

**ECON 3070-002**  
**INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMIC THEORY**  
**SPRING 2015**

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**Instructor:** Xin Zhao  
**Email:** [xin.zhao@colorado.edu](mailto:xin.zhao@colorado.edu)  
**Lecture:** MWF 12:00 pm – 12:50 pm, ECON 117  
**Course Website:** Desire2Learn (D2L): <https://learn.colorado.edu/>  
**Office:** Econ 414  
**Office Hours:** Thursday 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course studies the behavior of individual economic agents and their market interactions. The course is roughly composed of four parts. Part 1 introduces the basics of microeconomic analysis, and serves as a quick review of some basic economic concepts. Part 2 studies consumer behavior and market demand. We will show how a consumer may make optimal choices, how individual demands are formed, and how market demand can be derived. Part 3 discusses the firm's technologies, production functions and production costs. We shall see how firms can make the optimal input choices to minimize production costs. This lays the foundation for the study of behavior of firms under different forms of market structure. Part 4 integrates the previous material into models of prices and outputs. Topics in game theory and business strategies will be covered. Economic efficiency and public policy issues will also be discussed.

**PREREQUISITES:**

**Economic Prerequisites:** ECON 1000 or ECON 2010

**Math Prerequisites:** ECON 1078 & 1088 or MATH 1300 or MATH 1310 or MATH 1081 or MATH 1080 & 1090 & 1100 or APPM 1350 or equivalent.

In this course we will use calculus intensively. It is assumed that every student has a working knowledge of basic algebra, calculus and graphing skills. Relevant math techniques might be briefly reviewed when necessary, but you are responsible for the math requirements of this course. In the first class meeting, a short math test will be given for the purpose of self-evaluation. It will not be graded.

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

*Microeconomics*, by Besanko and Braeutigam, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, Wiley (4<sup>th</sup> also works). It is a highly recommended learning strategy to read relevant chapters in the textbook before each lecture. No lecture notes will be distributed.

## GRADING

### Exams (60%)

There will be 3 exams in total: 2 midterms and a cumulative final exam, all in the format of short answer questions. All exams are held in the regular classroom and the dates are listed below. Each of the midterms counts for 15% of your final grade, and the final counts for 30%. **No Exam Will Be Dropped!! And There Will Be Absolutely No Make-Up Exam If You Missed One!!** You can use a simple calculator for these exams. Graphing calculators and cell phones are NOT allowed under any circumstances.

For student athletes, if you will be travelling during the semester and have a conflict with the exam schedule, please inform me as soon as possible.

**Note:** If you have 3 or more final exams on the same day, you are entitled to arrange an alternative exam time for the **last** exam scheduled on that day. To qualify for rescheduling final exam times, you must provide evidence that you have 3 or more exams on the same day, and you must make arrangements no later than the 6th week of the semester (**No later than Feb 20<sup>th</sup> 2015**).

### Group Assignments (25%)

Problem sets will be assigned every two to three weeks throughout the semester as homework. A hard copy will be due at the beginning of class on the given date. They are intended to apply the concepts and theory from the lecture and prepare you for the exams. You are encouraged to work in small groups of 2-4 on these assignments. Only one copy should be turned in per assignment per group, bearing the names and the student ID of all group members and I will randomly select one problem to grade. **No Late Problem Set Will Be Accepted!**

### In-Class Quizzes (15%)

There will be several pop quizzes to be taken during class time through the semester. These closed-book quizzes will be in the same format as your homework and exams, but shorter. While I do not take attendance for this class, the date of each quiz will be randomly chosen, and there will absolutely be NO make-up for missed quizzes. Grading of these problem sets will be done on a completion basis.

Your grade will be determined as follows:

**MT1 (15%) + MT2 (15%) + Group Assignments (25%) + Quizzes (15%) + Final (30%) = 100%**

Curving may be applied at the instructor's discretion but it should not be expected.

Your final score will be rounded up to the nearest integer and your course grade is determined by the following schedule:

<u>Your score</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Your score</u>	<u>Grade</u>
93%-100%	A	73%-76%	C
90%-92%	A-	68%-72%	C-
87%-89%	B+	63%-67%	D
83%-86%	B	60%-62%	D-
80%-82%	B-	<60%	F
77%-79%	C+		

### **EMAIL:**

I will answer emails from Monday to Friday. I will do my best to reply emails within 24 hours.

While I strive to be as accessible to you as possible through multiple communication channels, including the email, please observe the following policy regarding sending emails:

- ♦ Always refer first to the syllabus for questions regarding class policy. If the answer to your question can be found in the syllabus, you will likely be referred back to it.
- ♦ Some questions are better answered in person, especially questions regarding the course material. Please use the office hours as the first resource for any help you need on understanding the course material.
- ♦ Under no circumstances can I provide information about your performance on individual assignments or overall grade over the email due to Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) regulations, since emails are not considered a secure electronic medium. Scores that you have earned on individual assignments are posted on your D2L account.

### **TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

Below is an outline for the semester. The topics are subject to changes. So you should take this as a guide and not set in stone. However, the midterm and final dates are firm.

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<u>Topics</u>	<u>Readings</u>
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1. Introduction to Microeconomic Analysis	Chapters 1-2
2. Consumer Preference and Utility (Problem Set 1)	Chapter 3
3. Consumer Choice	Chapter 4
4. Individual and Market Demands (Problem Set 2)	Chapter 5
5. Inputs and Production Functions (Problem Set 3)	Chapter 6
6. Input Choices and the Cost of Production (Problem Set 4)	Chapters 7-8
7. Perfectly Competitive Markets (Problem Set 5)	Chapters 9-10
8. Monopoly	Chapters 11-12
9. Market Structure and Competition (Problem Set 6)	Chapter 13
10. Game Theory and Strategic Behavior (Problem Set 7)	Chapter 14

**Exam Dates:** Midterm 1, Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 pm – 12:50 pm

Midterm 2, Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 pm – 12:50 pm

Final Exam, TBA

*\* All exams will be held in ECON 117*

## ADDITIONAL NOTES

### Students with Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and [www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices). Disability Services' letters for students with disabilities indicate legally mandated reasonable accommodations. The syllabus statements and answers to Frequently Asked Questions can be found at

<http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>.

## **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](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-725-2273).

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). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at

<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html>

and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>.

## **Discrimination & Harassment Policy**

The University of Colorado Policy on Sexual Harassment applies to all students, staff and faculty. Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual attention. It can involve intimidation, threats, coercion, or promises or create an environment that is hostile or offensive. Harassment may occur between members of the same or opposite gender and between any combinations of members in the campus community: students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Harassment can occur anywhere on campus, including the classroom, the workplace, or a residence hall. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been sexually harassed should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH and the campus resources available to assist individuals who believe they have been sexually harassed can be obtained at: <http://www.colorado.edu/odh/>