

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
Department of Economics

Economics 3070-100

Intermediate Microeconomic Theory

Fall 2008

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Lecture: MWF 10:00 am - 10:50 am, DUAN G131

Office Hours: W 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm, Economics 414

Course Website: <https://webfiles.colorado.edu/kerrc/>

Office hours and class time are the best times to ask questions or deal with issues. Please read this syllabus and talk to me in class or in office hours with any questions. Use emails as a last resort. Although emails are acceptable, points will be taken from your final score for emailed questions that could be answered by reading the syllabus.

Course Description

This course introduces the theoretical framework for analyzing the economic behavior of individual decision-makers, such as consumers, workers, firms, and managers. The techniques presented in this course are used by almost every economist and can be applied to many applied fields including international economics, environmental economics, labor economics, and industrial organization.

The course is divided into four sections. We begin with a basic review of supply and demand. We then proceed to Section 2, which covers consumer behavior and market demand. In this section, we build a model of consumer choice and use this model to derive individual demand and market demand. In Section 3, we turn our attention to the other side of the market and analyze the behavior of firms and market supply. We build a model to show how each firm decides what technology it should use to make its product and what quantity of this product to bring to market. This model is then used to derive the firm's supply curve and the market supply curve. Section 4 brings the two sides of the market together to show how price and output are determined by the market. Different market structures are examined including perfect competition and monopoly.

Prerequisites

The prerequisites for this course are

Economics Prerequisites:	ECON 1000 or 2010
Mathematics Prerequisites:	ECON 1078 & 1088 or MATH 1300 or MATH 1310 or MATH 1081 or MATH 1080 & 1090 & 1100 or APPM 1350 or equivalent

The models covered in this course require calculus. It will be assumed that every student has a working knowledge of calculus, and there will be no formal review of calculus techniques. As such, the mathematics prerequisites will be strictly enforced.

Course Structure

The course will consist of lectures, readings, assignments, and exams. The lectures will follow the readings in terms of topics covered. However, there may be some material covered in lecture that will not be covered by the readings, and there will most certainly be some material in the readings not covered in lecture.

Assignments will take the form of problem sets. I will post these online as soon as they are ready. Solutions will be posted on the course website shortly thereafter. Groups are encouraged for homework assignments. If you work in a group hand in only a single set of answers with everyone's name written on the front.

Textbooks

The required textbook is *Microeconomics*, 2nd edition by David Besanko and Ronald R. Braeutigam. The 3rd edition has been recently released but is unnecessary to purchase and overpriced. There is a study guide available to accompany the textbook. You may wish to purchase the study guide if you would like extra practice solving problems, but doing so is not required.

Grading

The various components of the course will be weighted as follows to determine your final grade:

Assignments	20%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Final Exam	40%

Each assignment will be graded on a scale from 0 to 3: 0 points for not handing it in, 1 point for poor performance or not attempting **ANY SINGLE PROBLEM**, 2 points for average performance, and 3 points for outstanding or perfect performance. The lowest assignment score will be dropped before determining course grades at the end of the semester.

A detailed description of the grading system will be described in class.

Missed Assignments & Exams

Late assignments will not be accepted since solutions are posted online shortly after the assignment is due. You may, however, miss one assignment without penalty since your lowest assignment score is dropped.

You may not miss an exam. No makeup exams will be given. You will be given a zero regardless of the situation. The exam schedule is already set. If you have a conflict with a flight or any other reason, you should register for another class or change your flight arrangements.

Tentative Course Schedule

Week Starting	Topic	Readings	HW Due
25-Aug	Analyzing Economic Problems	Ch 1	
1-Sep	Demand and Supply Analysis	Ch 2	HW 1
8-Sep	Consumer Preferences and the Concept of Utility	Ch 3	HW 2
15-Sep	Consumer Choice	Ch 4	HW 3
22-Sep	Theory of Demand	5 (5.1-5.4)	HW 4
29-Sep	Wrap up CH 1-5		HW 5
6-Oct	Exam1 , Inputs and Production Functions	CH 6 (6.1-6.3)	
13-Oct	Inputs and Production Functions	Ch 6 (6.4-6.6)	HW 6
20-Oct	Costs and Cost Minimization	CH7	HW 7
27-Oct	Cost Curves	Ch 8 (8.1-8.2)	HW 8
3-Nov	Wrap up CH 6-8		HW 9
10-Nov	Exam 2 , Perfectly Competitive Markets	Ch 9 (9.1-9.2)	
17-Nov	Perfectly Competitive Markets	Ch 9 (9.3-9.5)	HW 10
24-Nov	FALL BREAK		
1-Dec	Monopoly	Ch 11 (11.1,11.2)	
8-Dec	Monopoly	Ch 11 (11.3,11.5)	HW 11
15-Dec	Final 10:30-1:00		

University Policies

Students with Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services **by Sep 1st** so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. University policies regarding disabilities are available at www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices. Disability Services can be contacted by telephone at (303) 492 8671 or in person at Willard 322.

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. If you have a conflict due to a religious obligation, please see me **at least one full week in advance** so that alternate arrangements can be made. Policies regarding religious practice are available at www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html.

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. Policies regarding classroom behavior are available at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code.

Discrimination and Harassment

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>.

Academic Misconduct

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 www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html and at www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode.