

**UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO**  
**Department of Economics**  
**Economics 3070 – Section 30**  
**Intermediate Microeconomic Theory**

**Spring 2024**

**Professor:** Tania Barham  
**Office:** Economics 114  
**Email:** [tania.barham@colorado.edu](mailto:tania.barham@colorado.edu)  
**Lectures:** MWF 2:30 - 3:20 ECON 119  
**Office Hours:** ECON 114 MW: 10:00-11:30 tentative may change  
**Course Website:** Canvas  
**TA:** TBD

**Course Description**

This course introduces the theoretical framework for analyzing the economic behavior of individual decision-makers, such as consumers, workers, firms. The course is divided into six sections. We begin with a basic review of supply and demand in Section 1. We then proceed to Section 2, which covers consumer behavior and market demand. In this section, we build a model of consumer choice and use this model to derive individual demand and market demand. In Section 3, we turn our attention to the other side of the market and analyze the behavior of firms and market supply. We build a model to show how each firm decides what technology it should use to make its product and what quantity of this product to bring to market. This model is then used to derive the firm's supply curve and the market supply curve. Section 4 brings the two sides of the market together to show how price and output are determined by the market. In Section 5 we examine efficiency and equity of the model and see how some common policy tools, such as taxes, can be modelled. Finally, we examine a variety of market structures, the primary ones examined include perfect competition and monopoly. If time permits, we will close the semester by examining some issues such as behavioral economics or public policy.

**Prerequisites**

Available to students who have completed ECON 100 Introduction to Economics or ECON 2010 Principles of Microeconomics, and either ECON 1078 Math Tools for Economists I and ECON 1088 Math Tools for Economists II, or MATH 1300.

## Textbook

The required textbook is *Microeconomics* (edition 4, 5 or 6) by David Besanko and Ronald R. Braeutigam, 2013, John Wiley & Sons, New York, ISBN 978-1-11857227-6. There is a study guide available to accompany the textbook. You may wish to purchase the study guide if you would like extra practice solving problems, but doing so is not required. Lectures are based on the textbook and it is an important resource for learning material, especially if you miss a class. Please note that how to do optimization problems is taught in the class and it is important you attend class and follow the methods taught in class.

## Clickers

We will be using iclickers for review and attendance. You do need to set up an iclicker account with your **CU email**. If you have any problems with your clickers call OIT at 5HELP. Remember that using someone else's clicker for them or clicking in from home violates the honor code and will result in a grade of zero for participation for the semester.

## Course Requirements

### *Participation and Attendance*

*Please note attendance for two of the first three classes is mandatory.* Your participation and attendance grades will be based on random attendance checks and clicker data throughout the semester and your participation during the class. I may also give unannounced quizzes. Sections with your TA are mandatory. I allow you to be absent for 5 classes before an absence affects your participation grade. You may miss 2 sections before it affects your grade. There is no need to email me to let me know you will be absent or why, unless you are very sick and will be out for more than two weeks. If this is the case, you should contact me to determine how your absence will be addressed. Your attendance grade is made up of the percent of classes you are marked present for which attendance is taken and a participation grade that I assign based on your in-class participation. If you miss a class, it is the student's responsibility to catch-up on any missed material from other students in the class.

## Grading

There will be 8 homework assignments, two mid-term examinations and one final exam. The weighting for these assessments are:

Assignments and Quizzes	15%
Participation/Attendance	15% (attendance in lectures and section)
Midterm Exam 1	20%
Midterm Exam 2	20%
Final Exam	30%

## Assignments

The schedule of when problem sets are due is below. **Problem sets are essential practice for the exam. Problem sets will be posted on-line about a week prior to when they are due. They are due at midnight. Late problem sets will receive a score of zero.** The two assignments with the lowest scores will be dropped and not count towards your grade. Because of this policy, I don't accept late homework for any reason including being sick. However, if you are sick for an extended period of time we can make arrangements. I recommend you do all the homeworks as the exams are structured somewhat similarly to homework questions.

Students can work on the problem sets in small groups (4 people or less). However, each person **must** submit their own write-ups of their problem sets **and** you must put the names of your group members on your assignment (make sure your name is distinct from the group members, so I know who to give the grade to). Handing in identical homework is not permitted and will result in a zero for all people with identical homework. Homeworks for which any answer is identical to a solution key from past years will receive a grade of 0, even if just one of the questions on the homework was copied.

Each assignment will be graded on a scale from 0 to 3: 0 points for not handing it in, 1 point for poor performance, 2 points for average performance, and 3 points for outstanding performance.

### **Exams**

There are two midterms and a final in this course. No makeup exams will be given. If there is a proven emergency or other unusual circumstance and you miss an exam, your grade for your miss exam will be filled in by reweighting future exams (e.g. if you miss the second exam I will reweight the final).

### **Tutors**

It is best to come to office hours to get help from myself or the TA when you need it. Please don't be shy. If you feel you need a tutor here are two resources to help you find someone.

- The Economics Department provides a free drop-in tutorial office which offers assistance on all course courses in the major, and occasionally on other undergraduate courses in the Department. Its website is <https://www.colorado.edu/economics/node/513/attachment>.
- The Economics Department maintains a list of tutors who are available for private hire. Its website is <https://www.colorado.edu/economics/node/515/attachment>.

## Tentative Course Schedule

Please note due dates are subject to change. Changes are almost always to a later date

WEEK	TOPIC	READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS DUE (Day of Week Due)
<b>W1: Jan 15</b>	Analyzing Economic Problems	Ch 1	
	Math Review	A.1-A.7	
<b>W2: Jan 22</b>	Supply and Demand Analysis	Ch 2	PS 0 Math Review (W)
	Preferences and Utility	Ch 3	
<b>W3: Jan 29</b>	Preferences and Utility	Ch 3	PS 1 – Ch 1-2 (W)
	Consumer Choice	Ch 4	
<b>Feb 2 no class</b>			
<b>W4: Feb 5</b>	Consumer Choice	Ch 4	PS 2 - Ch 3 (W)
<b>W5: Feb 12</b>	The Theory of Demand	Ch 5	PS 3 – Ch 4 (W)
<b>W6: Feb 19</b>	The Theory of Demand	Ch 5	
	Inputs and Production Functions	Ch 6	PS 4 – Ch 5 (F)
<b>W7: Feb 26</b>	Inputs and Production Functions	Ch 6	
	<b>Midterm Exam 1: Wed Feb 28 (Ch 1-5)</b>		
<b>W8: Mar 4</b>	Inputs and Production Functions	Ch 6	
	Costs and Cost Minimization	Ch 7	
<b>W9: Mar 11</b>	Costs and Cost Minimization	Ch 7	PS 5 Ch 6 (W)
	Cost Curves	Ch 8	
<b>W10: Mar 18</b>	Cost Curves	Ch 8	PS 6 - Ch 7/8 (W)
	Perfectly Competitive Markets	Ch 9	
<b>MAR 25 - MARCH BREAK – ENJOY!</b>			
<b>W11: Apr 1</b>	Perfectly Competitive Markets	Ch 9	PS 7 - Ch 9 (F)
<b>W12: Apr 8</b>	Competitive Markets: Applications	Ch 10	
<b>Midterm Exam 2: Fri April 12 (Ch 1-9)</b>			
<b>W13: Apr 15</b>	Efficiency of Competitive Mrkt	Ch 16.4	
<b>W14: Apr 22</b>	Market Structure	Ch 13.1	PS 8 - Ch 10-16 (W)
	Monopoly	Ch 11	
<b>W15: Apr 29</b>	M: Behavioral Economics		
	W: Office Hours Only		
<b>Final Exam Covers ALL Chapters</b>			
<b>Tentative Final Exam Schedule: please double check this yourself.</b>			
<b>Sunday May 5: 1:30pm - 4pm</b>			

## University Policies

### 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 DISEASE

Members of the CU Boulder community and visitors to campus must follow university, department, and building health and safety requirements and all applicable campus policies and public health guidelines to reduce the risk of spreading infectious diseases. If public health conditions require, the university may also invoke related requirements for student conduct and disability accommodation that will apply to this class.

If you feel ill and think you might have COVID-19 or if you have tested positive for COVID-19, please stay home and follow the [guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) for isolation and testing](#). If you 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 but should follow the [guidance of the CDC for masking and testing](#).

### ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITIES

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, **please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services no later than Jan 29<sup>th</sup>** so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#). 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, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) on the Disability Services website. Contact me if you have a temporary medical condition so we can determine how to address the issue.

### 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. The university will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner violence (dating or domestic violence), stalking, or protected-class discrimination or harassment by or against members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or email [cureport@colorado.edu](mailto:cureport@colorado.edu). Information about university policies, [reporting options](#), and the 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 of sexual misconduct, dating and domestic violence, stalking, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about their rights, support resources, and reporting options. To learn more about reporting and support options for a variety of concerns, 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. If you have a religious conflict with any exam dates *please let me know by Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>* so I can make adjustments.

See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.