

PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS ECON 2010-070 FALL 2010

Instructor:	Hakon Skjenstad
Class Time:	T, R 3:30-4:45pm
Classroom:	HALE 270
Email:	hakon.skjenstad@colorado.edu
Course Website:	CULearn
Office:	ECON 401 (North Tower Office)
Office Hours:	T, R 11am-12noon
Textbook:	Mankiw, N. Gregory, (2009), <i>Principles of Microeconomics</i> , 5th Edition, Thomson Southwestern.
Final Exam:	Thursday Dec. 16 th from 7:30am-10:00am in HALE 270
Midterm 1:	Thursday Sep. 23 rd in class
Midterm 2:	Thursday Oct. 28 th in class
Midterm 3:	Thursday Dec. 2 nd in class
TAs:	TBD

TEXTBOOK (REQUIRED)

Mankiw, N. Gregory, (2009), **“Principles of Microeconomics”**, 5th Edition, Thomson Southwestern.

The book is available from the CU book store or online, for example at Amazon or eBay.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Principles of Microeconomics introduces you to the "economic way of thinking". The central fact that underlies economics is the fact of "scarcity". By this it is meant that our wants exceed the goods freely available from nature in the immediate future – hence choices must be made among the many things we want. This leads to the fundamental economic questions, narrowly defined, which face all societies: What to produce? How to produce? For whom do we produce? Microeconomics is the study of how households and firms make decisions and how they interact in specific markets. This course will let you understand many issues that you read in the news and in journals and you can apply to your personal life.

COURSE LEVEL & PREREQUISITES

This course is an introductory economics course; no previous knowledge of economics is assumed. The student should, however, be comfortable with high school level algebra (i.e., solve simple simultaneous equations graphically and algebraically) and geometry (i.e., finding the area of a triangle).

HOW TO STUDY FOR THIS COURSE

Read each chapter before coming to class to get more out of the lectures. Ask any questions in class and during recitations. Use the questions in the Study Guide and problem sets to test your knowledge. Problem sets will be posted on the class website with answers. If you do not understand an answer, ask the TA or the instructor during office hours. Do not let it “slide” as later material builds on earlier material covered in class.

Remember: “He who asks a question looks stupid for 5 minutes. He who doesn’t ask a question remains stupid forever”.

GRADING

There will be three midterms and a **cumulative** final. Each midterm will be in a multiple-choice format. On each exam enough points are added to everyone's score to bring the mean score up to 75. NOTE: it is *points* that are added not questions, where a question is typically worth 4 points on a midterm of 25 questions. So for example, if the mean for an exam is 68 (the average person misses 8 four point questions), 7 points will be added to each person's exam (the equivalent of 1.75 questions). Hence, doing well on a difficult exam, say getting a 96 (missing one question) when the median was 68 (missing 8 questions) 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 any points.

After these adjustment points are added, I will drop the lowest midterm score or your recitation score (**You will not be able to drop the final**) and calculate your course grade as follows:

- 3 highest of Midterm 1, Midterm 2, Midterm 3, Recitation grade; 25% each
- Final; 25%

For example, if a student has the following grades: Midterm 1, 78; Midterm 2, 65; Midterm 3, 83; Recitation 82; Final, 60; the final grade would be

$$25\% * 78 + 25\% * 83 + 25\% * 82 + 25\% * 60 = 75.75$$

since the lowest grade (excluding the final) will be dropped.

Hence, if you "mess up" (or miss) either of the midterm exams (but no two of them), that test will be automatically dropped. **There will be no early exams or make-up exams for the midterms except for the final**, since they are difficult to make comparable and this system does not penalize you for missing one exam in any event. *Bring a #2 pencil with you to exams!*

EXAMS

All exams will be held during class time in our regular classroom. Make sure to bring a #2 pencil. Exams may be taken only on the specified exam date and time. Due to the large number of students in this class there will be **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS FOR ANY REASON EXCEPT THE FINAL EXAM. Your grade on the final exam will not be dropped for any reason.**

Midterm exams will not be cumulative. I will announce before each exam the topics that will be included. Exam material will be based on the lecture notes and recitation materials. All exams will be held in the usual classroom. Tentative dates for exams are as follows. Midterm 1 will take place on Thursday, Sep. 23rd. Midterm 2 will take place on Thursday, Oct. 28th and Midterm 3 will take place on Thursday Dec. 2nd. The final exam will be cumulative and will be held in the usual classroom on Thursday, December 16th from 7:30am to 10:00am. If you have three or more final exams scheduled on the same day, you are entitled to arrange an alternative exam time for the last exam or exams scheduled on that day. To qualify for rescheduling final exam times, you must provide evidence that you have three or more exams on the same day, and arrangements must be made with me no later than the end of the sixth week of the semester.

Graphing calculators and cell-phones are not allowed in any test.

GRADING SCALE

Your Score	Grade
93-100%	A
90-92%	A-
87-89%	B+
83-86%	B

80-82%	B-
77-79%	C+
73-76%	C
70-72%	C-
67-69%	D+
63-66%	D
60-62%	D-

RECITATIONS

Attending recitation will help you prepare for the tests and give you more examples and problems to work with. Your TA will describe his/her grading policy and what is expected of you during your first recitation. Recitations begin the second week of classes (starting Monday Aug. 30th).

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Chapter	Comments
Aug. 23-Aug. 27	1	Intro, Math review – No recitation
Aug. 30-Sep. 3	2, 3	Opportunity Cost and Comparative Advantage
Sep. 6-Sep. 10	4	Supply and Demand
Sep. 13-Sep. 17	5	Elasticity
Sep. 20-Sep. 24	Review	Midterm 1 on Thursday Sep. 23
Sep. 27-Oct. 1	6, 7	Govt. Policies, Producer Surplus, Market Efficiency
Oct. 4-Oct. 8	6, 8	The Cost of Taxation, Market Efficiency, Surplus
Oct. 11-Oct.15	8, 10	The Cost of Taxation, Externalities
Oct. 18-Oct. 22	10, 11	Externalities, Public Goods
Oct. 25-Oct. 29	Review	Midterm 2 on Thursday Oct. 28
Nov. 1-Nov. 5	13, 14	Cost of Production, Competitive Markets
Nov. 8-Nov. 12	14, 15	Competitive Markets, Monopoly
Nov. 15-Nov. 19	15, 16	Monopoly, Monopolistic Competition
Nov. 22-Nov. 26		Fall break
Nov. 29-Dec. 3	Review	Midterm 3 on Thursday Dec. 2
Dec. 6-Dec. 10	21	The Theory of Consumer Choice
Th. Dec. 16th		CUMULATIVE final exam 7:30am-10:00am

OTHER INFORMATION

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, and <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>.

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.

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 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.

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). See <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> <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>.