

Principles of Microeconomics Fall 2009

Instructor: Catherine Massey

Office Location: Econ 307

Office Hours: Friday 10-11:30am

Email: Catherine.Massey@colorado.edu

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Class Number and Section: 2010-010

Meeting Time: MWF 9-9:50am

Meeting Place: HUMN 150B

Teaching Assistants: Hao Bo Hao.Bo@Colorado.EDU

Said Kaymakci Said.Kaymakci@Colorado.EDU

Text Book: Mankiw, N. Gregory; Principles of Microeconomics 5th edition.

Grading

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to microeconomics as well as the tools economists need to succeed. The grading of this course is formatted to encourage understanding of the subjects as well as the ability to apply critical thinking skills.

The coursework is broken up as follows:

2 Exams	30%
Cumulative Final	30%
Recitation	20%
Clicker Questions	20%

Evaluations:

There will be three exams given during the span of the course. At the end of the course, your lowest midterm grade will be dropped. As such, **there will be absolutely no make-up exams.** The final exam will be cumulative. If you do not make a passing grade on the final, you will fail the course. The date and times of exams will not be changed.

Recitations:

Recitations are designed to expand upon the material learned in class through use of example problems. Recitations are extremely important for your success in this course and will comprise a significant percent of your overall course grade. Recitations begin the second week of the semester and attendance is mandatory.

Clicker Questions:

For this course you will be required to purchase and use an I-Clicker from the bookstore. They are sold new for about \$35 at the downstairs counter in the UMC bookstore and the Colorado Bookstore on the Hill. You will be able to sell your clicker back to the bookstore at the end of the semester for about half price, but since this model is the new campus standard clicker and the number of classes using I-Clickers at CU is increasing at a geometric rate, you will probably need one for another class.

I have decided to use I-Clicker questions to help engage students as well as help me assess how well the class understands covered topics. **I-Clickers will be required beginning the second week of this course.** If you miss a day of class, clicker questions cannot be made up. However, there is still leeway with the scoring of clicker questions that allows for the occasional absence. There are approximately 60 clicker questions that will be asked during the span of the course. Each clicker question is worth 5 points. A correct answer earns you 5 points and you get 3 points for each incorrect answer. **My intentions for the clicker questions is not to take attendance** (you are adults and can choose whether or not you want to attend lecture) **so you can miss 12 clicker questions before it adversely affects your grade.** At the end of the course your clicker score will be taken out of $(60-12) \times 5 = 240$ instead of $60 \times 5 = 300$.

For example, if your clicker score is 200 your clicker grade will be $200/240 = .833$ or 16.67% out of the 20% allotted for clicker questions (instead of $200/300 = .67$ or 13.3 out of 20). There is also an opportunity for extra credit here. If you attend every lecture and get every question right, your clicker score will be $300/240 = 125\%$ or 25% out of the 20% overall grade allotted for clicker questions (that is 5% points extra credit). If you attend every lecture and get every question wrong you will get a $(60 \times 3)/240 = 180/240 = .75\%$ or 15/20 for your overall grade allotted for clicker questions.

To use the clickers in class, you must first register your clicker here: <http://www.iclicker.com/registration/>. Enter your first name, last name, student ID and clicker ID. The clicker ID is found on the bottom back of the clicker. You will be prompted to enter a number before sending the data.

IMPORTANT: enter the 9 digit student ID without hyphens or spaces like this 123456789, not like this 123-45-6789

If a student loses the first clicker they must register a second one later in the semester. The scores registered for the first clicker will be carried over to the second one.

Cheating Policy

If you are caught answering clicker questions for another student or are caught cheating on quizzes or exams, you will fail that section of the course and be reported to the Honor Code Committee.

Late Policy

I will not accept make-up clicker questions or allow students to take exams late. If you miss a exam, your lowest score will be dropped. If you are on a sports team and will be forced to miss exams due to your traveling schedule or you have religious obligations, **contact me within the first two weeks** of class and we will arrange further accommodations.

Emailing Policy

If you have questions about the course, first consult this syllabus and your TA's syllabus. If you cannot find your answer there, please ask your TAs first. If neither the syllabi nor TAs can help, please email or see me during office hours. **If you ask either the TAs or me a question that is answered in the syllabus or during class I will take one percentage point off the top of your course grade**, so be careful about haphazardly writing emails. Neither your TAs nor I need to know when you are missing lecture. The class is designed such that students can make their own cost-benefit analysis about whether or not to attend lecture (which I strongly advise you to attend).

Any questions about the material presented in lectures are perfectly appropriate for emails. Both the TAs and I will be available to answer such questions.

Furthermore, you are to address TAs and me politely in emails. This means using proper salutations, grammar and spelling (no chat-speak). Emails that are rude or pushy will not be acknowledged.

Additional Notes

Disabilities

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, and www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices

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, let me know, **in advance**, if you may have a conflict. Students can see full details at http://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 behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty has 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

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 2 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>

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/>

Tentative Course Schedule

Week	Agenda
August 24-28	Introduction and Mathematics Review (Ch 1 and Class Notes) No Recitation
August 31- September 4	Opportunity Costs and Comparative Advantage (Chapters 2 and 3).
September 7-11	Demand and Supply (Chapter 4) Quiz in Recitation
September 14-18	Elasticity (Chapters 5) Quiz in Recitation
September 21-25	Review Monday (Chapters 1-5) Exam 1 Wednesday September 23
September 28 – October 2	Government Policies and Producer Surplus and Market Efficiency (Chapter 7 and 6)
October 5 – 9	Producer Surplus and Market Efficiency and The Costs of Taxation (Chapters 6 and 8). Quiz in Recitation
October 12 – 16	The Cost of Taxation and Externalities (Chapters 8 and 10)
October 19 – 23	Externalities and Public Goods (Chapter 10 and 11) Quiz in Recitation
October 26-30	Review Monday (Chapters 7, 6, 8, 10, 11) Exam 2 Wednesday October 28
November 2 – 6	Cost of Production and Competitive Markets (Chapters 13 and 14)
November 9 – 13	Competitive Markets, and Monopoly (Chapters 14 and 15) Quiz in Recitation
November 16 – 20	Monopoly and Monopolistic Competition (Chapters 15 and 16) Quiz in Recitation
November 23 – 27	Fall Break
November 30 – December 4	Review Monday (Chapters 13, 14, 15, 16) Exam 3 Wednesday December 2
December 7 – 11	Theory of Consumer Choice (Chapter 21)
Monday December 14	CUMULATIVE Final Exam 1:30-4pm