

## ECON 2010-200: Principles of Microeconomics

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<b>Lecture:</b>	RAMY C250, MWF, 2:30-3:20 PM
<b>Instructor:</b>	Alec Truax
<b>Office:</b>	ECON 401
<b>Office Hours:</b>	M & W 4:00-5:00 and by appointment
<b>Email:</b>	alec.truax@colorado.edu
<b>Website:</b>	Canvas

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### Course Description and Objective

In this course, we will examine and develop an understanding of the basic concepts and mechanisms of microeconomics. Our objective is to develop a basic toolset that can be used to analyze real world events from a microeconomic perspective. Throughout the course we will discuss how firms and consumers make decisions, how markets work and when/why they can fail, and the role of governments in market regulation in addition to other topics.

### Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course. A good understanding of basic algebra and graphing concepts will be helpful.

### Important Dates

Key dates for this class are our two in class midterms and the final exam. Midterm dates are tentative and may change if absolutely necessary. The final exam date is set by the university and will not change. These dates are:

- Midterm I: Friday, 10/4
- Midterm II: Friday, 11/8
- Final Exam: Monday, 12/16, 1:30-4 PM

### Required Materials

For this course, the required text is – *Paul Krugman and Robin Wells, Microeconomics, 6th ed, 2021, Worth Publishers*. In addition, you need to sign up for the *Achieve* platform to complete weekly homework assignments. The *Achieve* platform provides access to the eBook.

To keep the cost of your course materials as low as possible and access those materials as conveniently as possible, you will have access to the materials through a program called “Inclusive Access” which will appear on your tuition and fee bill as “Day 1 Digital Access”.

- You will receive access to all digital course materials on the first day of classes through your Canvas page
- You will see a “Day 1 Digital Access” charge on your tuition and fee bill. The charge covers a low price, discounted by the publisher and not available outside this course.
- You have the option to opt out of Inclusive Access. This means you won’t pay for anything but you lose all access to the course materials – including the homework manager. *Please do not opt out if you are planning on succeeding in this course.*

Lastly, we will make use of iClickers in this course which requires either a physical iClicker remote, the iClicker app on your mobile device, or access to the iClicker Website.

## Course Structure

This course will consist of readings, lectures, in-class participation, weekly homework, and recitations

- Readings: Required pre-class readings from the course textbook are on the course schedule. While not graded, these readings are important for understanding the material and reading them before class will aid in engaging with the lecture.
- Attendance: To understand the material, it is essential that you attend the lectures. You may miss 3 lectures throughout the semester without penalty (see below) for any reason inclusive of sickness, emergencies, etc.. If you are experiencing circumstances which require you to miss more than 3 lectures please contact me as soon as possible.
- Participation: In class participation will be measured using iClicker questions starting week 2. In each class there will be periodic polls. Each class you will earn 3 points for responding to a majority of these questions. Correct responses will contribute towards an additional point, such that each lecture is worth 4 participation points. At the end of the semester, I will drop the 3 lowest participation grades.
- Homework: There will be weekly homework assignments. Each assignment will be available on Monday and is due by the end of the week, i.e, 11:59 PM Sunday evening. Your grade is the percentage correct in your highest of 3 attempts. You can submit the homework up to 72 hours late for a penalty of 20% every 24 hours past due. At the end of the semester, I will drop your lowest scored assignment.
- Extra Credit Assignments: Throughout the course, there will be optional extra credit assignments available in *Achieve*. These will become available as material is covered and are due by the next midterm exam date. **Extra credit assignments are not required.** Only complete them if you need additional practice/help or you feel that you will need extra points.
- Recitations: Starting the **second** week of class, there will be weekly recitations. Attendance in these recitations is mandatory with 1 free absence per semester. If you must miss more than one recitation due to personal circumstance, please contact your TA. These absences will be excused at their discretion.

**Note:** if circumstances prohibit you from completing your work on time, contact me ASAP. Extensions can be granted at instructor discretion. I **cannot** allow extensions or rescheduling after a deadline has passed.

## Recitations

Recitations begin on the **second week** of classes. Attendance in recitations is essential to understanding the material in the course. TAs conducting recitations will grade your performance which will count toward your final grade.

## Exams and Grading

We will have two in-class midterms and a cumulative final exam. When calculating the final grade for the class, **I will use the maximum of your two exam scores**. Hence, if you miss one of the midterms, the score for this test will be automatically dropped. However, if you miss both midterms due to a medical reason (you must inform me prior to each midterm), the weight of the midterm will be shifted to the final exam. There will be no make up exams. If your scores for both midterms are in top 5% of the class, you will get a flat 10% added to your final exam.

Each extra credit assignment contributes towards a semester maximum of 3 percentage points. These points will be added directly to your final grade after all other grades and adjustments are accounted for. Grading weights are as follows:

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<b>Attendance:</b>	10%
<b>Recitations:</b>	10%
<b>Homework:</b>	20%
<b>Maximum of Midterm I and Midterm II:</b>	25%
<b>Final Exam:</b>	35%

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<b>Total:</b>	100%
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<b>Extra Credit:</b>	3%
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Your letter grade will follow the conventional scale, however, when calculating your final grade, I will round up if you are within 0.1 percentage points of the next grade such that the scale is:

A:  $\geq 94$ , A-: 90 – 93.9, B+: 87 – 89.9, B: 83 – 86.9, B-: 80 – 82.9, C+: 77 – 79.9, C: 73 – 76.9, C-: 70 – 72.9, D+: 67 – 69.9, D: 63 – 66.9, D-: 60 – 62.9, F:  $< 60$ .

**These are firm cutoffs. Please do not email me at the end of the semester asking for a higher grade.**

## Office Hours & Communication Policy

The course TAs and myself will hold regularly. My in-person office hours are:

- **Alec Truax: Monday and Wednesday, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM in ECON 401**
- **TA office hours TBA**

As a student of this course, you may go to any of our office hours regardless of if you are enrolled in a specific TAs recitation. Please be respectful of these times. **Extending office hours in anyway is left TA discretion.**

When emailing your TAs or myself, please conduct communication in a professional manner. This means you should use your colorado.edu email and include your name and section in your email for quick reference. Please also review this syllabus to make sure your question is not answered here.

## Rules of Conduct

Because this is a large class, we will abide by a set of classroom rules to ensure an effective learning environment. These expectations also apply to recitations.

- Arrive on time and do not leave early. Do not start packing before the end of class
  - Attendance will be tracked by clicker questions throughout the lecture.
  - If you must leave early please notify me prior if possible so appropriate arrangements can be made.

**Note:** Failing to abide by rules 1 and 2 below will result in a zero grade for attendance that day.

1. With the exception iClicker responses—no laptops, no cellphones.
  - In general, the use of electronic devices is not permitted. There is now significant research that electronic devices are detrimental to classroom learning. If you must use an electronic device for taking notes due to a medical condition, please consult with the Office of Disability Services to request accommodations
2. No side conversations that would disrupt the classroom.
  - What is considered disrupting conversation is up to instructor discretion. In general, conversations held at a respectful volume about the current lecture or clicker question are acceptable while all others are not.

**For all other cases we will defer to CU's standard policies, specifically:** Students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote, or online. Failure 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.

## Policies

- **Accommodation for Disabilities, Temporary Medical Conditions, and Medical Isolation:** 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.

If you have a temporary medical condition or required medical isolation for which you require accommodation, please contact me immediately so proper arrangements can be made.

- **Preferred 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 Honor Code may include but are not limited to: plagiarism (including use of paper writing services or technology [such as essay bots]), 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. Understanding the course's syllabus is a vital part in adhering to the Honor Code.

All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution: StudentConduct@colorado.edu. Students found responsible for violating the Honor Code will be assigned resolution outcomes from the Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution as well as be subject to academic sanctions from the faculty member. Visit Honor Code for more information on the academic integrity policy.

- **Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation:** CU Boulder is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. University policy prohibits protected-class discrimination and harassment, sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner abuse (dating or domestic violence), stalking, and related retaliation by or against members of our community on- and off-campus. The Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) addresses these concerns, and individuals who have been subjected to misconduct can contact OIEC at 303-492-2127 or email CUreport@colorado.edu. Information about university policies, reporting options, and support resources including confidential services can be found on the OIEC website.

Please know that faculty and graduate instructors must inform OIEC when they are made aware of incidents related to these policies regardless of when or where something occurred. This is to ensure that individuals impacted receive outreach from OIEC about resolution options and support resources. To learn more about reporting and support for a variety of concerns, visit the Don't Ignore It page.

- **Religious Holidays:** Campus policy requires faculty to provide reasonable accommodations for students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Please communicate the need for a religious accommodation in a timely manner via email.

See the campus policy regarding religious observances for full details.

- **Mental Health and Wellness:** The University of Colorado Boulder is committed to the well-being of all students. If you are struggling with personal stressors, mental health or substance use concerns that are impacting academic or daily life, please contact Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS) located in C4C or call (303) 492-2277, 24/7.

Free and unlimited telehealth is also available through Academic Live Care. The Academic Live Care site also provides information about additional wellness services on campus that are available to students.