

**ECONOMICS 2010**  
**Principles of Microeconomics**  
**Fall 2007**

**Professor:** Billy Mertens  
**Office:** ECON 12  
**E-mail:** [mertens@colorado.edu](mailto:mertens@colorado.edu)  
**Web:** <http://spot.colorado.edu/~mertens>  
**Office Hours:** MW 10:05 – 10:35am, M 3:10 – 5:25pm, R 11:00am – 12:15pm, and by appointment

**Emails:**

Because of the large class size, having to read through excessive and often frivolous emails can take time away from other students' serious concerns. So please try to avoid emailing me questions for which you already have access to the answer (e.g. questions that are answered in the syllabus or on the course outline).

**Course Description:**

Principles of Microeconomics (ECON 2010) is a companion course with Principles of Macroeconomics. Together the courses introduce you to the "economic way of thinking". The central fact that underlies economics is the fact of "scarcity". By this it is meant that our wants exceed the goods freely available from nature in the immediate future – hence choices must be made among the many things we want. This leads to the fundamental economic questions, narrowly defined, which face all societies: What to produce? How to produce? And for whom to produce? But economics really is much broader in scope than this; it is really the study of wise decision-making in all areas of life.

The issues we discuss are complex but they do lend themselves extremely well to critical thinking and rational inquiry, which are the guiding principles of this course. Our goal is to become and remain informed about issues related to economics and, even more importantly, acquire the ability to think about complex issues in a logical objective manner. Thinking critically is what permits us to differentiate between the illogical and the sensible, between the misleading use of statistics, misleading anecdotal evidence, and the reasonable presentation of information.

As well as covering the material in the text, we will discuss a few current issues and how they relate to the economy. I will post some notes on the course website, but these notes and the book are meant to complement what you learn in class – **they are not substitutes for lecture materials!**

After a brief introduction to the economic way of thinking, we will study supply and demand. Supply and demand analysis provides us with a graphical way of understanding how the price and quantity of a good will change when factors such as income, population, and input costs change. By studying elasticity, we will develop an understanding of what determines how much price and quantity change.

After finishing supply and demand we will discuss the derivation of supply and demand. Specifically, we will examine how a demand curve is derived from consumer decisions about how to allocate their budget between various goods. We will also examine the underlying issues behind supply by explaining how a firm decides how much to produce. We will develop this in the context of several different market settings.

[A more detailed outline of covered material and chapters is posted separately.](#)

Note: you cannot get credit for both Economics 1000 and Economics 2010/2020.

**Readings:** Mankiw, N. Gregory; **Principles of Microeconomics** 4<sup>th</sup> edition.  
[A more detailed outline of covered material and chapters is posted separately.](#)

**Grading:**

You have two options for how your final grade will be tabulated:

**Option 1:**

4 Exams (13% each)	52%
Aplia problem sets	10%
Recitation	6%
In-class assignments	4%
Clicker points	10%
Cumulative Final	18%

**Option 2:**

4 Exams (15% each)	60%
Recitation	6%
In-class assignments	4%
Clicker points	10%
Cumulative Final	20%

**Homework Assignments:**

You will be given problem sets (on Aplia) that may be very helpful in your preparation for exams. I will cover all necessary material to complete these problem sets and prepare for exams in class. In addition, I will post some extra study questions (old test questions) before each exam. These will not account for part of your grade, but they may be very helpful. You will also be given assignments in recitation.

The Aplia program has a two week trial period during which it is free to use. However, you do not need to choose whether Aplia will be a part of your grade at that time or not (you only chose whether or not to purchase the program). If your Aplia grade improves your overall score then you will automatically be given option 1. More information on the Aplia program can be found [here for 2010-010](#), or [here for 2010-020](#).

**Disclaimer:** I receive no monetary benefit from requiring Aplia assignments.

**Exams:**

There will be four hourly exams, and a cumulative final. Tests will consist of multiple-choice questions and some longer problems. Exams (other than the final) are not cumulative, but the material does build on itself so it is important to understand all of the concepts as we go. **Exams will be given in class on the days listed. If you miss an exam, then the weight of your final will be increased. There will be NO makeup exams, and NO EXAMS WILL BE DROPPED!!**

**In-class Assignments:**

There will be 4 in-class assignments during the semester each worth 1% of your total grade (under either option). **If you miss an in-class assignment, you will receive a zero unless you are ill and can provide proof (e.g. a letter from the student health center). If you miss an in-class assignment with a valid excuse then the weight of your final will be increased.** In-class assignment dates can be found on the [course outline](#).

**Clicker Points:**

We will use “clickers” during lectures to answer questions as we cover the material. Much more information on clickers can be found [here](#).

**Grading Disputes:**

If you have a grading dispute, see your TA. If you cannot resolve the dispute with your TA, then your TA will contact me. Do NOT email me about a grading dispute.

**If you have a dispute on a test, then you must put your issue in writing and submit it to your TA. Subsequently, your entire exam will be regraded. Do NOT email me about a grading dispute.**

**Incompletes, Extra Credit, etc.:**

I adhere strictly to the University guidelines on Incompletes (“An IF is given only when students, *beyond their control*, have been unable to complete course requirements. A substantial amount of work must have been *satisfactorily completed* before approval for such a grade is completed.”). Economics department policy prohibits IWs. Bad grades, unsatisfactory performance, too many credit hours, work conflicts, etc. are not reasons for an incomplete.

**I am adamant about giving each student an equal opportunity to perform well in the course, so there will be no extra credit opportunities that are not offered to the entire class. You should focus your efforts on learning the material and doing well on the exams.**

**Grading Scale:**

<u>Your score</u>	<u>Grade</u>
92% to 100%	A
90% to 91%	A-
88% to 89%	B+
82% to 87%	B
80% to 81%	B-
78% to 79%	C+
72% to 77%	C
70% to 71%	C-
68% to 69%	D+
62% to 67%	D
60% to 61%	D-
Below 59.5%	F

**Exam Schedule:**

Exam One: Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup>

Exam Two: Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup>

Exam Three: Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>

Exam Four: Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

Final Exam for 2010-010: Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm

Final Exam for 2010-020: Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am

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 (Friday, October 5, 2007).

Because the final exam policy calls for the **last** exam scheduled on the day of 3 or more finals, **it is impossible for the final for 2010-010 to be moved** (as it cannot possibly be the last of 3 finals on any one day). If you do have 3 or more finals on one day, then you should be sure to talk to your professor for the **last** final scheduled on that day **before** 10/5/07 – I will not allow you to switch the final for this class just because you were late in notifying your other professor.

**Additional Notes:**

***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](mailto: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). Additional information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode>

#### *Disabilities*

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter to the instructor 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://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>

#### *Religious holidays*

A comprehensive calendar of the religious holidays most commonly observed by CU-Boulder students can be found at <http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/> Review this list and the class syllabus. After reviewing the syllabus, please see the instructor if you believe that you need an accommodation for religious reasons. The instructor should be notified within the first two weeks of classes. Campus policy regarding religious observances states that faculty must make *reasonable* accommodation for them and in so doing, be careful not to inhibit or penalize those students who are exercising their rights to religious observance. For more information see [http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac\\_relig.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html)

#### *Code of Behavior*

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which students express opinions. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at [http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student\\_code](http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code)

#### *Policy on Sexual Harassment*

The University of Colorado Policy on Sexual Harassment applies to all students, staff and faculty. Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual attention. It can involve intimidation, threats, coercion, or promises or create an environment that is hostile or offensive. Harassment may occur between members of the same or opposite gender and between any combination of members in the campus community: students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Harassment can occur anywhere on campus, including the classroom, the workplace, or a residence hall. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been sexually harassed should contact the Office of Sexual Harassment (OSH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the OSH and the campus resources available to assist individuals who believe they have been sexually harassed can be obtained at: <http://www.colorado.edu/sexualharassment/>