UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER
INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMIC THEORY
ECON 3070 ONLINE SYLLABUS, SPRING 2020

INSTRUCTOR: DR. KAREN GEBHARDT

Email karen.gebhardt@colorado.edu

Mobile (970) 231-1287

- This is my cell phone number. Call or text anytime between 8am – 8pm MTN. I sometimes have my phone turned off during the middle of the day, but leave a message when it is a good time to get a hold of you and I will call you back.

Office Hours

- Online Office Hours: Thursdays 12-2 pm using Zoom (https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/3034922493)
- On campus Office Hours: Wednesdays 4-5:30 in Economics 04D, UCB, Boulder CO 80309

INSTRUCTOR BIO

Dr. Karen Gebhardt is the Director of the Online Economics Program at CU Boulder. Her research focuses on using learning analytics to improve student learning outcomes in economics education with an emphasis on improving grades and completion rates in online courses. She is an early adopter of technology in the classroom and advocates strongly for it because she sees the difference it makes in student engagement and learning. In her free time, Dr. Gebhardt enjoys rock climbing and traveling in the Colorado Rockies and beyond.

TERM START: January 21, 2019

TERM END: May 6, 2019

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 3070-581: 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), international trade, taxes, and decision-making under uncertainty.

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.

Supplemental Readings

Supplemental readings and other materials will be provided in Canvas system, via the CU Library electronic reserve, or by links to websites.

Instructional Methodology and Delivery

This course is delivered via distance education format using the CU Canvas system. This format will use a combination of readings, online discussion, and other web-based resources. You will interact with the instructor and other students using the communication functions provided by Canvas. You will submit assignments in accordance with the course outline using Canvas.

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.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

This course is designed to engage you through class discussions on the topics covered in the course materials. It is important that you participate in class discussions to facilitate learning by other students and gain exposure to different viewpoints of other students in the class. It is therefore necessary to participate throughout the week in the discussion questions, not wait until the last minute to post on discussion topics.

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	(5)	* (10)	= 50	5%
Discussion Postings	(30)	* (4)	= 120	12%
Problem Sets	(30)	* (11)	= 330	33%
Proctored Midterm Exam	(200)	* (1)	= 200	20%
Proctored 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

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

There is +/– grading in this class.

Early-module assignments (50 POINTS) – There will be twelve (12) 5-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 Tuesdays.

Discussion posting (120 POINTS) – There will be four (4) 30-point discussion postings. The discussion will occur asynchronously; I will post a discussion question and you will respond to the questions at your convenience prior to the due date. See the class schedule for due dates of posts and comments. Discussions are open book and open note. Discussions will be submitted through Canvas. The initial discussion post is due on Thursday and the discussion response is due on Sunday.

Problem Sets (330 POINTS) – There will be twelve (12) 30-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 (500 POINTS) – There will be two (2) exams. The proctored midterm exam is worth 200 points and the proctored cumulative final exam is worth 300 points. The format of the exam will be multiple choice and calculations and will be closed book. The exams are completed on Canvas or MyLab in a proctored setting.

This course requires proctored examinations. Exams are proctored which will require planning on your part. Proctors are individuals who administer the exam process following the guidelines provided by University of Colorado Boulder to ensure academic integrity.

Who can be my proctor?

If you are in Boulder or nearby, you can take your exam:

1. **With me** at the Department of Economics. There is no cost for using this proctor. This option is only on selected days during the exam period.
2. At the **University Testing Center** on-campus in Boulder, CO. There may be a cost for using the testing center. This option is only available M-F during regular business hours.
3. With **ProctorU or a comparable online proctoring service as determined by your instructor.** Online proctoring is a service that uses a webcam and microphone to ensure academic integrity. To use this service, you must have access to a computer with a webcam and a microphone. There will be a cost for using the online proctoring services.

If you outside of Boulder, you can take your exam:

1. At **an accredited college or university testing center** in your town or nearby. There may be a cost for using this testing center.
2. With **ProctorU or a comparable online proctoring service as determined by your instructor.** Online proctoring is a service that uses a webcam and microphone to ensure academic integrity. To use this service, you must have access to a computer with a webcam and a microphone. There will be a cost for using the online proctoring services.

Please see Canvas for detailed information about proctoring, including the contact information for the UTC, ProctorU, and a nationwide list of accredited college or university testing centers. If you are in a rural area or on a military base, you may need to be approved to use a person as a proctor and information is provided on Canvas for this approval process.

EXTRA CREDIT

Up to 50 points of extra may be 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 Karen Gebhardt **karen.gebhardt@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 12-24 hours, but usually within 4-6 hours. I always respond to email. If you have not had a response within 24 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.

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- This is my cell phone number. Call or text anytime between 8am – 8pm MTN. I sometimes have my phone turned off during the middle of the day, but leave a message when it is a good time to get a hold of you and I will call you back.

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General Course Announcements

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

Course Policies

Netiquette

All students should be aware that their behavior impacts other people, even online. I hope that we will all strive to develop a positive and supportive environment and will be courteous to fellow students and your instructor. Due to the nature of the online environment, there are some things to remember.

1. Always think before you write. In other words, without the use of nonverbals with your message, your message can be misinterpreted. So please think twice before you hit submit.
2. Keep it relevant. There are places to chat and post for fun everyday stuff. Do not stray from the discussion in the assigned questions.
3. Never use all caps. This is the equivalent of yelling in the online world. It is not fun to read. Only use capital letters when appropriate.
4. Make sure that you are using appropriate grammar and structure. In other words, I don't want to see anyone writing "R U" instead of "are you". There are people in the class that may not understand this type of abbreviation, not to mention it does nothing to help expand your writing and vocabulary skills. Emoticons are fine as long as they are appropriate. A smile 😊 is welcome, anything offensive is not.

5. Treat people the same as you would face-to-face. In other words, it is easy to hide behind the computer. In some cases, it empowers people to treat others in ways they would not in person. Remember there is a person behind the name on your screen. Treat all with dignity and respect and you can expect that in return.
6. Respect the time of others. This class is going to require you to work in groups. Learn to respect the time of others in your group and your experience will be much better. Always remember that you are not the only person with a busy schedule, be flexible. Do not procrastinate! You may be one that works best with the pressures of the deadline looming on you, but others may not be that way. The same is true for the reverse. The key to a successful group is organization, communication and a willingness to do what it takes to get it done.

Website: http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html

Compiled by Melissa Landin, Instructor, Dept. of Communication, Inver Hills Community College, mlandin@inverhills.edu

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

- Canvas technical support. 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
  - On your computer, click the "help" (?) icon on the left side of Canvas, once logged in
  - 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 problem sets or exams. If the early-module assignments or discussion postings are turned in late, they 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.

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.

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.

Course Withdrawal Policy

Any student who wishes to withdraw from the course must submit a request directly to Continuing Education. For complete information, please visit their website at https://ce.colorado.edu/resources/topics/dates-and-deadlines-general-info/

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.

Intermediate Microeconomic Theory, ECON 3070, Spring 2020, Gebhardt, University of Colorado Boulder				
Module (start date)	**Chapter Number and Sections**	**Topic**	**Graded Assignments**	**Due Date by *11:59pm MST/MDT***
1 (1/21)	**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	Pre-module work 1 Practice Problem set mod 1 (extra credit) Discussion posting module 1 Problem Set module 1 Discussion comment module 1	Tuesday 1/21 Thursday 1/23 Thursday 1/23 Sunday 1/26 Sunday 1/26
2 (1/27)	**3** Sections 3.1-3.5	Consumer behavior	Pre-module work 2 Practice Problem set mod 2 (extra credit) Problem Set module 2	Tuesday 1/28 Thursday 1/30 Sunday 2/2
3 (2/3)	**2** Section 2.4-2.5 **4** Sections 4.1-4.3	Individual and Market Demand	Pre-module work 3 Practice Problem set mod 3 (extra credit) Problem Set Module 3	Tuesday 2/4 Thursday 2/6 Sunday 2/9
4 (2/10)	**5** Sections 5.1-5.3, 5.5-5.6	Uncertainty and Consumer Behavior	Pre-module work 4 Practice Problem set mod 4 (extra credit) Problem Set module 4	Tuesday 2/11 Thursday 2/13 Sunday 2/16
5 (2/17)	**6** Sections 6.1-6.4	Production	Pre-module work 5 Practice Problem set mod 5 (extra credit) Discussion module 5 Problem Set module 5 Discussion comment module 5	Tuesday 2/18 Thursday 2/20 Thursday 2/20 Sunday 2/23 Sunday 2/23
6 (2/24)	**7** Sections 7.1-7.4	The Cost of Production	Pre-module work 6 Practice Problem set mod 6 (extra credit) Problem Set module 6	Tuesday 2/25 Thursday 2/27 Sunday 3/1
7 (3/2)	**You may take the PROCTORED midterm exam the day of your choosing Thursday through Sunday.**		**Proctored Midterm Exam**	**Thursday 3/5 - Sunday 3/8**
8 (3/9)	**8** Sections 8.1-8.8	Profit Max and Competitive Supply	Pre-module work 8 Practice Problem set mod 8 (extra credit) Problem Set module 8	Tuesday 3/10 Thursday 3/12 Sunday 3/15
9 (3/16)	**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	Pre-module work 9 Practice Problem set mod 9 (extra credit) Discussion posting module 9 Problem Set module 9 Discussion comment module 9	Tuesday 3/17 Thursday 3/19 Thursday 3/19 Sunday 3/29 Sunday 3/29
10 (3/30)	**10** Sections 10.1-10.4 **11** Sections 11.1-11.2	Market Power: Monopoly Pricing with Market Power	Pre-module work 10 Practice Problem set mod 10 (extra credit) Problem Set module 10	Tuesday 3/31 Thursday 4/2 Sunday 4/5
11 (4/6)	**12** Section 12.1	Monopolistic Competition Oligopoly	Pre-module work 11 Practice Problem set mod 11 (extra credit) Discussion posting module 11 Problem Set module 11 Discussion comment module 11	Tuesday 4/7 Thursday 4/9 Thursday 4/9 Sunday 4/12 Sunday 4/12

12 (4/13)	**12** Section 12.4 **13** Sections 13.1-13.5	Oligopoly – prisoner's dilemma Game theory	Pre-module work 12 Practice Problem set mod 12 (extra credit) Problem Set module 12	Tuesday 4/14 Thursday 4/16 Sunday 4/19
13 (4/20)	**16** Section 16.7 **18** Sections 18.1,18.2,18.5	Why markets fail Externalities and Public Goods	Pre-module work 13 Practice Problem set mod 13 (extra credit) Problem Set module 13	Tuesday 4/21 Thursday 4/23 Sunday 4/26
14 (4/27)	**You may take the PROCTORED cumulative final exam the day of your choosing Thursday through Sunday.**		**Proctored Final Exam**	**Thursday 4/30 - Sunday 5/3**