade Protection	Ch8.4		
8	10/16	M	Costs, Benefits, and Profits	Ch9.1,9.2	Ch8	HW6:Ch8
	10/18	W	Marginal Analysis	Ch9.3,9.4		
	10/20	F	Rational Consumers	Ch10		
9	10/23	M	Production Function	Ch11.1	Ch9,10	HW7:Ch9&10
	10/25	W	Cost Curves	Ch11.2		
	10/27	F	Short- and Long-Run Costs	Ch11.3		
10	10/30	M	Perfect Competition	Ch12.1	Ch11	HW8:Ch11
	11/1	W	Production and Profits	Ch12.2		
	11/3	F	The Industry Supply Curve	Ch12.3		
11	11/6	M	Catch up, Review		Ch12	HW9:Ch12
	11/8	W	Exam 2 (Ch 8,9,10,11,12)			
	11/10	F	Monopoly & Types of Monopoly	Ch13.1,13.2		
12	11/13	M	Monopoly Profits and Public Policy	Ch13.3,13.4	Exam2 Review	ExtraCredit2
	11/15	W	Price Discrimination	Ch13.5,13.6		
	11/17	F	Monopolistic Competition	Ch15.1-15.3		
Thanksgiving Break – No Classes						
13	11/27	M	Ch.15 Review & Monopolistic Competition	Ch15.4,15.5	Ch13&15	HW10:Ch13&15
	11/29	W	Oligopoly	Ch14.1,14.2		
	12/1	F	Oligopoly Games	Ch14.3,14.4		
14	12/4	M	Externalities & Negative Externalities	Ch16.1,16.2	Ch14	HW11:Ch14
	12/6	W	Positive Externalities & Network Externalities	Ch16.4,16.5		
	12/8	F	Public Goods and Common Resources	Ch17		
15	12/11	M	Semester Review		Ch16,17	HW12:Ch16&17 ExtraCredit3
	12/13	W	Review of Practice Final Exam			
	12/19	T	4:30PM Final Exam (Ch 1-17)			

This syllabus may be subject to change. Any changes will be announced on the Canvas course homepage.