

ECON 3070—004 Syllabus
Intermediate Microeconomics

Instructor: Molly Podolefsky
Office: ECON 307
Phone: N/A
Email: Molly.Podolefsky@colorado.edu
Course Website: <http://rintintin.colorado.edu/~sandt/>
Office Hours: Fri 11:30-1:30

Course Meetings: MWF 10 – 10:50 ECON 117

This course will build on the information you learned in introductory microeconomics courses, both addressing new topics and analytical tools, as well as deepening your understanding of foundational microeconomic concepts. The topics covered in this class fall into six broad categories: (1) introduction to microeconomic analysis and review of basic microeconomic concepts, (2) consumer choice and market demand, (3) firm level decision making and production, (4) market structure and competition, (5) game theory and strategic behavior, and (6) market failure. Classes will be a mix of traditional lecture, interactive problem solving and group collaboration. While I will do my best to convey the material to you, ultimately you are responsible for your learning. You must do the readings before coming to class, complete the problem sets in a timely manner, participate in class and ask questions when you don't understand something, and utilize office hours when necessary.

Attendance and Participation: Attendance will be taken via clickers every class period. Attendance will count for 10% of your final grade. Everyone is allowed one free drop day (no questions asked). Beyond this, if you want your attendance excused, you must provide a doctor's note or other physical record to put on file in the case of family emergencies, funerals, etc. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES** will I adjust exam dates or attendance if you choose to leave for a holiday or break early or return late—"my mom already bought the ticket" is not a sufficient excuse for missing class or an exam. Participation is included in attendance, as you will be asked to answer clicker questions throughout the class, and your responses will serve as your proof of attendance each day. Clickers will be used to engage you with the material, not as daily quizzes—your clicker responses will not be graded for correctness. I do not believe in quizzes—they are mainly used to keep you on track, which I feel is your responsibility. I incorporate hands on problem solving, group work and other interactive components into class time. If you've made the choice to be present, you need to participate in all activities—I *absolutely do not tolerate working on other classes' work, reading magazines, etc. during class.* I alone determine whether or not your level of "participation" is sufficient, and if I find you are not putting in the requisite effort, I will ask you to leave for the day. Laptops are allowed, despite the fact that I am perfectly aware that many people use them to play poker or check FB—as a caveat, I will often direct questions to individuals during class, and if you have a computer open, know in advance that you are more likely to have a question directed at you. I do not expect you to always have the "right answer" to questions in class, but I expect your responses to demonstrate that you have read through the chapter and familiarized yourself with the material before class, and that you are awake and paying attention in class.

Grading: This course is graded on the basis of your performance in two areas: attendance/participation and examinations. 10% of your grade comes from attendance/participation, while midterms I and II and the final exam each count for 30%. You will notice all exams are given equal importance, as all materials are equally important. While the final exam will be cumulative, it will focus heavily on the sections not covered on midterms I and II. **No exams will be dropped under any circumstances, and there are no make-up exams, except in the case of documented serious injury, hospitalization or other emergency. To be clear, a missed exam is a zero.** There is no "extra credit" in this class—if you keep up with the material and treat each test as equally important there should be no need for extra credit. Those students who earn a 97% or higher on **both** midterms (not the average of the two) and have a 95% or higher attendance grade will be excused from the final exam with a final grade of A.

Quizzes: There are no quizzes in this course. I feel that quizzes are usually used to keep you on track and force you to stay on top of things—but the tradeoff is extra, unnecessary anxiety, which I'd rather not put you through. You

are adults, and I expect you to take control of your own learning process and keep yourselves on track—if not, you know exams will be painful!

Problem Sets: Problem sets from each chapter will be assigned throughout the course, and I expect you to complete them and come to office hours if you are having trouble. These assignments will be crucial in preparing you for the exams. However, they will not be counted in your grade. Here's why: If you don't know already, you should become aware that most solutions manuals can be found online—some more easily than others. The solutions manual to all the problems in this book (ie—the teacher's edition) can be downloaded quite easily and came up as the first hit when I googled it. As these are copyrighted materials, I obviously cannot distribute them or copy them for you—however I expect you will all get a hold of a copy. Clearly then, there will be no point in grading problem sets. Here's the upside—you'll be able to check your answers as you work through the problem sets, work backwards from the answers when you are stuck, and generally use the problem sets directly as a learning tool, rather than merely fulfilling an assignment. Moreover, I expect many of you will find working in groups on these assignments more useful than working alone.

Networking: Believe it or not, one of the most important skills is getting to know other students well enough that you have them as a resource. I expect everyone in class to get phone numbers or email addresses for other students and to make connections with other students, as they are invaluable to you in terms of studying together, getting notes you may have missed, etc.

Attitude: I come to the university each day ready to teach and eager for you to learn. I am passionate about teaching and I love economics. Accordingly, I expect you to all come to class with good attitudes. There is absolutely no place in my classroom for bad attitudes or behavior. You are all adults, and I expect you to act the part. I am on your side, but I have very high expectations for you—and expect you to have high expectations for yourself. You are all intelligent people—how much you get out of this course will depend on how much effort you put into it. Most things worth learning at this point in your life are not easy to learn—this class will not be “easy,” but I will strive to make it accessible to everyone.

Textbook: The required text for this course is Microeconomics, by Besanko and Braeutigam, 3rd Ed. The reason I chose the 3rd edition is that it can be found online *cheap*. It can also be bought in the bookstore, but this is an expensive, overpriced option. I strongly suggest you order the book online through Amazon.com or a similar vendor. The problems I assign will come from this edition of the text. If you can only get a 4th edition text, that is fine—we can make arrangements for you to get copies of the problem sets—but the newer edition is *much* more expensive, so avoid it if you can.

Course Materials: At all times, the relevant course materials, including syllabus, problem sets, practice exams, etc. can be found on our class website listed on the first page of this syllabus. The url listed in this syllabus will direct you to my main website, from which you will click on the appropriate course number on the right hand side of the screen, which will take you to our class website.

Office Hours: My office hours and office location are listed on the front page of this syllabus. If these hours conflict with a course you have, send me your class schedule, and we can schedule time to meet outside these times. Let me be clear—ONLY if you submit to me your class schedule (you can take a screenshot and send it to me or print it off) will I make meetings outside regular office hours. It is not sufficient to say it's not a “convenient” time for you! Make use of office hours to get help throughout the semester—not just before exams. I am your best resource, so make use of my office hours to get the help you need.

Additional Notes:**Disability Policy:**

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.

Religious Observance Policy:

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. If you have a conflict, please contact me at the beginning of the semester so we can make arrangements.

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; 303-725-2273). 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).

Code of Behavior Policy:

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty has the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences or race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance and nationalities. 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.

Discrimination and Harassment Policy:

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/discrimination.html>. The university policy on Sexual Harassment and on Amorous Relationships applies to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status 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 regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>.

Tentative Course Schedule			
Week of	Course Material	Topics	Assignments/Exams
Jan 14	Ch. 1 & 2	Intro to Microeconomic Analysis/ Basic Micro Review	Problem Sets 1 & 2
Jan 21	Finish Ch. 2, Begin Ch. 3	Consumer Preferences and Utility	Problem Set3, Holiday Monday—MLK Day
Jan 28	Ch. 3	Consumer Preferences and Utility	Problem Set 3
Feb 4	Ch. 4	Consumer Choice	Problem Set 4
Feb 11	Ch. 5	Individual & Market Demand	Problem Set 5
Feb 18	Review, MT I	Wed Midterm I	Friday No Class
Feb 25	Ch. 6, Monday go over exam I	Inputs & Production Functions	Problem Set 6
Mar 4	Ch. 7	Input Choices & Cost of Production	Problem Set 7
Mar 11	Ch. 8	Input Choices & Cost of Production	Problem Set 8
Mar 18	Ch. 9	Competitive Markets	Problem Set 9
Mar 25	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break
Apr 1	Review, MT II	Wed Midterm II	Friday go over exam
Apr 8	Ch. 10	Competitive Markets	Problem Set 10
Apr 15	Ch. 11 & 12	Monopoly	Problem Sets 11 & 12
Apr 22	Ch. 14 & 17	Game Theory and Externalities	Problem Sets 14 & 17
Apr 29	Review all week	Review all week	Review all week
May4—9	Finals Week	Date/Time TBA	Regular classroom