

University of Colorado at Boulder, Fall 2014
Math Tools for Economists I
Econ 1078-003

Meeting Time: MWF 1200-12:50 p.m.

Room: HLMS 267

Instructor: Joshua Schabla

Office: Econ 309B

E-Mail: joshua.schabla@colorado.edu

Web: <https://learn.colorado.edu>

Office Hours: MF 11-12, W 1-2

Textbook: *Essential Mathematics for Economic Analysis, 4th*, by Kurt Sydsaeter, Peter Hammond, and Arne Strom. You will also use this book for Econ 1088. Previous editions of the text are also acceptable to use, however the page numbers might be different.

Course Description and Objectives:

This course is the first of two designed to give you the mathematical background necessary for future courses in business and economics. Topics to be covered in this course include basic “college” algebra, systems of equations, simple linear and nonlinear equations, set theory and summation notation.

It is important to remember that what makes math difficult for some isn’t the math itself, it’s the language we use to describe it. If I asked you to perform some mathematical operation, such as driving a car (something that uses some incredibly advanced mathematical techniques), you could do it. The difficulty lies in describing what your brain is actually doing. To that end, **calculators will not be allowed on tests**. I will make sure that any actual calculations you need to perform on the test will be very straight forward, but I want you to understand what you are doing and calculators are a major impediment to understanding.

Grading:

There will be homework assignments, posted on D2L by 3pm Friday, and due by the end of class the following Friday. Late homework will not be accepted without a doctor’s note for any reason. If you are going to miss class for any reason you can drop off the homework in the Economics main office or my office any time **before the start of class**, any homework turned in after I leave the classroom Friday will be considered late and receive a 0.

The midterms are not cumulative, they will only cover the material since the previous test. There will be no make-up exams, if you miss an exam it will count as a zero. **If you miss more than 2 midterm exams for any reason, the weight of that exam will carry over onto the final as there will be no make-up exams**. That is, if you miss two exams, you will have the third that you did take worth 20% of your grade, and the final becomes worth 50% of your grade.

The final exam is **cumulative** and will be given on **Tuesday Dec 18th from 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m** in our normal class room.

Your grade will come from the following breakdown:

30% - Homework (Top 10 out of 11)

40% - Midterms (Top 2 out of 3)

30% - Final

There will be 11 homework assignments given throughout the semester, with one being dropped, and graded out of 10 points. Thus, each homework assignment will be worth 3% of your total grade. The midterms will be out of 100, with only the top two counting towards your final grade, thus each midterm is worth 20% of your final grade.

Grading Scale:

93% to 100% A	72% to 77% C
90% to 92% A-	70% to 71% C-
88% to 89% B+	68% to 69% D+
82% to 87% B	62% to 67% D
80% to 81% B-	60% to 61% D-
78% to 79% C+	59.5% or lower F

Syllabus Statements

ACCOMMODATION FOR DISABILITIES

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed.

Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#).

Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

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 race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. 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. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

HONOR CODE

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code (honor@colorado.edu); 303-492-5550). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](#).

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND/OR RELATED RETALIATION

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, exploitation, harassment, dating or domestic violence, and stalking), discrimination, and harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or cureport@colorado.edu. Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](#), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

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. Let me know if you need this accommodation at least two weeks in advance.