

ECON 2010 – 200
PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS
FALL 2008

Instructor:	Stephen Nicar
Class Time:	T, R 8:00 – 9:15 am
Classroom:	MCDB A2B70
Email:	nicar@colorado.edu
Course Website:	https://webfiles.colorado.edu/nicar
Office:	ECON 304
Office hours:	T 9:30 – 11:30 am, or by appointment

REQUIRED TEXT

Mankiw, N. Gregory, (2007) *Principles of Microeconomics* (4th Edition). Thomson Southwestern Publishers.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Economics is the study of how people, firms, and societies choose to allocate scarce resources; hence, economics is a *social* science as it analyzes what *choices* people make. Microeconomics is the branch of economics that examines the individual unit (e.g., the household, firm, or industry). The primary goals of this course are to introduce the student to an economic way of thinking and to develop a “tool-kit” to help the student understand the interactions between economic agents.

COURSE LEVEL & PREREQUISITES

This course is an introductory economics course; no previous knowledge of economics is assumed. The student should, however, be comfortable with high school level algebra (i.e., solve simple simultaneous equations graphically and algebraically) and geometry (i.e., finding the area of a triangle).

GRADING

Your grade for this course will be based on two exams, recitation, and a final. Your grade will be determined as follows:

Midterm 1: 30%

Midterm 2: 30%

Recitation: 30%

Final: 40%

To make your total grade add up to 100%, I will automatically drop the lowest of the two midterm scores or your recitation grade. **Your grade on the final exam will not be dropped for any reason.**

Grading Scale:

<u>Your Score</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Your Score</u>	<u>Grade</u>
93-100%	A	73-76%	C
90-92%	A-	70-72%	C-
87-89%	B+	67-69%	D+
83-86%	B	63-66%	D
80-82%	B-	60-62%	D-
77-79%	C+	≤59%	F

EXAMS

I will not give any make up exams and will not give exams early. The only exception is for student athletes with scheduled events on the date of the exams. Please check into this immediately and let me know as soon as possible. I require a signed letter from your coach or the athletics department. To reiterate, there will be **no make up exams**, please do not ask. Take note! If you are planning on leaving town, do not schedule your trip on an exam date.

Please bring a #2 pencil and a **non-graphing** calculator to every exam. **Cell phone calculators are not be permitted.** The use of a graphing calculator or cell phone during an exam will result in the item being confiscated. Midterm exams will not be cumulative, but the material builds upon itself, so it is important to understand each concept along the way. I will announce before each exam the topics that will be covered. Exam material will be based off of the lecture notes. All exams will be held in the usual classroom. Midterm 1 will take place on Thursday, September 25th. Midterm 2 will take place on Thursday, October 30th. **The final exam will be cumulative** and will be held in the usual classroom on **Wednesday, December 17th from 7:30 to 10:00 AM.**

RECITATION

Attending recitation is required. During recitation, the TAs will review material that is presented in lecture, as well as provide you with more examples and practice problems to prepare you for the exams. Your TA will describe his/her grading policy and what is expected of you during your first recitation. **Recitation begins the week of September 1, 2008.**

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

The following is the *tentative* schedule of topics to be covered in the course. This schedule is subject to change. We will cover roughly one topic each week. Since exam dates are fixed, they will cover only the material that has been finished.

<u>Dates:</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Chapter(s)</u>
August 26, 28	Introduction	1 & 2
September 2, 4	PPF & Gains from Trade	3
September 9, 11	Supply & Demand	4
September 16, 18	Elasticity	5
September 23, 25	Government Intervention	6
September 30, Oct. 2	Welfare Economics	7-9
October 7, 9	Production and Costs	13
October 14, 16	Perfect Competition	14
October 21, 23	Monopoly	15
October 28, 30	Monopolistic Competition	17
November 4, 6	Oligopoly / Game Theory	16
November 11, 13	Externalities / Public Goods	10 & 11
November 18, 20	Labor	18
November 25, 27	<i>Fall Break – No Class</i>	
December 2, 4	Consumer Choice	21
December 9, 11	Catch-up and Review	

Important Dates (Again):

First day of <i>our</i> class:	Tuesday, August 26 th
Recitations Begin:	Monday, September 1 st
Midterm 1:	Thursday, September 25 th
Midterm 2:	Thursday, October 30 th
Fall Break/Thanksgiving Break:	November 24 th – 28 th
Last Day of Class:	Thursday, December 11 th
Final Exam:	Wednesday, December 17 th from 7:30 – 10:00 am

OTHER INFORMATION

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.

Classroom 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/policies/honor.html> and 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>.