Yiqing Xie

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ECON 3070-007

Fall 2009
Intermediate Microeconomics 3070-007, TR 12:30 – 1:45pm, HLMS 241
Yiqing Xie

Administrative Details

Webpage: webfiles.colorado.edu/xiey/www
Text: Besanko and Braeutigam, "Microeconomics ", 3rd Edition, Wiley.
Office: Economics 414
Hours: Tue and Thurs 10:00 – 11:00am or by appointment
Phone: (303) 492-7709 but the ***strongly preferred*** method of contact is:
e-mail: **Yiqing.Xie@.colorado.edu**

Content:

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 is 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.

Grading:

I have an unusual and complicated (but extremely fair!) grading system. There will be two midterms and a comprehensive final. On each exam enough points are added to everyone's bring the median (or mean which is lower) score up to 75. NOTE: it is *points* that are added not questions. So, for example, if the median for a particular exam is 68, 7 points will be added to each person's exam. Hence, doing well on a difficult exam, say getting a 96 when the median was 68 enables you to get over 100 points, in this example receiving a 103. Should the median for an exam be above 75, I do *not* subtract (such an outcome indicates either that you are part of an unusually smart or studious class or--more likely?--that I made the test too easy, hence it is my problem). After these adjustment points are added, I will calculate your course test grades as the <u>largest</u> number arising from the following alternative calculated scores:

"Score 1": .25(1st Mid Grade) + .25(2nd Mid Grade) + .30(Final Grade)
            + .20(Problem Sets)

"Score 2": .30(2nd Mid Grade) + .50(Final Grade) + .20(Problem Sets)

"Score 3": .30(1st Mid Grade) + .50(Final Grade) + .20(Problem Sets)

Hence if you "mess up" (or miss) either of the midterm exams (but not both), that test will automatically be dropped, and the comprehensive final is weighted more heavily in this case. ***<u>There will be no early exams or make-up exams</u>***, since they are difficult to make comparable and this system does not penalize you for missing one exam in any event.

The final exam date is: Dec 16 1:30 – 4:00 pm (Wednesday). The exams are in our usual classroom. This information is repeated at the end of the syllabus...there are ***<u>no make-ups</u>***...Do not make plans (airline tickets, etc.) that involve leaving early.

I view attendance at my lectures and the homework problem sets as highly desirable, so the homework problem sets part is 20% of your final grade which ***<u>cannot</u>*** be dropped. I do want you to emphasize on each problem set because they are closely related with your midterms and final. There is going to be 6 problem sets in total for this semester among which you can drop the one with the lowest grade. I am going to take attendance for the first three classes, if you miss any of them, I will take an administrative drop.

A tentative guide to topics we will cover:

Date	Content	Note	
Date	**Content**	**Note**	
25-Aug	Analyzing Economic Problems		Attendance 1
27-Aug	Supply and Demand Analysis; Math test		Attendance 2
1-Sep	Supply and Demand Analysis; Math test Review		Attendance 3
3-Sep	Preferences and Utilities		
8-Sep	Preferences and Utilities		
10-Sep	**Consumer Choice**	**PS1 due**	
15-Sep	Consumer Choice		
17-Sep	The Theory of Demand		
22-Sep	The Theory of Demand		
24-Sep	**The Theory of Demand till 5.5**	**PS2 due**	
29-Sep	Inputs and Production Functions		
1-Oct	**Midterm 1**		
6-Oct	Inputs and Production Functions		
8-Oct	Inputs and Production Functions		
13-Oct	**Costs and Cost Minimization**	**PS3 due**	
15-Oct	Costs and Cost Minimization		
20-Oct	Costs and Cost Minimization		
22-Oct	Cost Curves		
27-Oct	**Cost Curves**	**PS4 due**	
29-Oct	Perfectly Competitive Markets		
3-Nov	Perfectly Competitive Markets		
5-Nov	Perfectly Competitive Markets		
10-Nov	**Perfectly Competitive Markets**	**PS5 due**	
12-Nov	**Midterm 2**		
17-Nov	General Equilibrium Theory (short)		
19-Nov	Monopoly		
24-Nov	Fall Break		
26-Nov	Happy Thanks Giving!		
1-Dec	Monopoly 11.1, 2, 5, 6		
3-Dec	Market Structure and Competition		
8-Dec	**Game theory and strategic behavior**	**PS6 due**	
10-Dec	Review -- to be determined		
16-Dec	**Final Exam**	**1:30 --4:00pm**	

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 11th** 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. Polices 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.