

ECON 2010-050
Principles of Microeconomics
Fall 2010
HALE 270
MWF 12-12:50pm

Instructor: Erin Fletcher
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Office: ECON 414
Phone: 303-492-7709
Office Hours: W 10:45-11:45am
F 1:00-2:00pm
or by appointment
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Expectations

This course is intended to give you a preliminary look at topics in microeconomics. It will provide you with the tools necessary to be able to converse intelligently on current, past and future microeconomic events and be able to derive and solve basic microeconomic models. It will provide the foundations for further study of economics at the intermediate and advanced level. Before taking this class, you must be able to demonstrate a strong background in math, particularly algebra and graphing, as it is very math-intensive.

Prerequisites

Economics prerequisites: None

Math prerequisites: You should be competent in algebra and graphing skills. These will be tested at the beginning of the semester.

Textbook

The required text for the class will be *Microeconomics* by Paul Krugman and Robin Wells. The text is intended to be supplementary to lectures and is required. I also recommend – but DO NOT require -- that you purchase *The Cartoon Introduction to Economics: Volume 1 Microeconomics* by Yoram Bauman and Grady Klein. Additional readings will be announced in class and web links or full text will be posted on CULearn. Please check these periodically.

Class Attendance

You are responsible for all information covered in class lectures. Attendance at all lectures is strongly recommended. I will lecture on information that may not be covered in the text. All material covered in lectures, in homework, in recitation and in the book is fair game for exams. If a topic is being skipped, I will let you know. I do not post or give out my notes. If you miss class, you should be able to get notes from one your classmates.

Grading

Your grade will be determined as follows:

Midterm 1	20%
Midterm 2	20%
Homework	15%
Recitation	20%
Final	25%

Exams

NO exams will be given early or late. NO exams will be dropped. I DO NOT give make-up exams. Midterms and exams will be given on the days listed below in the classroom during regular class time. Midterm exams are not cumulative and will focus on the material covered up to that point and after the exams. I will give a list of topics before the midterm that will be covered on the midterms. The final exam is cumulative.

The final exam is mandatory and will be held on Wednesday, December 15 from 1:30-4pm in the classroom. If you have a conflict with the final or any of the exams, please inform me as soon as possible.

Midterm exams will be entirely multiple choice. The Final Exam will be part multiple choice, part short answer. You are responsible for bringing No. 2 pencils and a calculator to exams. Graphing calculators and cell phone calculators are NOT allowed under any circumstances. If you use one of these for an exam, 10 points will be deducted from your final score. I will provide paper for the exams; blue books are not necessary.

Homework

A series of homework assignments will be due throughout the semester and will constitute 15% of your final grade. Homework is due in class at the beginning of class and will not be accepted late. Your TA will return homework assignments to you in recitation. In the case that you miss recitation, please contact your recitation instructor to retrieve your assignments. You may come to my office hours or to your TAs for help on homework.

Group work is acceptable on homework assignments, however, each student must turn in his or her own, original work. Your answers must be in your words.

Recitation

Recitation counts for 20% of your final grade and is for *your* benefit. I highly encourage you to attend. Your TA will be Steven Smith (steven.m.smith-1@colorado.edu) or Yucheng Ding (yucheng.ding@colorado.edu). They will provide a syllabus that outlines how your grade will be determined in that class. Recitations begin the week of August 30.

Recitation Schedule

Instructor	Section	Day/Time	Room
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Ding	051	T 8:00 - 8:50am	HUMN 186
Ding	052	T 2:00 - 2:50pm	MUEN E130
Smith, Steven	053	T 3:30 - 4:20pm	EDUC 134
Smith, Steven	054	T 5:00 - 5:50pm	ECON 2
Ding	055	R 5:00 - 5:50pm	CLRE 209
Ding	056	R 3:30 - 4:20pm	EDUC 143
Smith, Steven	057	W 4:00 - 4:50pm	ECON 2
Smith, Steven	058	W 5:00 - 5:50pm	ECON 117

Tentative Course Outline

Below is an outline for the semester. Though the topics listed will be covered in a particular week, they are subject to change and subject to overlap. I will announce in class when we are moving on from a particular topic, so you should take this as a guide and not set in stone. However, the midterm and final dates are firm.

Week of	Topic	Book Chapter	Notes
August 23	Introduction to Micro	Ch. 1 & 2	
August 30	Supply & Demand	Ch. 3	Recitations Begin
September 6	Surpluses	Ch. 4	HW1 Due
<i>Monday, September 13</i>	NO CLASS		Labor Day
September 13	Equilibrium	Ch. 5	
September 20	Elasticity	Ch. 6	HW2 Due
September 27	Taxes	Ch. 7	
October 4	International Trade	Ch. 8	HW3 Due
<i>Wednesday, October 6</i>			Midterm 1
October 11	Marginal vs Total	Ch. 9 & 10	
October 18	Rationality	Ch. 11	
October 25	Perfect Competition	Ch. 12&13	HW4 Due
November 1	Monopoly	Ch. 14	
November 8	Monopolistic Comp. & Oligopoly	Ch. 15&16	
November 15	Private Information	Ch. 21	HW5 Due
<i>Wednesday, November 17</i>			Midterm 2
November 22	Break		Thanksgiving
November 29	Externalities, Public Goods	Ch. 17&18	
December 6	Welfare State	Ch. 19	HW6 Due
<i>Wednesday, December 15</i>	Final Exam		1:30-4pm

Additional Readings

I highly encourage you to read the newspaper and articles about economics in other publications. Good places to look are *The Economist*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *The New Republic*, *The New Yorker*, *Slate* and various blogs and other magazines that are listed on the web links portion of CULearn. You are also welcome to add to that list. If you find something good, please share it! Most, if not all, such content is available online and free to you as students. If you are not on campus, you might have to use the VPN for some content. I do not endorse the content of any of these articles or the opinions expressed in them or in the

publications listed above or on the website. They are intended to foster debate and critical examination of how microeconomics is viewed and studied.

Office hours

Office hours are for your benefit. They provide an excellent opportunity to get individual or small group help to clarify topics. If you have a conflict and cannot make office hours, please feel free to email me and we will set up another time to meet.

Email

Please be considerate with your use of email. If you email me a question about lectures, exams, or assignments I will most likely encourage you to come talk to me about it during my office hours. If it is not urgent and I feel the whole class can benefit from the answer, I will address it in the following class period or email the entire class a response. I will answer emails between 9am and 7pm and will do my best to return emails within 24 hours. Emails must come from and be returned to university (@colorado.edu) addresses. I reserve the right not to answer emails lacking appropriate salutation, grammar and punctuation.

I will periodically send out emails with course material attached. This will generally be in the form of an article I wish to share. I have a list provided by the university of your email addresses. If you are not getting emails from me, please let me know so that we can make sure you are enrolled. You are responsible for the content of these emails on exams. The emails will also be posted as announcements on CULearn.

Students With Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services by September 6 so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Willard 322, (303) 492-8671.

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 term 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 has 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. I take violations of the honor code very seriously and ask that you do as well. 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>.