



University of Colorado Boulder
Intermediate Microeconomic Theory
ECON 3070-581 Syllabus, Fall 2024

Instructor: Dr. Mark Valkovci

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Office Hours

All office hours are via Zoom

W 3-430p

F 10-1130a

Appointments also available

INSTRUCTOR BIO

Dr. Mark Valkovci received his Doctorate in Economics from the University of Colorado Boulder in 2021. In his research he explores the economic impacts of environmental and labor policies, the political economy of pollution, climate change and many other topics. Mark enjoys teaching macroeconomics and environmental economics due not only to his personal interests in those areas, but also because the connections between the economy and the environment grow ever-more-important for the global society. In his free time, Mark enjoys being a huge nerd by reading books/comics, binge watching the shows/movies, and playing the board/video games of many fandoms. His favorite fandom is Star Wars, but he also spends time exploring the universes of Avatar the Last Airbender, Supernatural, Harry Potter, Doctor Who, Star Trek, Lucifer, Sherlock, and the list grows each year.

Term Start: September 3rd, 2024

Term End: December 15th, 2024

COURSE WEBSITE

Our course website is Canvas

- Login using your University of Colorado Boulder Identikey and password
- Under course list, click “ECON 3070-581: Intermediate Micro Theory Online”
- 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

Microeconomic theory is a powerful tool that is used as the foundation of problem-solving throughout the majority of economic analyses. This course provides a comprehensive introduction to microeconomic theory and its practical applications. We focus on the behavior of households, firms, and the strategic interactions between these agents in the marketplace. You will learn how economists use microeconomic theory to explain how individuals decide what and how much to buy, how firms decide and how much to sell under various economic environments (e.g, market structure, regulation, economic shocks). We will also extend our analyses to include discussions of market failures and public goods, international trade, taxes, and decision-making under uncertainty.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

Requires prerequisite courses of:

1. ECON 2010 (Principles of Microeconomics): grade of C - or higher
2. ECON 1088, MATH 1081, MATH 1300, MATH 1310 OR APPM 1350: grade of C- or higher

This course is restricted to students with 22-180 units completed

If you have not completed the prerequisite courses with the required grade, you must contact me within by the end of the first week of classes or you will automatically be dropped from the course.

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 type of market structures
- 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

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.

Textbook (required): Microeconomics with MyLab, 9th Edition, by Pindyck and Rubinfeld, Pearson Publishing, ISBN 9780134153988

Note: Materials are covered by CU Book Access. The cost of CU Book Access for Fall 2024 is \$269. The deadline to opt out of CU Book Access is Wednesday, September 11th. Note, that if you choose to opt out, you must independently purchase the course materials in order to be able to access the online homeworks. For more information about CU Book Access, CU Boulder's equitable access course materials program that offers eligible students a flat-rate course materials purchasing option, please visit <https://www.cubookstore.com/bookaccess>

SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS

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

ONLINE COURSE STRUCTURE

This course is an asynchronous online course. The format will use a combination of readings, online discussions, videos, and other web-based resources. Asynchronous learning does not require real-time interactions; instead, content is available online for you to access when it best suits your schedule, and assignments are completed

prior to the deadlines listed in the schedule. You will interact with the instructor and other students using the communication functions provided by Canvas. You will submit assignments using Canvas, email, or through another online system.

There will be 14 Modules covered during our 15-week semester, equating to approximately 1 module per week. You should proceed through each module in order which will be comprised of readings from course texts, supplemental class notes, graded discussions, homeworks, quizzes, exams, and various outside sources of information such as additional readings and video content, among other content.

CONTENT OUTLINE

Review the separate weekly class schedule found on Canvas under “Syllabus” link.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

This course is designed to engage you mostly through exercises. However, there will also be 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.

EVALUATION AND GRADING

Course grades will be determined by the completion of assignments, exams, and discussions as shown below:

<i>Assignment*</i>	Frequency	Number of Assignments Dropped	GRADE PERCENTAGE
<i>Early-module Assignment</i>	12	2	5.0%
<i>In-video Quizzes</i>	At least 50	Any >50	10.0%
<i>Discussion or Writing Assignment</i>	4	1	6.0%
<i>Exercises</i>	12	1	16.5%
<i>Problem Sets</i>	12	1	27.5%
<i>Proctored Midterm Exam</i>	1	0	12.5%
<i>Proctored Cumulative Final Exam</i>	1	0	22.5%

* Keep a copy of all work created for the course, including work submitted through Canvas.

Grading Criteria		
Grade	Percentage Grade	Indicates
A	93-100	Excellent
A-	90-92.99	
B+	87-89.99	
B	83-86.99	Above Average
B-	80-82.99	
C+	77-79.99	
C	73-77.99	Average
C-	70-72.99	
D+	67-69.99	
D	63-67.99	Below Average

D-	60-62.99	
F	0-59	Failure

ASSIGNMENTS

During the semester, we will cover one module per week. Each module will have the same types of assignments due and the due dates are the same days of the week each week (unless there are holidays - check class schedule for more detail). This is to help you develop a rhythm or routine. Since assignments are always due on the same days each week, it is very beneficial to develop a schedule for regularly completing those assignments. Modules always begin on Tuesday. All assignments are due by 11:59 pm Mountain Time on the assigned due date. The assignments you will see in each module are:

Early module assignments (5%) – There will be twelve (12) 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 assignments are open book and open note. You have two attempts at each early-module assignment, the highest grade counts, and the lowest two (2) are dropped from your final grade calculation. Early-module work will be submitted through Canvas or MyLab. Early-module assignments are due on Tuesdays by 11:59 pm.

In-Video Quizzes (10%) – There will be at least fifty in-video quizzes. You will watch lecture videos and answer questions during that video. Not all videos have in-video quizzes. The total possible points for each in-video quiz is 2, regardless of the number of quiz questions in the video. These quizzes are open book and open note. You have two attempts at each in-video quiz, the highest grade counts, and only the highest 50 count towards your final grade calculation. In-video quizzes will be submitted through Canvas using the tool “PlayPosit” and are due on Thursdays by 11:59 pm.

Exercises (16.5%) – There will be twelve (12) exercises. The format of exercises will be multiple choice, calculations, and short answers and will be open book and open notes. Your lowest one (1) exercise is dropped from your final grade calculation. These exercises are very similar to the problem sets. You have two attempts at each question on the exercise. Exercises will be submitted through Canvas or MyLab.

Problem Sets (27.5%) – There will be twelve (12) problem sets. The format of the problem sets will be multiple choice, calculations, and short answers and will be open book and open notes, but you only have one try per question. Your lowest one (1) problem set is dropped from your final grade calculation. Problem sets will be submitted through Canvas or MyLab.

Discussion posting or writing assignment (6%) – There will be four (4) 20-point discussion postings. The discussions are completing in two parts: the initial post and a follow-up response to a classmate.

- 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. Discussions are open book and open note and will be submitted through Canvas.
- These assignments also allow you to interact with classmates and build community.

Proctored Exams – There will be two (2) exams. The proctored midterm exam is worth 12.5% of your course grade and the proctored cumulative final exam is worth 22.5%. 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. The dates of the proctored exams are set and appear in the class schedule. Please make sure that you are available to complete the exams during their scheduled windows.

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 Proctorio 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 is no cost for using this proctor.

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 Proctorio 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 is no cost for using this proctor.

Please see Canvas for detailed information about proctoring, including the contact information for the UTC, Proctorio, 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

There are 4 sources of extra credit throughout the semester that can add up to a total of 5% to your course grade. The sources of extra credit are:

- Completing the Faculty Course Questionnaire (FCQ) at the end of the semester – 0.5%
 - There will be a discussion board where you will be able to post that you have complete the course FCQ. Each student that completes the FCQ will earn 0.5% added to their course grade. Note: FCQ responses are anonymous so in order to earn the extra credit, you must comment in the discussion post.
- Completing **ALL** In-video quizzes throughout the semester
 - While I only keep the 50 highest in-video quiz grades for the purpose of calculating your course grade, each student that completes all in-video quizzes will earn an additional 1% added to their course grade.
- Completing the Practice Midterm Exam
 - There will be an optional assignment that opens in Module 6 titled “Practice Midterm Exam.” Completing and submitting the practice midterm is worth up to 1.5% added to your course grade. In order to earn the full 1.5% you must complete all questions on the practice midterm exam by the due date. No late submissions are accepted. Note: The practice midterm exam is not graded for correctness.
- Completing the Practice Final Exam
 - Similar to the practice midterm, there will be an optional assignment that opens in Module 13

titled “Practice Final Exam.” Completing the practice final is worth up to 2% added to your course grade. In order to earn the full 2%, you must complete all questions on the practice final exam by the due date. No late submissions are accepted. Note: The practice final exam is not graded for correctness.

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 exams or discussions. Early Module Assignments, In-Video Quizzes, Exercises, and Problem Sets can be turned in up to three days late. The grade penalty is grade will be reduced by 10% for each day 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.

COMMUNICATION

I am dedicated to your success in this course! I am fun and understanding, and I am happy to help you in any way that I can. Please always feel free to reach out to me:

E-mail: mark.valkovci@colorado.edu

- I will respond to email within 12-24 hours, but usually within 2-4 hours (if the email comes through between 9am and 6pm). I always respond to emails. 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.

Mobile: (814) 418-0665

- This is my cell phone number. I only respond to texts.
- Please introduce yourself and include the course number (ECON 3070) the first time you text me
- Text anytime between 8am – 7pm MTN. I sometimes have my phone silenced during certain parts of the day, but I am usually very quick to respond.

Additional ways to contact Dr. Valkovci:

- Online Office Hours: Wednesdays 3-430p and Friday 10-1130a via Zoom (links on Canvas)
- via Zoom Appointment: <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/my/markvalkovci>

General Course Announcements

- Announcements: Please check the “announcements” section on Canvas.

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.

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.

4. 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.
5. 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,
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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/>

COURSE POLICIES – UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Classroom Behavior

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, marital 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](#).

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 illness, injury or required medical isolation for which you require adjustment, please contact Dr. Valkovci as soon as possible either via text (814) 418-0665 or email: mark.valkovci@colorado.edu and reach out to Disability Services.

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.

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 Accommodations

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. In this class, you must contact Dr. Valkovci at least 3 days prior to the assignment due date or one (1) week prior to a scheduled exam if there is a schedule conflict with a religious obligation so that alternative arrangements can be made. Dr. Valkovci will not reopen past due assignments or closed exams if contact after the due date has passed. 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.