

University of Colorado
Course Syllabus
ECON 2010: Principles of Microeconomics
Fall 2010

Instructor: Chris McMahan
Office: ECON 313
Email: mcmahanc@colorado.edu
Office Hours: T 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM, W 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM, and by appointment
Class Time: TTH 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM
Classroom: Hale 270

Required Textbook:

Paul Krugman and Robin Wells, Microeconomics, 2nd edition, 2009.

Course Overview:

This course is intended to give an introductory look at microeconomic topics. While it is only the tip of the iceberg, this course will provide you with the tools necessary to be able to converse intelligently on economic events, derive and solve basic economic models, and continue your economic studies at intermediate and advanced levels.

Prerequisites:

Technically, none. But you must be competent in basic algebra and graphing skills in order to pass this class.

Course Components:

Homework – 15%

- I will regularly assign homework assignments, readings, and/or in-class quizzes. Homework assignments are always due by 5pm on the specified due date. You may submit them in class, during my office hours, or you may drop them off in my mailbox or the front office of the Econ building. If it is late, you will receive a zero.

Recitation – 20%

- Your TA's will provide a syllabus that outlines how this portion your grade will be determined. Recitations begin the week of August 30.

Midterm 1 – 20%

- The first midterm will be on **Thursday, October 7**. It will cover material we have covered up to that point. The first midterm will be predominantly multiple choice but may also contain some short answer and true false questions.

Midterm 2 – 20%

- The first midterm will be on **Thursday, November 18**. It will cover material we have covered since the first midterm. The second midterm will be predominantly multiple choice but may also contain some short answer and true false questions.

Final – 25%:

- The final will be on **Tuesday, December 14 at 4:30PM**. It is cumulative but will focus more heavily on material since the second midterm. The final will be predominantly multiple choice but may also contain some short answer and true false questions.

***Notice that nothing will be dropped**

Tentative Course Outline:

Unless otherwise specified, we will cover topics in the order below.

<u>Chapter:</u>	<u>Topic:</u>
Ch. 1&2	Introduction to Microeconomics
Ch. 3	Supply and Demand
Ch. 4	Consumer and Producer Surplus
Ch. 6	Elasticity
Ch. 5&7	Government Intervention
Ch. 8	International Trade
Ch. 9&10	Making Decisions and Rationality
Ch. 11	Consumer Preferences and Consumer Choice
Ch. 12&13	Perfect Competition
Ch. 14	Monopolies
Ch. 15&16	Oligopolies and Monopolistic Competition
Ch. 17&18	Externalities
Ch. 19	The Welfare State
Ch. 20	Labor Supply

Grading Scale:

<u>Your Score</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Your Score</u>	<u>Grade</u>
93-100%	A	73-76%	C
90-92%	A-	70-72%	C-
87-89%	B+	67-69%	D+
83-86%	B	63-66%	D
80-82%	B-	60-62%	D-
77-79%	C+	≤59%	F

Attendance Policy

You are responsible for all material covered in class. I will lecture on material that is not covered in the text. If (okay, when) I mention in class that my favorite singer-songwriter is Kelly Clarkson, that may be on an exam. ALL MATERIAL COVERED IN LECTURES, HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS, RECITATION, AND ASSIGNED READINGS IS FAIR GAME FOR EXAMS.

Will I accept late homework assignments?

No.

Will there be make-up exams?

No.

I do not make exceptions for jobs, birthdays, dates with celebrities, etc. If you have a conflict, you should talk to me the first day of class; however, I will most likely suggest that you drop the course or find a way to reschedule your outside conflict.

Office hours:

My office hours will be Tuesdays from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM, Wednesdays from 1:30 PM to 3 PM, and by appointment. Office hours are for your benefit. Please use them. If you have a conflict and cannot make office hours, 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 or homework assignments, I will most likely encourage you to 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 or in a mass email. YOU SHOULD ALWAYS USE PROPER EMAIL ETIQUETTE, although I may not ☺.

Disability Policy:

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter from Disability Services to me 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.

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 semester so we can make proper arrangements.

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 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).