

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS

ECON2010-020

Fall 2011

Course Information

Instructor: Hao Bo
Office: ECON 206
Email: hao.bo@colorado.edu
Lecture: MWF 2:00-2:50 pm in HALE 270
Office Hours: TTH 10:00am-11:00am, F 10:00am-12:00pm

Recitation Schedules:

Ho	021	8:00-8:50	M	HALE 236
Ho	022	9:00-9:50	M	MUEN E432
White	023	3:00-3:50	M	KTCH 118
White	024	4:00-4:50	M	EKLC M203
Ho	025	8:00-8:50	W	KTCH 118
Ho	026	9:00-9:50	W	MUEN E113
White	027	4:00-4:50	W	EKLC E1B75
White	028	5:00-5:50	W	MUEN D144

Textbook:

Principles of Microeconomics (Fifth Edition) by N. Gregory Mankiw, South-Western College Publishers, ISBN-10: 0538453044—The best strategy for doing well in class and understanding the material is to read the corresponding textbook chapters before and after class. Reading this textbook for at least three times and making sure to ask about whichever you find hard to understand will make you feel good!

Microeconomics and Behavior (Eighth Edition) by Robert H. Frank, McGraw-Hill/Irwin, ISBN-10: 0324589980—This textbook is better but more challenging! It will be of use also for intermediate level micro courses.

Course Description:

Microeconomics is the subsection of economics that studies the behavior and interactions of individual consumers, firms and the government. This is in contrast to Macroeconomics, which is the study of aggregate behavior and the sum of individual economic decisions. We will study the principles of microeconomics with special emphasis on supply and demand, consumers, producers, and different market structures. The main goal of this class will be to improve your economic literacy, cover the fundamental concepts of microeconomics, and help you understand how these concepts relate to the reality.

Prerequisites:

Students should have a firm grasp of algebra and be comfortable using equations, graphs and tables. To facilitate this, TAs will hold a math review session at the beginning of recitations. Students whose math skills are rusty should read Chapter 2 appendix in Mankiw's book.

Lectures:

The material covered in lecture will follow topics from the textbook, but may differ in emphasis. Students are strongly encouraged to attend all lectures. Besides all the obvious reasons to attend lecture, some material on the exam will only be covered in class and other topics from the book will not be covered. In the off chance that you miss a lecture, you should get lecture notes from a fellow student, if they are willing to share. I don't give students my notes as they are only outlines of topics to discuss and will not be of much help to you.

Grading and Exams:

Your course grade will be based on one midterm, two recitation quizzes, and a cumulative final exam. Your final grade will be weighted as follows: 30% for the midterm, 30% for recitation quizzes, and 40% for the Final. Your final grade will not be totally determined by the absolute value of your scores. It depends largely on your position compared with others, since, for example, after a very hard exam, 70 out of 100 may be a very good score. So I reserve the right to curve midterms, recitations, and final exam if needed be.

The quizzes and exams in this course will not be very hard, so I will certainly fail those whose absolute value of the final grade is less than half of the full mark, of course before curve.

The dates of the midterm and final are listed below. The format of questions in the exams will be multiple-choice (1 out of 4). The exams will be graded by Scantron, and please be sure to remember a #2 pencil. Calculator is allowed, but no cell phone calculators. Exam questions will be based on material covered in lecture, and practices assigned in recitations.

Make-ups for any exam are allowed only under compelling circumstances. Under such a compelling circumstance, you are always required to make prior arrangements before the exam, usually one week in advance. So please make sure to contact me at least one week before. In the case that you miss a midterm exam that you cannot make-up, you will get 20% of the full mark of what you miss. This percentage is due to two considerations: 1. 20% is lower than 25% which is what you are expected to get when you give totally random answers in multiple-choice questions; 2. If you do extremely well in other parts of the course, this 20% will give a good chance to be not failed, and I don't want to fail students who do very good jobs in other parts of the course but just miss one exam. Please remember in order not to be failed, you need to get at least 50% questions to be answered rightly on average for the quizzes and exams.

Recitations:

Recitation is a necessary place for practice! You will have detailed information about recitations from your TA, such as quiz policy, their office hours and advices about how to get full mark in recitation quizzes.

Important Dates:

Class Starts: Monday, August 22nd

First Midterm: Friday, October 7th

Final Exam: Monday, Dec 12, 1:30pm –4:00pm

Midterms will be given in the classroom during the normal class time. Final exam will also be given in the classroom. If you have three or more final exams scheduled on the same day, you are entitled to arrange an alternative exam time for the last exam or exams scheduled on that day. To qualify for rescheduling final exam times, you must provide evidence that you have three or more exams on the same day, and

arrangements must be made with your instructor no later than the end of the sixth week of the semester. For the complete final examination policy, see the University of Colorado at Boulder Catalog (<http://www.colorado.edu/catalog>).

Tentative List of Topics: (May Change as Class Goes on)

I am hoping to cover the following topics during the semester:

Part 1:

Principles of Economics (Chapter 1 in Mankiw's book)

Thinking Like an Economist (Chapter 2 in Mankiw's book)

Interdependence and the Gains from Trade (Chapter 3 in Mankiw's book)

Part 2:

The Market Forces of Supply and Demand (Chapter 4 in Mankiw's book)

Elasticity and Its Application (Chapter 5 in Mankiw's book)

Supply, Demand and Government Policies (Chapter 6 in Mankiw's book)

Part 3:

Consumers, Producers and Efficiency of Markets (Chapter 7 in Mankiw's book)

The Costs of Taxation (Chapter 8 in Mankiw's book)

Application: International Trade (Chapter 9 in Mankiw's book)

Part 4:

Externalities (Chapter 10 in Mankiw's book)

Public Goods and Common Goods (Chapter 11 in Mankiw's book)

Part 5:

The Costs of Production (Chapter 13 in Mankiw's book)

Firms in Competitive Markets (Chapter 14 in Mankiw's book)

Monopoly (Chapter 15 in Mankiw's book)

Monopoly Competition (Chapter 16 in Mankiw's book)

Oligopoly (Chapter 17 in Mankiw's book)

Above only corresponds to about 350 pages in Mankiw's book, so why not take the first two or three weeks to read them through before you read them for a second time.

Additional Notes:

Disability Policy:

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter from Disability Services to me in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities.

Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>

Religious Observance Policy:

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments, or required attendance. If you have a conflict, please contact me at the beginning of the semester so we can make proper arrangements.

Code of Behavior Policy:

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance, and nationalities. 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.

Honor Code:

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>.

Discrimination & Harassment Policy:

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment (<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/discrimination.html>), the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships applies to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>.