

Syllabus for Intermediate Microeconomic Theory

ECON 3070 Spring 2023

Instructor and contact information

Instructor: Dr. Daria Bottan

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Office: 04B Economics Building (basement of Econ Building next door to the male bathroom)

My Office Hours:

I will hold *office hours* during 3 different times every week. Feel free to stop by, ask questions, and just chat. If you would like to talk to me but your schedule does not allow you to come during office hours, email me and we can arrange a personal appointment.

I realize that coming to office hours may be uncomfortable and even a little scary. But once you do come to office hours, you'll probably realize it isn't as bad as you imagined. I also feel like going to office hours can be really useful: I can help you resolve a lot of questions and issues if we speak one on one. Do not hesitate to reach out no matter how small or large your issue is. I am here to help. I am available to you, your issues matter to me and office hours is the best way to discuss them (I prefer it to email).

I'll give office hours in my office:

Monday and Wednesday: 2:30-3:30pm and

Friday: 10:00-11:00am

Coffee Hour:

I also realize that sometimes maybe you want to talk to me but it feels intimidating to come to office hours or approach me after class. Coffee Hour is my attempt to provide a space where we can speak in an informal and relaxing way. I'll sit on the bench in front of the economics building and drink a coffee every Wednesday from 10:00 to 11:00, you are welcome to join me. Feel free to stop by and introduce yourself, chat about Econ, career or whatever is on your mind. I look forward to meeting you!

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).

Class Format

Every class I will give lectures and ask you question which you will answer on you phone or laptop using the iclicker. I'll give you some extra credit for answering those questions. However, I'd like you to understand that the main benefit you get from answering those questions is not the extra credit but the learning gains. Learning happens in your head, not on my slides so contemplating and attempting those questions is a good way to learn more and be more prepared for the exam.

See details on iclicker grading and how to sign up below. We will also have problem sets most weeks. The questions on the problem sets will be similar to those on the exams, I strongly recommend you to put a lot of effort in those.

There will also be Problems Sets due every week/two weeks, 2 Midterm Exams and a Final Exam.

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;

Grading

Your grade will consist of:

25% Average Homework Grade
20% Midterm Exam 1
20% Midterm Exam 2
35% Cumulative Final Exam
1% iClicker

Grading Scale

93% and above corresponds to A, 90-92% corresponds to A-; 87-89% corresponds to B+, 83-86% is B, 80-82% is B-; 77-79% corresponds to C+, 73-76% is C, 70-72 is C-; 60-69% corresponds to D; below 60 corresponds to F.

There is no rounding. This rule holds regardless of how close you are to a grade cutoff. For example, 89.99 is a B+ and will not be rounded to an A-.

Exams

Midterm Exams will take place during class time and they will include questions similar to those we practice in class + during Homework assignments. *Midterm Exam 1 is currently scheduled for February 17th and Midterm Exam 2 is scheduled for April 19th.*

If you miss an exam without *documented excused absence*, the grade for that exam will be zero. In case of an excused absence for the midterm exam, the weight of the midterm will be shifted to the final (final exam will have a weight of 55%). There will be no make up midterm exams.

Homework (Problem Set)

There will be homework most weeks which you will have to submit on paper in class or over canvas during the remote weeks.

Problem sets are very challenging, I don't expect you to figure them out without my help. So do come to office hours for those and ask questions about them after class. Give yourself enough time to do the problem sets because otherwise you might not have time to get my help.

There is no way to recover a missed homework regardless of the reason why it was missed. However, I'll drop one homework with the lowest grade from your grade calculation.

Recitation

Recitation is a very important and extremely useful aspect of this class. It will help you understand material better and perform better on the exams. There will be extra credit for attending recitation. I will talk about it in the first week of class.

Extra Credit

There will be several extra credit opportunities throughout the semester. The first extra credit opportunity is as follows: you'll get +1% to your grade on the final exam if you come to office hours for at least 5 min during the first two weeks of class. I think the remote environment hinders communication between the professor and the students and I think it is important for us to get to know each other for the success of the semester. So I am willing to incentives it. Stop by to say hi and tell me a little about yourself or ask any questions about the class.

Class Materials

Iclicker

Do not purchase access to iclicker: I think I might be able to get it to you for free but I am still figuring out how to do it. I will let you know during the first week of classes.

Grading: if you do all the iClicker questions throughout the semester you will get +1% to your overall grade in the end of the semester. The grade you get for iclicker is proportional to the amount of questions you answer.

Iclicker points are bonus point, there is absolutely no way to recover them if they were missed regardless of why they were missed.

Books

The textbook I recommend for this class is Microeconomics 9th Edition, by Pindyck and Rubinfeld, Pearson Publishing, ISBN 9780134153988. I do recommend you get the textbook. This class is somewhat challenging so it is good to have a textbook for reference and just a slightly different way to approach the material than I teach.

You can buy a used version if you like (we will not be using the online system that comes with it and will do the homework on paper instead). I am doing this to save you money on the textbook.

Attendance

I do not grade attendance in this class. However, I strongly recommend you to come to class: doing practice questions in class is how you will learn most. You will also miss iclicker points and other extra credit opportunities if you miss class.

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, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) on the Disability Services website.

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. Most importantly feel free to email me any information you find important regarding this matter.

Honor Code

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code academic integrity policy. Violations of the Honor Code may include, but are not limited to: 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 on the [Honor Code website](#).

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder 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. Information about OIEC, university policies, [reporting options](#), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and graduate instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when 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.

Classroom Behavior

Both students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote or online. 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 classroom behavior policy, the Student Code of Conduct, and the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance.

Requirements for COVID-19

As a matter of public health and safety, all members of the CU Boulder community and all visitors to campus must follow university, department and building requirements and all public health orders in place to reduce the risk of spreading infectious disease. CU Boulder currently requires COVID-19 vaccination and boosters for all faculty, staff and students. Students, faculty and staff must upload proof of vaccination and boosters or file for an exemption based on medical, ethical or moral grounds through the MyCUHealth portal.

The CU Boulder campus is currently mask-optional. However, if public health conditions change and masks are again required in classrooms, students who fail to adhere to masking requirements will be asked to leave class, and students who do not leave class when asked or who refuse to comply with these requirements will be referred to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. For more information, see the policy on classroom behavior and the Student Code of Conduct. If you require accommodation because a disability prevents you from fulfilling these safety measures, please follow the steps in the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus.

If you feel ill and think you might have COVID-19, if you have tested positive for COVID-19, or if you are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated and have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, you should stay home and follow the further guidance of the Public Health Office (contacttracing@colorado.edu). If you are fully vaccinated and have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, you do not need to stay home; rather, you should self-monitor for symptoms and follow the further guidance of the Public Health Office (contacttracing@colorado.edu).

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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 email me if you have any conflicts for religious reasons.

The class policies are subject to change due to unexpected external conditions and to ensure better student learning.