

ECON 3070 - Intermediate Microeconomic Theory

Fall 2018

MWF 11:00AM-11:50AM ECON 119

Recitation Times:

Mon. 5:00PM-5:50PM CLRE 208, Wed. 4:00PM-4:50PM HUMN 180

Instructor: Professor Richard Mansfield

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Office Hours: Monday 1:00PM - 2:00PM, Thursday 1:00PM - 2:00PM

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TA Office Hours: Tues. 2:00PM-4:00PM, Wed. 2:00PM-3:00PM, Thurs. 4:00PM-5:00PM

August 26, 2018

1 Course Overview

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to microeconomic theory. The content includes consumer choice of products, firm production decisions, equilibrium market-level prices and quantities, and evaluation of the impact of government policies on consumer and producer welfare. However, the chief aim of the course is to teach you how to develop and work with formal economic models. Specifically, in this course you will learn:

- The ingredients of an economic model
- How to combine the ingredients to formulate a fully specified model
- What it means to (and how to) solve a model
- How to adjust model assumptions in the face of new evidence in order to improve the accuracy of its predictions

We will apply these tools by formulating and solving economic problems from the perspective of the consumer, the firm, the worker, and the government, respectively.

More fundamentally, in the course of learning to work with economic models, you will develop a deeper understanding of how to represent economic logic verbally, graphically, and algebraically (and how to easily move back and forth between these forms). Of particular importance is learning how to convert intuitive statements into mathematical representations by choosing appropriate functional forms.

2 Prerequisites

Economics Prerequisites: ECON 2010 Mathematics Prerequisites: Either the combination (ECON 1078 AND ECON 1088) or MATH 1081 or the combination (MATH 1080, MATH 1090 and MATH 1100)

3 Assignments and Grading

Weekly problem sets will be distributed that are designed to reinforce and expand upon the topics covered in class. These problem sets will not be graded, and solutions will be provided separately at the time they are distributed. Instead, quizzes tied closely to these problem sets will occur in recitation each week. Scores on these quizzes will comprise 10% of each student's grade. Quizzes may not be made up, but each student's lowest score over the course of the semester will be dropped.

There will be three in-class midterm examinations (tentative dates: September 24th, October 22nd, and November 16th). Each midterm will comprise 16.66% ($1/6$) of each student's grade, so that the midterms collectively will account for 50% of the grade. The final exam will comprise 30% of the student's grade. The final exam will be comprehensive, but will focus primarily on untested content from the final quarter of the semester. Calculator use is prohibited on the exams. The final 10% of each student's grade will be based on classroom attendance, scores on in-class clicker questions, and oral classroom participation.

The final exam will take place Sunday, December 16 from 7:30PM to 10:00PM.

Each student's weighted average score will be calculated, and a final letter grade will be computed based on a curve that ensures that the distribution of grades will be similar to that observed in other sections of ECON3070.

4 Textbook

The primary textbook for the course is *Microeconomics*, 5th edition, by David Besanko and Ronald Braeutigam. While the content and sequence of lectures will generally follow the textbook, not all lecture material will be covered in the textbook, and not all textbook material will be covered in class. All problem sets and exams will be based only on the content covered in lecture. Thus, purchase of the textbook is not explicitly required. However, because the course closely follows the book, buying the textbook is *extremely strongly* encouraged.

5 Course Website

Students should enroll in this course's Canvas webpage. This syllabus will be posted there, along with problem sets, announcements, and grades.

6 Course Schedule

A tentative schedule of lecture topics, textbook reading assignments, and exam dates is provided below. The chapters listed refer to Besanko and Braeutigam's *Microeconomics*, 5th edition. Note that in addition to Labor Day (Sept. 3rd) and Thanksgiving break (Nov. 19th/21st/23rd), there will also be no class on Friday, September 7th and on Friday, October 12th due to preexisting commitments of the professor. The dates of these classes are replaced with "NC" for "no class" on the course schedule below.

Week	Topics	Book Chapters
Aug 27/29/31	Introducing the Economic Model & Perfect Competition	Ch. 1-2
Sep NC/5/NC	Consumer Preferences	Ch. 3
Sep 10/12/14	Consumer Optimal Choice	Ch. 4
Sep 17/19/21	Demand Curves	Ch. 5
Sep 24/26/28	1st Midterm Exam & Nonlinear Budget Constraints	Ch. 5
Oct 1/3/5	Consumer Welfare & Intro. to Production	Ch. 5-6
Oct 8/10/NC	Cost Minimization & Factor Demand	Ch. 7
Oct 15/17/19	Cost Curves & Profit Maximization	Ch. 8
Oct 22/24/26	2nd Midterm Exam & Supply Curves	Ch. 9
O/N 29/31/2	Short- and Long-Run Perfect Competition	Ch. 9
Nov 5/7/9	Taxes and Welfare Analysis	Ch. 9-10
Nov 12/14/16	Imperfect Competition & 3rd Midterm Exam	Ch. 11,13
Nov NC/NC/NC	Thanksgiving Break	None
Nov 26/28/30	Game Theory	Ch. 14
Dec 3/5/7	Uncertainty	Ch. 17
Dec 10/12/NC	Externalities & Review	Ch. 17
Dec 16	Final Exam	

7 Clickers

Students are required to have a clicker for this class and extra batteries for each class. Clicker information will be used to help determine your attendance and participation grade. You

are responsible for purchasing and registering the your clicker by Aug. 27th. Information on how to register clickers is available at <http://www.colorado.edu/oit/tutorial/cuclickers-iclicker-remote-registration>. Make sure you use your identity key log in name so your clicker number can be matched to the grade roster. If you have any problems with your clickers call IT at 5HELP. Remember that using someone elses clicker for them violates the honor code, so do not do it and do not ask someone to use your clicker if you are going to be absent from class.

8 Attendance

Students who do not attend at least two of the first three classes may be administratively dropped from the course in favor of students on the wait list.

9 Makeup Exams

If you communicate to me prior to the day of the exam that you will need to miss an exam due to a religious holiday or due to illness, a makeup exam may be scheduled with the professor. If the makeup is taken after the originally scheduled exam, then the makeup exam will be more difficult than the original exam due to the additional time you will have to study.

10 Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to the professor a letter from Disability Services by the end of the second week of class so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by email at dsinfo@colorado.edu. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Injuries guidelines under the Quick Links at the Disability Services website and discuss your needs with the professor.

11 Religious Holidays

If you expect to miss an exam in order to observe a religious holiday, you must communicate this request to the professor prior to Friday, August 31st.

12 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 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. For more information, see the policies on classroom behavior and the student code.

13 Honor Code

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of the institution. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access, clicker fraud, resubmission, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code Council as well as academic sanctions from the professor. Additional information regarding the academic integrity policy can be found at <http://honorcode.colorado.edu>.

14 Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. CU's Sexual Misconduct Policy prohibits sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, intimate partner abuse (dating or domestic violence), stalking or related retaliation. CU Boulder's Discrimination and Harassment Policy prohibits discrimination, harassment or related retaliation based on race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct under either policy should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127. Information about the OIEC, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or related retaliation can be found at the OIEC website.