
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMIC THEORY

ECON 3070-050 SYLLABUS, SPRING 2020

INSTRUCTOR: MINGHUI LI

Email minghui.li@colorado.edu

Office Hours

- On campus Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 11:00am-12:30pm in Economics 313, UCB, Boulder CO 80309

COURSE WEBSITE

Canvas is our class website:

- Login using your University of Colorado Boulder identikey and password <https://canvas.colorado.edu/>
- Under Course List, click “ECON 3070-050: Intermediate Microeconomic Theory”
- Note: all email correspondence will be through your CU Boulder email address.
 - Do not use the Canvas email or messages, it is not checked.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

From General Catalog: Explores theory and application of models of consumer choice, firm and market organization, and general equilibrium. Extensions include intertemporal decisions, decisions under uncertainty, externalities, and strategic interaction.

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to microeconomic theory, focusing on the behavior of households, firms, and the interaction of these agents in the marketplace. Microeconomic theory is used to explain how individuals decide what and how much to buy and how firms decide what and how much to sell under various economic environments (e.g., market structures, taxation, regulation). Extensions and applications will include market failures such as externalities and public goods, investments and net present value, and risk.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

Requires prerequisite courses of ECON 2010 (Principles of Microeconomics)

AND

ECON 1088 or MATH 1081 or MATH 1300 or MATH 1310 or APPM 1350 (all min grade C-)
(Math/Calculus courses)

AND

Restricted to students with 22-180 units completed.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course you should be able to:

- Identify the fundamentals of microeconomic theory
- Explain how consumers make decisions in the face of scarcity and how these decisions vary in response to changes in the economic environment.
- Explain how firms make decisions in the face of scarcity and how these decisions vary in response to changes in the economic environment.
- Compare consumer and producer behavior resulting from the different types of market structure.
- Apply algebraic, graphical and calculus tools to microeconomic theory
- Apply microeconomic principles, theories and models to critically analyze and explain economic situations encountered in the real world that involve microeconomics
- Communicate the results of economic analysis in a clear and professional way

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.

Course Website: <https://canvas.colorado.edu/> (Canvas) Grades and any further additional readings will be posted on Canvas. Please check Canvas frequently for any relevant notifications/changes that may occur throughout the course.

COURSE PRESENTATION AND PROCEDURES

There will be 14 modules corresponding to the 14 weeks of the course (1 module per week). You should proceed through one module per week, which will be comprised of readings from the course texts, supplemental class notes, graded discussion questions, homeworks and quizzes, exams, and various outside sources of information such as additional readings and video content, among other content.

COURSE OUTLINE

Review the separate weekly class schedule found on Canvas under “Syllabus” link.

EVALUATION AND GRADING

Course grades will be determined by the completion of assignments, exams, and discussions, as shown below:

Assignment*	Points per Assignment	Frequency	GRADE POINTS	GRADE PERCENTAGE
Early-Module Assignment	(3)	* (10)	= 30	3%
Problem Sets	(20)	* (11)	= 220	22%
Recitations			= 150	15%

Midterm Exam 1	(150)	*	(1)	= 150	15%
Midterm Exam 2	(150)	*	(1)	= 150	15%
Cumulative Final Exam	(300)	*	(1)	= 300	30%
TOTAL				= 1000	100%

*Keep a copy of all work created for the course, including work submitted through Canvas.

COURSE GRADING CRITERIA

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage Grade</i>	<i>Equivalent Points</i>	<i>Indicates</i>
A	93-100	930 – 1000	<i>Excellent</i>
A-	90-92.99	900 – 929	
B+	87-89.99	870 – 899	
B	83-86.99	830 – 869	<i>Above Average</i>
B-	80-82.99	800 – 829	
C+	77-79.99	770 – 799	
C	73-77.99	730 – 769	<i>Average</i>
C-	70-72.99	700 – 729	
D+	67-69.99	670 – 699	
D	63-67.99	630 – 669	<i>Below Average</i>
D-	60-62.99	600 – 629	
F	0-59	600 or lower	<i>Failure</i>

There is +/- grading in this class.

Early-module assignments (30 POINTS) – There will be twelve (12) 3-point early-module assignments. This early-module work is designed to remind you of math and Principles of Microeconomic concepts necessary to be successful in that module. Early-module work are open book and open note. You have 2 attempts at each early-module assignment and the lowest two (2) are dropped from your final grade calculation. Early-module work will be submitted through Canvas or MyLab and are due on Mondays.

Recitation (150 POINTS) – Recitation sessions are mandatory to attend for all students. Recitation sessions are instructed by your teaching assistant, she/he has full authorization of grading your recitation performance. Your recitation grades accounts for 15% of your overall course grade.

Problem Sets (220 POINTS) – There will be twelve (12) 20-point problem sets. The format of the problem sets will be multiple choice, calculations, and short answers and will be open book and open notes. Your lowest one (1) problem set is dropped from your final grade calculation. Problem sets will be submitted through Canvas or MyLab and are due on Sundays.

Exams (600 POINTS) – There will be Three (3) exams. The midterm exam is worth 150 points each and the cumulative final exam is worth 300 points. The format of the exam will be multiple choice and calculations and will be closed book. The two midterm exams will be completed in class time during the semester.

EXTRA CREDIT

Up to 50 points of extra available (= maximum 5% of the course grade).

- Weekly Practice Problem sets on MyLab. Each time you complete an assigned Practice Problem set by the due date, you will receive 3 points extra credit, up to 36 points total (= 12 Practice Problem sets * 3 points).
- An additional 14 points extra may be available during the semester for completing certain activities, such as listening and commenting on a podcast, completing special activities, etc. These extra credit opportunities will be determined by the instructor and announced in on Canvas.

EXPECTATIONS OF INSTRUCTOR

I take my role as your instructors very seriously, and, in fact, I care about how well you do in this course and that you have a satisfying, rewarding experience. To that end, it is our commitment to you to respond individually to the work you submit in this class and to return your work in a timely manner. If, however, due to unforeseeable circumstances, the grading of your work takes longer than the times I have listed here, I will keep you informed of my progress and make every effort to return your work with feedback as soon as I can.

Communication – I am nice and I want you to succeed. Do not hesitate to contact me about anything. Yes, anything.

E-mail

Instructor Minghui Li minghui.li@colorado.edu

- All e-mail sent to me should contain the following: Course Name and Number (i.e., ECON 3070), Your Name, Short Description of your question. I will respond to email within 12-18 hours, but usually within 2-4 hours. I always respond to email. If you have not had a response within 18 hours I did not receive the email. Be sure to use your CU email address because sometimes gmail and yahoo email accounts are filtered into my spam folder.

Office Hours

- On campus Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 11:00am-12:30pm in Economics 313, UCB, Boulder CO 80309

General Course Announcements

- Announcements: Please check the “announcements” section on Canvas often.

COURSE POLICIES

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

What are the basic computer specifications for Canvas?

- Visit the official [Canvas Computer Specifications Page](#) for the latest list of recommended system requirements.

Which browsers does Canvas support?

- Visit the [Supported Browsers Page](#) for the detailed list of internet browsers in Windows, MacOS, iOS and Android.

Skill Requirements

- Students also need to possess basic computer skills, such as:
 - How to use a web browser and word processor
 - How to send and receive email
 - How to locate a file and attach it to an email or upload a file into a course
 - How to copy and paste
 - Must know basic typing skills and keyboard commands
 - Must know basic computer terminology

Technical Support

- This course is delivered using the Canvas course management system. If you are experiencing issues with Canvas please contact CU Boulder's Help desk at 303-735-4357 (5-HELP) or help@colorado.edu.
 - 5-Help will answer your call: Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from noon to 6:00 p.m., Closed during [University Holidays](#)
- Help Menu in Canvas
 - Within the Canvas App, you can search the Canvas support guides, Report a Problem or chat with Canvas Support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- MyLab tech support:
 - https://help.pearsoncmg.com/ccng/ccng_instr/ccng_xmel_instr_help_support_bridge.html or <https://support.pearson.com/getsupport/s/>

POLICY ON DUE DATES

Each module you will complete a series of critical thinking questions that reflect material from the various delivery formats and required readings. It is your responsibility to turn in each assignment on the required date. Late assignments are not accepted for pre-class work, problem sets or exams. If the discussion postings are turned in late, it will be reduced by one full letter grade for each 24-hours late. The exceptions that may be considered is due to sickness, university excused function, or circumstances beyond the students' control. The instructor reserves the sole right to determine what grounds constitutes a reasonable excuse for missing or submitting a late work assignment and the right to require the student to submit proper verification of such excuse.

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. 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. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

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 who are 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, 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.

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.

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. Because of the flexibility of timing of completion of assignments in this class, you must contact the instructor in at least two weeks in advance if you anticipate a religious holiday may impact your completion of coursework.

For more information on the religious holidays most commonly observed by CU Boulder students consult the [online interfaith calendar](#).

TECHNICAL HELP

Canvas technical support

- Click the “help” (?) icon on the left side of Canvas, once logged in

MyLab tech support

- <https://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com/northamerica/myeconlab/students/support/index.html>

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

A variety of instructional support services, such as writing center, guidance on personal or educational issues, tutoring questions and library resources are available to the students. For more information about their services, visit their websites linked under modules on Canvas.