

Course Syllabus
ECON 3070-040
Intermediate Microeconomic Theory
Spring 2020

Instructor: Corey Woodruff
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Office: ECON 313
Office Hours: Weds., 3pm-4pm; Fri., 2pm-3pm; and by appointment
Lecture Time and Location: MWF 12:00pm-12:50pm, HLMS 221

TA: Mark Valkovci
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Office: ECON 306
Office Hours: Thurs., 12pm-3pm
Recitations: Section 041: Tues, 5:00-5:50, CLRE 212
Section 042: Thurs, 3:30-4:20, ECON 119

Course Description

This course introduces the theoretical framework for analyzing the economic behavior of individual decision-makers, such as consumers, workers, and firms. The course will be divided roughly into 3 parts. The first will be an introduction to microeconomics, a review of supply and demand, and a conceptual framework for thinking about consumer decision-making. The second part will be a discussion of firm behavior and equilibrium outcomes in competitive markets. The third part of this course will focus on markets with imperfect competition.

Prerequisites

This course requires prerequisite courses of ECON 2010

AND

ECON 1088 or MATH 1081 or MATH 1300 or MATH 1310 or APPM 1350*

*Students should have basic knowledge of algebra, differentiation, and optimization.

Required Course Materials

Textbook (required): Microeconomics with MyLab, 9th Edition, by Pindyck and Rubinfeld, Pearson Publishing, ISBN 9780134153988. Students are required to have access to MyLab (which includes an eBook) at a minimum and can optionally choose to purchase a paper text. MyLab is where you will read your textbook and complete some graded assignments. You will access MyLab through our course website, Canvas.

I<Clicker: You will also be required bring an i<clicker with you to class every day. See the attendance section for more information.

Grading

All grades will be posted on Canvas. If you have any concerns or questions regarding your grades, please let me know immediately. Your course grade will be calculated based on the following:

Two midterms: 40%

Final exam: 30%
MyLab homework assignments: 15%
Pre-module assignments: 5%
Lecture attendance (Iclickers): 5%
Recitation: 5%

Exams

There will be 2 midterm exams throughout the semester. These exams will be held in the regular classroom at the regular class time. If you require additional testing accommodations (reduced distractions, extra time, etc...), I need to know by **Friday, Jan. 31st**. Your highest midterm exam score will count for 30% of your overall course grade, and your lowest midterm exam score will count for 10%. Finally, **absolutely no make-up exams will be given.**

Homework Assignments

There will be online homework assignments during each week throughout the semester. The homework can be accessed through Canvas. The purpose of these assignments is to further your understanding of the course material, and to serve as a form of preparation for the exams. Note that **no late work will be accepted**, unless it has been arranged with me well in advance of the due date. Your lowest score will be dropped. I suggest starting the assignments as early as possible, in order to avoid any technological issues, and so that you have time to ask questions.

Early-module Assignments

The early-module assignments are designed to refresh your memory of the math and Principles of Microeconomic concepts that will be necessary in order to be successful in that module. The assignments are open book and open note. You have 2 attempts at each assignment and the lowest two (2) are dropped from your final grade calculation. These will be submitted through Canvas.

Lecture Attendance

Iclickers will be used not only to gauge your understanding of the course material as we go through it, but also to calculate your attendance grade. Throughout each lecture, I will ask you several clicker questions, and you will receive one point for each submitted answer, and your grade for the day will be based on all of the clicker questions for that day. I will drop the lowest 5 clicker grades. Because I drop so many clicker grades, I will not excuse any absences/missed questions resulting from health or family emergencies, nor for lost/forgotten clickers or dead clicker batteries.

You are responsible for purchasing and registering your clicker by **Weds., Jan. 22nd**. Information on how to register clickers is available at <http://www.colorado.edu/oit/tutorial/cuclickers-iclicker-remote-registration>. Please note that using someone else's clicker for them is a violation of the university honor code and is considered academic dishonesty. If you plan to be absent, **do not** ask someone to use your clicker for you.

Recitation

Recitation will be an opportunity for your TA to review the material that you learned during lectures, as well as for you to ask questions or get help on the things that you are struggling with. You will have weekly ungraded assignments to work on. The material covered during recitation will also be of great help to you in completing the homework assignments. Your recitation grade

is based solely on attendance. However, I define “attendance” as being physical and mental, meaning that even if you are physically present, if you are not mentally attentive (if you are distracted by your phone, or if you are sleeping, for example), then I leave it up to the TA’s discretion to determine whether you have earned attendance credit for that class period.

How to Succeed in This Course

Below are a few tips that will help you succeed throughout the semester:

- Read the relevant sections of the textbook before class.
- Review the material (the powerpoint slides and/or your notes) within 1 day after the lecture.
- Complete all homework assignments.
- Use office hours effectively. The more detailed your questions are, the more helpful I can be. But please do not hesitate to come by my (or my TA’s) office hours if you are struggling with anything.
- Don’t be afraid to ask question or ask for help!

Technology Policy

Students are allowed (although not encouraged) to use their laptops during my class. However, if you plan to use your laptop, you must be seated in the back half of the classroom to minimize distraction to other students. If you are using your laptop, but not seated in the back half, I will ask you to move. Also, if you are distracting the students around you by watching Youtube videos or football highlights on your laptop, I will ask you to close your laptop, or to leave. Please be respectful of my time as well as that of your fellow students.

I do not explicitly forbid the use of cellphones, but if I notice that you are extremely distracted by yours, or that you are distracting your classmates, I will ask you to put away your cell phone or leave.

Mental Health

I take all mental health issues seriously. If you are struggling with any mental health issues (anxiety or depression, for example), please do not hesitate to talk to me. I am happy to provide you with resources and to figure out a plan to help you succeed in this class.

Important Dates

Midterm 1	Friday, Feb. 14 th
Midterm 2	Friday, March 20 th
Spring Break (No Class)	Monday, March 23 rd – Friday, March 27 th
Final Exam	Weds., May 6 th , 1:30pm – 4:00pm

University Policies:

Accommodation for Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner 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 for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail 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 policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

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 policy may include: plagiarism, 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 the Honor Code (honor@colorado.edu); 303-492-5550). Students found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](#).

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct, intimate partner abuse (including dating or domestic violence), stalking, or protected-class discrimination or harassment by 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 cureport@colorado.edu. Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](#), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

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. In this class, please send me e-mail or visit me in office hours to notify me of such a situation at least two weeks in advance of the event. See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

Tentative Course Outline

Week (Monday)	Chapters	Topics
1 13-Jan	1 Sections 1.1-1.2, 1.4 2 Sections 2.1-2.3 Math Review Materials	Preliminaries The basics of S and D Math Review
2 20-Jan	3 Sections 3.1-3.5	Consumer behavior
3 27-Jan	2 Section 2.4-2.5 4 Sections 4.1-4.3	Individual and Market Demand
4 3-Feb	5 Sections 5.1-5.3, 5.5-5.6	Uncertainty and Consumer Behavior
5 10-Feb	Review and exam week	Exam FRIDAY
6 17-Feb	6 Sections 6.1-6.4	Production
7 24-Feb	7 Sections 7.1-7.4	The Cost of Production
8 2-Mar	8 Sections 8.1-8.8	Profit Max and Competitive Supply
9 9-Mar	2 Section 2.7 4 Section 4.4 9 Sections 9.1-9.6	The basics of S and D Individual and Market Demand The analysis of Competitive Markets
10 16-Mar	Review and exam week	Exam FRIDAY
3/23 - 3/27 Spring Break - No Classes		
11 30-Mar	10 Sections 10.1-10.4 11 Sections 11.1-11.2	Market Power: Monopoly Pricing with Market Power
12 6-Apr	12 Section 12.1 – all?	Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly
13 13-Apr	12 Section on Prisoner's D 13 Sections 13.1-13.5	Prisoner's dilemma Game theory
14 20-Apr	16 Section 16.7 18 Sections 18.1,18.2,18.5	Why markets fail Externalities and Public Goods
15 27-Apr	Review week	NO CLASS FRIDAY - READING DAY
16 2-May	Finals	