

Dr. Diana Moss
University of Colorado
Department of Economics
Fall 2021
Monday 4:10 – 6:40 pm
Location: HLMS 211

Antitrust and Regulation (Econ 4797-001)
Course Syllabus

Contact Information and Office Hours

Voice or text (please identify yourself in your message): 720-233-5971
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Office hours: Mondays 3:00 – 4:00 pm

Course Description and Objectives

The objective of this course is to familiarize you with competition policy and the major tools (antitrust and regulation) for promoting markets, innovation, and consumer benefits. The course topic is an important focus within the field of Industrial Organization and is growing in importance given recent concerns over declining competition and rising concentration in key sectors of the U.S. economy. In the course, students will think analytically and critically about competition enforcement and policy, and develop and apply economic tools to the analysis of mergers, collusive agreements, and monopolization issues. As such, the course will focus on the analytical building blocks for evaluating imperfectly competitive market structures and strategic firm conduct.

Econ 4797 is an applied course and uses a case study approach with real world examples to illustrate, develop, and critique economic tools used in antitrust and regulation. Examples come from past, present, and prospective antitrust cases across a number of industries, including: digital technology, energy, telecommunications, healthcare, sports, transportation, food and agriculture, consumer products, and others. Individual and group projects help develop analysis and public speaking skills.

Prerequisites

Economics students must have already taken Intermediate Microeconomic Theory (Econ 3070) *or* Industrial Organization (Econ 4697) to enroll in this class. **No exceptions will be made.**

Requirements, Grading, and Other Policies

Mid-Term Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Class Attendance	10%
Homework	10%
Case Presentation	10%
Team Projects:	
- Research Paper	10%
- Presentation	10%

I will assign letter grades at the end of the semester based on a distribution of total point scores. Note that there are **no make-up exams**, except for conflicts with a religious obligation.

Course Text

The assigned course text is an e-book, which is a compilation of antitrust cases from several editions of the THE ANTITRUST REVOLUTION, John E. Kwoka, Jr. And Lawrence J. White, eds., Oxford

University Press. I encourage you to keep up with the readings, in advance of their coverage in lecture. [The e-book can be purchased here](#). Additional readings may be assigned throughout the semester, which I will make these available through the course website.

Approximate Calendar of Topics

Horizontal Mergers - weeks 1 – 4

Collusion and Agreements - weeks 5 – 7

Exclusionary Conduct - weeks 8 - 10

Vertical mergers - weeks 11 - 12

Group project presentations - weeks 13 – 14

Administrative Drops

The class meets once a week on Mondays. We meet a total of 14 times this semester. Thus, each class is the equivalent of two (2) T-Th classes, or three (3) M-W-F classes. We will have a full class every day, including the first day of class, August 23rd. Because of the schedule for the course, if you do not attend the first day, the administrative drop policy will be applied. Of course, subject to extenuating and verifiable circumstances that prevent you from attending that day, I will make accommodations. Information can be found at

<https://www.colorado.edu/registrar/students/registration/register/drop>.

Classroom Behavior

Both students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote or online. 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. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution policies](#).

Requirements for COVID-19

As a matter of public health and safety due to the pandemic, all members of the CU Boulder community and all visitors to campus must follow university, department and building requirements and all public health orders in place to reduce the risk of spreading infectious disease. Students who fail to adhere to these requirements will be asked to leave class, and students who do not leave class when asked or who refuse to comply with these requirements will be referred to [Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution](#). For more information, see the policy on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#). If you require accommodation because a disability prevents you from fulfilling these safety measures, please follow the steps in the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus.

As of August 13, 2021, CU Boulder has returned to requiring masks in classrooms and laboratories regardless of vaccination status. This requirement is a temporary precaution during the delta surge to supplement CU Boulder’s COVID-19 vaccine requirement. Exemptions include individuals who cannot medically tolerate a face covering, as well as those who are hearing-impaired or otherwise disabled or who are communicating with someone who is hearing-impaired or otherwise disabled and where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication. If you qualify for a mask-related accommodation, please follow the steps in the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus. In addition, vaccinated instructional faculty who are engaged in an indoor instructional activity and are separated by at least 6 feet from the nearest person are exempt from wearing masks if they so choose.

Students who have tested positive for COVID-19, have symptoms of COVID-19, or have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for or had symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home. In this class, if you are sick or quarantined, please alert me to this as soon as possible, in advance of the date of the next class.

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, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) on the Disability Services website.

Preferred Student Names and Pronouns

CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.

Honor Code

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code academic integrity policy. Violations of the Honor Code may include, but are not limited to: 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 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 on the [Honor Code website](#).

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner violence (dating or domestic violence), stalking, or protected-class discrimination or harassment by or against 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 email cureport@colorado.edu. Information about OIEC, university policies, [reporting options](#), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#). Please know that faculty and graduate instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, dating and domestic violence, stalking, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about their rights, support resources, and reporting options.

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. See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.