

Econ 2010 – 080: Principles of Microeconomics

Fall 2012

MWF 12:00 – 12:50 in RAMY C250

Instructor: Rebecca Jennings

Email: rebecca.jennings@colorado.edu

Office: Econ 307

Office Hours: Monday 1:00 – 2:15, Tuesday 11:00 – 12:00, and by appointment

Website: Desire2Learn

Course Description

“Economics is a study of mankind in the ordinary business of life.” - Alfred Marshall, *Principles of Economics*

This is an introductory course to the concepts of microeconomics. Microeconomics is broadly defined as the study of individual's and firm's decisions – why do people do what they do? The course serves to introduce you to the basics of economic theory which tries to model feature of the economy. These concepts include supply and demand, determination of prices, international trade, taxes, and welfare analysis. The introduction will prepare students for future study of economics at the intermediate level, as well as serve as a good foundation for future study in business, law, political science, sociology, and life in general. Understanding economics goes a long way toward understanding why things are the way they are. As this is an introductory course, you will spend a lot of your time learning the language of the field, as well as learning how to 'think like an economist.'

Textbook

N. Gregory Mankiw. Principles of Microeconomics, 6th Edition.

This can be found at the bookstore, but you may find much better prices online. As the textbook will not be used for homework questions, the 5th edition will suffice.

Prerequisites

This is an intro class with no prerequisites; however you will be expected to have an understanding of algebra and graphical analysis.

TAs

Jieun Chang – jieunc@colorado.edu

Gregory Madonia – gregory.madonia@colorado.edu

Recitation

Number	Time and Location	Instructor
-081	M 8:00 - 8:50, ECON 117	Chang
-082	M 9:00 - 9:50, GUGG 206	Chang
-083	W 4:00 - 4:50, MUEN E123	Madonia
-084	W 5:00 - 5: 50, ECON 117	Madonia
-085	T 8:00 - 8:50, ECON 117	Madonia
-086	T 5:00 - 5:50, KTCH 120	Madonia

-087	Th 5:00 - 5:50, HLMS 259	HOLD
-088	TH 4:00 - 4:50, MUEN D144	HOLD

Grading:

- Midterm 1 – 25%
- Midterm 2 – 25%
- Recitation – 25%
- Final – 35%
- Clickers – 15%

You will notice that the above adds to more than 100%. I will drop the lowest of your Midterm and Recitation grades. Because of this, make-up exams will not be given for any reason. The Final will not be dropped. I cannot discuss grades through email – you must discuss them with me in person.

Midterms

Midterm 1 – Friday, September 28th

Midterm 2 – Friday, November 9th

Midterm 1 will cover topics until September 28th and Midterm 2 will cover topics from the first midterm until November 9th. They will consist mainly of multiple choice questions, although there may be short answer questions. Calculators will not be necessary (or allowed).

Recitations

These meet weekly **starting the second week of school** (Week of Sept 3rd). Your TAs will decide how the recitation grade will be determined and will tell you at your first recitation. As this is a 4 credit course, 1 of those credits is your recitation, and I expect you to take it seriously. Your TAs are a valuable resource that you should utilize.

Clickers

You need to get and register your CU Clicker for this course. Clickers will be used in class instead of homework to gauge your understanding of the material. Incorrectly answered clicker questions will still receive partial credit. You should only be using your own clicker in class. Students caught answering with more than one will at minimum lose all clicker points for that day. Tell your friends to go to class themselves if they want the points.

Final

The final is Tuesday, December 18th from 7:30 to 10:00 PM. It will be comprehensive and cover the entire course. About half of the final will be on the material since the second midterm and half will cover material on the midterms.

If you have three or more final examinations on the same day, you can arrange to have the last one taken at an alternative time. It is your responsibility to notify me no later than six weeks into the semester.

Laptop/Tablet and Cell Phone Policy

Laptops in class are a negative externality (see Chapter 10). Besides this, much of the notes you will be taking will involve graphs and/or math, which you can do much easier with pen and paper than on a

computer. If you wish to transcribe your notes onto your computer when you get home, you are free to do so, but there are no laptops/tablets in class. The only exception to this rule is if disability services mandate that you must be allowed to use a laptop for note taking. If this is the case, you must provide me with an official letter from disability services.

Likewise for cell phones – do not have them out and put them on silent. I reserve the right to kick anybody out of class for inconsiderate use of cell phones or laptops, as well as penalize points if necessary.

Grades

The percentages bellow will guarantee the corresponding letter grade (at least – there may be additional curving; however I will not round grades up or down).

Percentage	Grade	Percentage	Grade
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+	< 60%	F

Tentative Course Outline

Below is my minimum goal for this semester. We will skip one chapter for sure, but as the semester continues topics may be added or dropped.

Chapter	Topic
1&2	Intro to Economic Thought
3	Interdependence and Gains from Trade
4	Supply and Demand
5	Elasticity
6	Supply, Demand, and Government Policies
7	Consumers and Producers
8&9	Taxation and International Trade
10	Externalities
11	Public Goods and Common Resources
13	Cost of Production
14	Perfect Competition
15 - 17	Monopoly, Oligopoly, Monopolistic Competition

Additional Policies

Students with Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Center for Community N200, and <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>.

If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see guidelines at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/go.cgi?select=temporary.html>.

Disability Services' letters for students with disabilities indicate legally mandated reasonable accommodations. The syllabus statements and answers to Frequently Asked Questions can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>.

Religious Observance Policy

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. In this class, if you have a conflict, please contact me at the beginning of the term so we can make proper arrangements (no later than 2 weeks into the semester). See full details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html.

Classroom Behavior Policy

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, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, and gender expression, age, disability, 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. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code.

Discrimination and Harassment Policy

The University of Colorado at Boulder Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures, the University of Colorado Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedures, and the University of Colorado Conflict of Interest in Cases of Amorous Relationships Policy 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, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127, or the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) 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>.

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; 303-735-2273). 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

<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at
<http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>.