

INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMIC THEORY

ECON 3070-004 | SPRING 2014 | MWF 10:00am – 10:50am | MUEN E131

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor Information

Instructor: Seamus X. Li
Email: seamus.x.li@colorado.edu
Office: ECON 306
Office hours: Wednesday 01:00pm – 03:00pm
Friday 12:00pm – 01:00pm
Appointments outside regular office hours are available on a limited basis.

Course Website

Desire2Learn (D2L): <https://learn.colorado.edu/>
Item scores and supplemental course material will be posted on Desire2Learn.

Course Description

This course studies the behavior of individual economic agents and their market interactions. The course is roughly composed of four parts. Part I introduces the basics of microeconomic analysis, and serves as a quick review of some basic economic concepts. Part II 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 III 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 IV 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.

Required Text

Besanko, David and Ronald Braeutigam. *Microeconomics*. 4th edition, 2011.

The 3rd and 5th editions should also work for this course. Alternatively, you may choose to acquire a loose-leaf or digital edition at a reduced cost.

Prerequisites

Economics: ECON 1000 or 2010
Mathematics: Either ECON 1078 and 1088, or MATH 1300, or MATH 1310, or MATH 1081, or MATH 1080, 1090, and 1100, or APPM 1350, or equivalent.

The Department of Economics strictly enforces these prerequisites. 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 will be briefly reviewed when necessary, but you are responsible for the math requirements of this course.

Grading

Your course grade will be based on the higher of the following two calculations of your final score:

Method I		Method II	
Group Assignments	25%	Group Assignments	25%
Midterm I	20%	Higher Midterm	30%
Midterm II	20%	Final Exam	35%
Final Exam	25%	Attendance	10%
Attendance	10%		

Group Assignments. Problem sets are assigned every two to three weeks. You are to work in groups of no fewer than 3 and no more than 5 members. Only one copy should be turned in per assignment per group, bearing the names of all group members.

Midterm Exams. There are two midterm exams. The midterms are not thematically cumulative and will test your understanding of the topics covered in the weeks preceding each exam. If you miss a midterm, your final score will be calculated according to Method II. *Under no circumstances will an early or make-up midterm be given.*

Final Exam. The final exam is cumulative. The final cannot be dropped due to University policy. If you require accommodation for the final exam due to a scheduling conflict, it is your responsibility to inform me in a timely manner pursuant to the University's final exam policy, which can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/final-examination-policy>

Attendance. Attendance will be taken each lecture. You can have up to three absences without your grade being negatively affected. Depending on the total number of lectures, each additional absence will reduce your final score by roughly a quarter to a third of a percentage point.

Extra Credit. Extra credit opportunities may become available during the course of the semester. However, any extra credit opportunity will be made available to all students and will not be given on an individual basis.

Letter Grade. 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:

Percentage	Grade	Percentage	Grade
93-100	A	73-76	C
90-92	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
83-86	B	63-66	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-
77-79	C+	0-59	F

Tentative Exam Dates

Midterm I	Friday	02/14/2014	Regular class time
Midterm II	Friday	03/21/2014	Regular class time
Final Exam	Saturday	05/03/2014	4:30pm – 07:00pm

All exams will take place in the regular classroom unless otherwise instructed. Other important dates can be found on the CU Academic Calendar: <http://www.colorado.edu/registrar/calendars-schedules/academic-calendar>

Office Hours

Office hours are great for having your questions answered in a one-on-one, interactive setting, and I highly encourage you to utilize this resource. If you are unable to visit during the regularly scheduled office hours due to a scheduling conflict, I will be happy to meet with you at an alternative time, subject to availability.

Email Policy

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.

Electronic Device Policy

Cellphones are to be on mute during lectures. You are welcome to use a laptop or a tablet computer for note taking and accessing learning materials online. However, if you are found to be using your electronic device in a disruptive manner, you will be asked to turn it off.

Disability Accommodations

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit 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 <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>

Classroom 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 of 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. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_cod

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 term so we can make proper 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). 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/>