

Course Syllabus
ECON 3070-010
Intermediate Microeconomics
Spring 2022

Instructor: Saigeetha Narasimhan
Office: ECON 414
Email: saigeetha.narasimhan@colorado.edu
Lecture Time: MWF 9:05-9:55 am
Lecture Location: HLMS 241
Office Hours: Thursday 11am – 1 pm, and by appointment
Zoom Link: <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/2485215159>

TA: Colin Jareb
Email: colin.jareb@colorado.edu
Office: ECON 309B
Office Hours: Tuesday 2:30-3:30, Wednesday 12:30-2:30, and by appointment
Zoom Link: <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/my/cjareb>

Recitation Times and Locations:

Section 011 – Monday	1:25 -2:15	GUGG 3
Section 012 – Wednesday	2:30-3:20	ECON 13

Course Description

This course introduces the theoretical framework for analyzing the economic behavior of individual decision-makers, such as consumers, workers, and firms. The course will be divided into 6 sections. The first section will be an introduction to microeconomics, along with a review of supply and demand. Section 2 will discuss consumer behavior and market demand. We will look at how a consumer chooses how to allocate their scarce resources. Section 3 will cover producer behavior and market supply. We will consider how a producing firm chooses the number of inputs it uses, and the amount of output it produces for the market. Section 4 will deal with markets in which individual firms have no market power, and we will learn how prices are set in these markets. In Section 5 we consider different market structures, such as monopolies and oligopolies, with an introduction to some topics in game theory. Finally, if time permits, we will look at various topics in microeconomics relating to risk and public policy.

Prerequisites

This course requires prerequisite courses of ECON 2010 ***AND one of the following***: ECON 1088 or MATH 1081 or MATH 1300 or MATH 1310 or APPM 1350. These requirements imply that students should have basic knowledge of algebra, differentiation, and optimization.

Required Course Materials

The required textbook for this class is Microeconomics: An Integrated Approach, 5th edition (6th or 4th edition is fine – I just have to figure out parallel homework problems), by David Besanko and Ronald R. Braeutigam, 2013, John Wiley & Sons, New York, ISBN 9781118572276.

Inclusive Access: To keep the cost of your course materials as low as possible and access to those materials as convenient as possible, we have collaborated with the CU Book Store and the publisher to deliver those materials through a program called “Day 1 Digital Access”. You have electronic access to your course materials immediately through Canvas. You do not need to go to the bookstore. You do not need to pay for them right now.

The CU Book Store will bill you for these materials on your tuition and fee bill at the guaranteed lowest price. This charge will occur at or near the drop/add date. Although you must have these materials to pass the course, federal law mandates that you have the option of declining these materials. To do so, please visit: www.cubookstore.com/optout by Wednesday, January 26.

Grading

All grades will be posted on Canvas. If you have any concerns or questions regarding your grades, please let me know immediately. Your course grade will be calculated based on the following grading scheme:

Midterm Exams (best 2 of 3 only)	40%
Final Exam	30%
Problem Sets	25%
Recitation	5%

Exams: There will be 3 midterm exams throughout the semester. Each midterm will be administered online via Canvas. Your time window to complete each midterm begins 9am on the listed dates (see the schedule for exact dates) and ends on 9am the following day, but once you begin the midterm you will have 60 minutes to complete. I will drop your lowest midterm from your grade calculation. Please note: this means if you have to miss any **one** midterm for any reason (family emergency, health issue, etc.), that zero will be dropped from your grade calculation. **Because I drop the lowest exam score, I do not allow any make-ups or alternate exam times.** I advise you to try your hardest on every exam, because you never know when you may have to miss an exam unexpectedly.

The final exam will be cumulative. There will be absolutely no make-ups allowed, nor will you be allowed to take the final exam early. However, according to university policy, if a student has 3 or more final exams on the same day, they can arrange to take the last exam scheduled that day at a different time. If a student is in this situation and would like to take the final exam for this course at a different time, they must notify me no later than Monday, April 4.

To take the midterm exams and the final exam, you will be required to use Proctorio, an online proctoring tool. Proctorio allows students to complete an assessment at a remote location, such as their home, while helping to ensure the integrity of the exam. There is no cost to use this tool.

Please read Proctorio Information to set up Proctorio and finish Practice with Proctorio (Remotely Proctored) by Friday, February 4. If you have technical difficulties with this practice exam, email me or your TA immediately. Note that you are required to have a computer with a functioning webcam and microphone or have access to a computer with a functioning webcam microphone to complete your exams.

If you require additional testing accommodations, please let me know ASAP.

Problem sets: Throughout the semester, you will be assigned problem sets that will help to further your understanding of the course material, and to aid you in preparing for the exams. 10% of your grade will be based on completion of the problem sets. The remaining 15% will be based on select problems from each set, which I will grade for correct method and answer. Note that no late work will be accepted under any circumstances, unless it has been arranged with me well in advance of the due date. In addition, copying a classmate's solutions is not allowed. I highly encourage students to work together on the problem sets. However, students are expected to turn in their own work. If I find that any students have turned in identical assignments, all these students will be given a zero for the assignment, and all of these students will be referred to the dean of undergraduate studies. These problem sets are meant to be a form of preparation for the exams, so it is in your best interest to put forth your own effort to solve the problems.

Recitation: Recitation will be an opportunity for your TA to review the material that you learned during lectures, as well as for you to ask questions or get help on the things that you are struggling with. You will have weekly ungraded assignments to work on. The material covered during recitation will also be of great help to you in completing the homework assignments and preparing for the exams. Your recitation grade will be based solely on attendance. However, I define attendance as being physical and mental, meaning that if you are physically present, but you are not mentally attentive (if you are distracted by your phone, or if you are sleeping), then I leave it up to the TA's discretion to determine whether you have earned attendance credit for that recitation period.

Technology and Classroom Behavior Policy

Students are allowed (although not encouraged) to use their laptops during my class. However, if you plan to use your laptop, you must be seated in the back half of the classroom to minimize distraction to other students. If you are using your laptop, but not seated in the back half, I will ask you to move.

I do not forbid the use of laptops, iPads, cellphones, etc. All I ask is that you respect me and your fellow students in your behavior and your use of technology in the classroom.

Mental Health: I take all mental health issues seriously. If you are struggling with any mental health issues, please do not hesitate to talk to me. I am happy to provide you with resources and to figure out a plan to help you succeed in this class.

University Policies

Administrative Drops: Students may be dropped administratively if they do not attend class regularly during the first two weeks of the semester. In this course, regular attendance will be defined as having completed at least one of the Video Exercises in the first two weeks and having attended your first recitation meeting in Week 2.

Email Policy: Please note that in compliance with FERPA I am not permitted to discuss grades via email. Instead, please come see me in office hours. Use your school email. I will NOT reply to personal email. I will NOT reply to questions that have been addressed in the syllabus (or I will reply by referring to the syllabus). I will generally respond by the end of the day during business hours (M-F 9am-5pm). Do not expect to receive replies to emails after hours or on weekends.

Requirements for COVID-19: As a matter of public health and safety due to the pandemic, 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. Students who fail to adhere to these 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.

As of Aug. 13, 2021, CU Boulder has returned to requiring masks in classrooms and laboratories regardless of vaccination status. This requirement is a temporary precaution during the delta surge to supplement CU Boulders COVID-19 vaccine requirement. Exemptions include individuals who cannot medically tolerate a face covering, as well as those who are hearing-impaired or otherwise disabled or who are communicating with someone who is hearing-impaired or otherwise disabled and where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication. If you qualify for a mask-related accommodation, please follow the steps in the Accommodation for Disabilities statement on this syllabus.

Students who have tested positive for COVID-19, have symptoms of COVID-19, or have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for or had symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home.

Disability Accommodations: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services 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, or <http://disabilityservices.colorado.edu/>

Religious Observances: 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. In this class, please send me e-mail or visit me in office hours to notify me of such a situation at least two weeks in advance of the event. See full details at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/observance-religious-holidays-and-absen...>

Classroom Behavior: 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. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-classroom-and-course-related-be...> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/studentconduct/code.html>

Discrimination and Harassment: The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment (<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/discrimination-and-harassment-policy-an...>), 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://hr.colorado.edu/dh/Pages/default.aspx>.

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 (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). Information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-honorcode-policy> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/academic-integrity-policy>.

Tentative Course Schedule					
	Chapters	Topics	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
Week 1	1 Sections 1.1-1.2, 1.4 2 Sections 2.1-2.3 Math Review Materials	Preliminaries The basics of Supply and Demand Math Review	1/10	1/12	1/14
Week 2 (Recitations Start)	3 Sections 3.1-3.5	Consumer Behavior	1/17 PS1 Due	1/19	1/21
Week 3	2 Sections 2.4-2.5 4 Sections 4.1-4.3	Individual and Market Demand	1/24 PS2 Due	1/26	1/28
Week 4	6 Sections 6.1-6.4	Production	1/31 PS3 Due	2/2	2/4
Week 5	Review and Exam Week	Exam FRIDAY	2/7 PS4 Due	2/9	2/11 MIDTERM 1
Week 6	7 Sections 7.1-7.4	The Cost of Production	2/14	2/16	2/18
Week 7	8 Sections 8.1-8.8	Profit Maximization and Competitive Supply	2/21 PS5 Due	2/23	2/25
Week 8	2 Section 2.7 4 Section 4.4 9 Sections 9.1-9.6	The basics of supply and demand Individual and Market Demand The analysis of competitive markets	2/28 PS6 Due	3/2	3/4
Week 9	Review and Exam Week	Exam FRIDAY	3/7 PS7 Due	3/9	3/11 MIDTERM 2
Week 10	10 Sections 10.1-10.4 11 Sections 11.1-11.2	Market Power: Monopoly Pricing with Market Power	3/14	3/16	3/18
Week 11	Spring Break		3/21 Spring Break	3/23 Spring Break	3/25 Spring Break
Week 12	12 Section 12.1 12 Section 12.4 13 Sections 13.1-13.5	Monopolistic Competition Oligopoly -- prisoner's dilemma Game theory	3/28	3/30 PS8 Due	4/1
Week 13	16 Section 16.7 18 Sections 18.1,18.2,18.5	Why Markets fail Externalities and Public Goods	4/4 PS9 Due	4/6	4/8
Week 14	Review and Exam Week	Exam FRIDAY	4/11 PS10	4/13	4/15 MIDTERM 3
Week 15	15 Sections 15.1-15.7	Investment, time, and capital markets	4/18	4/20	4/22
Week 16	Review, new material? TBD		4/25 PS11	4/27	4/29
Week 17	Final Exam Week		Final Exam: Tuesday, May 3 1:30–4 p.m.		