

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
Department of Economics

Economics 3070-002

Intermediate Microeconomic Theory

Fall 2009

Professor Jennifer Lamping

Office: Economics 103

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Lecture: MWF 10:00am - 10:50am, Hellems 267

Office Hours: F 11:30am - 1:00pm, Economics 103

Course Website: CULearn

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 several fields including international economics, environmental economics, labor economics, and industrial organization.

The course is divided into five sections. We begin with a basic review of supply and demand. In Section 2, we examine consumer behavior and market demand by constructing a model of consumer choice and using the model to derive individual 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 construct a model to demonstrate how each firm decides what combination of inputs it should use to produce its output and what quantity of output to produce and bring to market. The model is then used to derive the firm's supply curve and the market supply curve. In Section 4, we bring the two sides of the market together to show how price and output are determined by the market. A variety of market structures are examined including perfect competition, monopoly, and (if time permits) oligopoly.

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

There are four components to the course: 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 most certainly will be some material in the readings not covered in lecture.

Most readings will be from the required textbook (see below). Occasionally, additional readings will be assigned. These will be made available on the course website.

Assignments will take the form of problem sets. In general, assignments will be made available every Monday on the course website and due in lecture one week later. Solutions will be posted on the course website shortly thereafter.

There will be two midterm exams and one final exam.

Textbooks

The required textbook is *Microeconomics*, 3rd edition by David Besanko and Ronald R. Braeutigam. 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	15%
Midterm Exams	40%
Final Exam	45%

The midterm and final exams will each be graded on a 100 point scale. Each assignment will be graded on a scale from 0 to 3: 0 points for not handing it in, 1 point for poor performance, 2 points for average performance, and 3 points for outstanding performance. The lowest two assignment scores will be dropped before determining course grades at the end of the semester.

Missed Assignments & Exams

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

You may not miss an exam. No makeup exams will be given.

Tentative Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments
Week 1			
Aug 24	Analyzing Economic Problems	Ch 1	
Aug 26	Supply and Demand Analysis	Ch 2	
Aug 28	Supply and Demand Analysis	Ch 2	
Week 2			
Aug 31	Preferences and Utility	Ch 3	PSet 1 Due
Sep 02	Preferences and Utility	Ch 3	
Sep 04	Preferences and Utility	Ch 3	
Week 3			
Sep 07	No Classes (Labor Day)		
Sep 09	Consumer Choice	Ch 4	PSet 2 Due
Sep 11	Consumer Choice	Ch 4	
Week 4			
Sep 14	Consumer Choice	Ch 4	PSet 3 Due
Sep 16	The Theory of Demand	Ch 5	
Sep 18	The Theory of Demand	Ch 5	
Week 5			
Sep 21	The Theory of Demand	Ch 5	PSet 4 Due
Sep 23	The Theory of Demand	Ch 5	
Sep 25	Inputs and Production Functions	Ch 6	
Week 6			
Sep 28	Midterm Exam 1 (Chs 1-5)		
Sep 30	Inputs and Production Functions	Ch 6	
Oct 02	Inputs and Production Functions	Ch 6	
Week 7			
Oct 05	Inputs and Production Functions	Ch 6	PSet 5 Due
Oct 07	Inputs and Production Functions	Ch 6	
Oct 09	Inputs and Production Functions	Ch 6	
Week 8			
Oct 12	Costs and Cost Minimization	Ch 7	PSet 6 Due
Oct 14	Costs and Cost Minimization	Ch 7	
Oct 16	Costs and Cost Minimization	Ch 7	

Week 9

Oct 19	Costs and Cost Minimization	Ch 7	PSet 7 Due
Oct 21	Costs and Cost Minimization	Ch 7	
Oct 23	Costs and Cost Minimization	Ch 7	

Week 10

Oct 26	Cost Curves	Ch 8	PSet 8 Due
Oct 28	Cost Curves	Ch 8	
Oct 30	Cost Curves	Ch 8	

Week 11

Nov 02	Cost Curves	Ch 8	PSet 9 Due
Nov 04	Cost Curves	Ch 8	
Nov 06	Cost Curves	Ch 8	

Week 12

Nov 09	Perfectly Competitive Markets	Ch 9	PSet 10 Due
Nov 11	Perfectly Competitive Markets	Ch 9	
Nov 13	Perfectly Competitive Markets	Ch 9	

Week 13

Nov 16	Perfectly Competitive Markets	Ch 9	PSet 11 Due
Nov 18	Perfectly Competitive Markets	Ch 9	
Nov 20	Perfectly Competitive Markets	Ch 9	

Week 14

Nov 23	No Classes (Fall Break)		
Nov 25	No Classes (Fall Break)		
Nov 27	No Classes (Fall Break)		

Week 15

Nov 30	Midterm Exam 2 (Chs 6-9)		
Dec 02	General Equilibrium Theory	Ch 16	
Dec 04	Monopoly and Monopsony	Ch 11	

Week 16

Dec 07	Monopoly and Monopsony	Ch 11	PSet 12 Due
Dec 09	Monopoly and Monopsony	Ch 11	
Dec 11	Monopoly and Monopsony	Ch 11	
Dec 15	Final Exam (Cumulative)	4:30pm -7:00pm	

University Policies

Students with Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services **by September 9th** 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 deal reasonably and fairly 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 observances are available at www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_religh.html.

Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail 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 differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, 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 at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment, and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff, and faculty. Any student, staff, or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of sexual harassment or discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, 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, the above referenced policies, 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) 735 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.