

ECON 3070-008

Intermediate Microeconomic Theory

Instructor: Tianxiao Zheng
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Office: ECON 309A
Office Hours: W 2:00-4:00
Course Meetings: MWF 12:00-12:50
Location: STAD 140
Course Website: D2L

Recommended Textbook

Besanko and Braeutigam, “Microeconomics”, *5th* edition, Wiley (*4th* edition is also fine).

Course Overview

Microeconomics studies the economic behavior of individuals economic decision makers, such as a consumer, a producer, a worker, or a manager. It also analyzes the behavior of individual households, industries, markets, labor unions and trade associations. This course will perform as an intermediate step to future study in advanced Microeconomics. It also acts as an essential part of studies in international trade, labor, development and other sub-fields of microeconomics.

The course name comes as “Intermediate” which indicates this course is designed to provide students with more detailed and thorough theories and techniques beyond an introductory Microeconomics course. After a successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Describe key concepts and models in words as well as in a formal mathematical way.
2. Utilize graphing and mathematical techniques to explain intuitions behind an economic question, and solve microeconomic questions.
3. Apply concepts and models to explain economic behaviors in real world.

Prerequisites

Economics Prerequisites: ECON 1000 or ECON 2010

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

This class requires substantial working knowledge of calculus and students are assumed to meet this requirement. There will be no formal review of calculus techniques. Therefore, the mathematics prerequisites will be strictly enforced.

Grading

Your course grade will be calculated as following:

$20\%(\text{participation}) + 20\%(\text{quiz}) + 25\%(\text{midterm}) + 35\%(\text{final})$

Participation

Each week I will distribute in-class practice questions. Students can form groups to discuss and complete these questions but each of you need to submit your own work separately. I will collect them at the end of class. **Please note: Your answers will NOT be graded but each completed class-assigned work will be taken as your class participation grade.** This means either missing a class or incomplete work will end up with 0 participation grade on that day.

Exams

Please note: No exams will be given early, and NO make-up exam.

There will be no make-up exams, dropped exams or early exams given for either an excused or unexcused absence. If you miss an exam for an excused absence, your final will be reweighted if you provide the necessary documentation.

The format of midterm and final exams will be multiple choice and short answer questions. Please bring a calculator to every exam. Cell phone & graphing calculators are not permitted. **The use of a cell phone will never be permitted and if you bring a graphing calculator 5 points will be deducted from your overall exam score.**

There will be two quizzes throughout the semester. The format of quiz will be short answer questions. Each quiz will cover materials since the last exam. The midterm will cover the first half part of materials in this course. **The final is cumulative.** This means you will be tested with materials from the entire semester.

Tentative exam dates:

Feb 13 - 1st quiz (20 mins in class)

Mar 13 - midterm (50 mins in class)

Apr 17 - 2nd quiz (20 mins in class)

TBD (check myCUinfo) - final

Grading Disputes

Please do not send me emails on your grades. According to FERPA (the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974), I can not talk about your grades in emails. You need to come to see me during office hours if you have any concern with your grades. I will not email you back if you are asking about grades in the email.

Grading Scale

<i>Your score</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Your score</i>	<i>Grade</i>
92-100%	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+	≤59%	F

Lecture

It is your responsibility to come to each class and take notes. I will not provide or post notes, please do not ask. If you miss a class, you should be able to get notes from your classmates. You are welcome to come to my office hours if you have questions, or want to have a discussion of materials related to this course. Please review materials covered in previous class before come to the lecture. Full participation is expected.

Emails

Please be considerate with your use of email. If you email me a substantive question about lectures, exams, or assignments I will most likely encourage you to come to talk to me about it during my office hours. I reserve the right not to answer emails lacking appropriate salutation, grammar and punctuation. Emails asking for administrative information contained within this syllabus or available on the course website will not be answered.

Office hours

Office hours are for your benefit to ask questions or discuss course materials with me in a relative small setting environment. I have office hours on every Wednesday. If the listed office hours do not work for you, you can send me an email to set up an alternative time.

Tentative course schedule

week 1 (1/12-1/16): Chap 1 and assignment one on 1/16

week 2 (1/19-1/23): Chap 3 and assignment two on 1/23, no class 1/19

week 3 (1/26-1/30): Chap 4 and assignment three on 1/30

week 4 (2/2-2/6): Chap 4 and assignment four on 2/6

week 5 (2/9-2/13): Chap 5 and 1st quiz on 2/13

week 6 (2/16-2/20): Chap 5 and assignment five on 2/20

week 7 (2/23-2/27) Chap 6 and assignment six on 2/27
week 8 (3/2-3/6) Chap 7 and assignment seven on 3/6
week 9 (3/9-3/13) Chap 7 and midterm on 3/13
week 10 (3/16-3/20) Chap 8 and assignment eight on 3/18, no class 3/20
week 11 (3/23-3/27) No class
week 12 (3/30-4/3) Chap 8 and assignment nine on 4/3
week 13 (4/6-4/10) Chap 9 and assignment ten 4/10
week 14 (4/13-4/17) Chap 11 and 2nd quiz on 4/17
week 15 (4/20-4/24) Chap 14 and assignment eleven on 4/24
week 16 (4/27-5/1) Chap 16, no class 5/1

University Policies

Disability Policy

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter from Disability Services to me 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>

Religious Observation 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 no later than the first week of the semester so we can make proper arrangements.

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 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.

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 nonacademic 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 at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment (<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/discrimination.html>), the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy 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>.