

Principles of Microeconomics

ECON 2010 - Spring 2021

University of Colorado Boulder

Dr. Sergey Nigai

Email: Sergey.Nigai@colorado.edu

Course Website: CANVAS

Online Office Hours: Monday at 9:30am - 10:30am & 2:30pm - 3:30pm and by appointment. The office hours are going to be held in Zoom. Use the link posted on CANVAS.

Course description and objectives

The objective of this course is to develop an understanding of basic concepts and mechanisms in microeconomics. Among others, we will answer the following questions: How do firms and households make production and consumption decisions? How do market mechanisms work and when do they fail? What is the role of government regulations and taxation? Why do countries trade? We will review these and other questions through the lens of both microeconomic theory and real world data.

Class Week

Due to CU Academic Calendar our class weeks will run from Wednesday to Tuesday. This means that video lectures, homework assignments, and recitations will become available on Wednesdays. The deadlines will be posted on the class homepage [here](#).

Lectures and In-video questions

There are no in-person lectures for this course. The lectures will be posted every week on CANVAS in the [Assignment](#) section. The lectures will be available at any time throughout the course. However, every lecture will include in-video questions that are going to be graded. **You will need to complete video lectures and answer several in-video questions every week by Tuesday 11:59 pm** unless specified otherwise. Your answers will be graded and will count toward the final grade. You will get 1 point for each correct answer. For each video lecture you will have 1 attempt to answer in-video questions. The final score will be completed by adding up all points while discarding 5 questions with the lowest score. There will be no make-up attempts if you fail to answer in-video questions by the specified deadlines. Submitting your answers requires that you answer all questions and watch the video until the end. **When you've completed the video, the sidebar will automatically open and show your score and confirm your submission. Do not exit the video before you see the confirmation.** You can find additional instructions on how to use the software to answer in-video questions [here](#). In

addition to watching lecture videos, I expect you to read the corresponding chapters in the book every week.

Recitations

Recitations will begin the second week of classes on Wednesday. It is essential for you to attend the recitations to grasp the material. TA (Teaching Assistant) conducting recitations will grade your performance which will count toward the final grade. Your TA will explain recitation grading policy. All recitations are going to be held online. You must attend the section that you've been assigned to. In extremely rare cases, when you must switch to a different section due to academic reasons, contact Lead TA Anja Gruber at Anja.Gruber@colorado.edu. There is no guarantee that you will be allowed to switch and the decisions will be made on case by case basis.

Required book, Web-platform and Homework

The required text is *Paul Krugman and Robin Wells, Microeconomics, 5th edition, 2015, Worth Publishers*. In addition to the text you are required to sign up for **Achieve** to complete weekly assignments.

To keep the cost of your course materials as low as possible and access to those materials as convenient as possible, we have collaborated with the CU Book Store and the publisher to deliver those materials through a program called "Inclusive Access", which will appear on your tuition and fee bill as "Day 1 Digital Access".

What does this mean for you?

- You will receive access to all your digital course materials on the first day of classes through your Canvas page.
- You will see a "Day 1 Digital Access" charge on your tuition and fee bill for: **\$89.98**. This is a low price discounted by the publisher, and not available outside this course
- You have the option to opt out. This means: you won't pay for anything, but you lose all access to the course materials, including homework manager.
- You can opt out by using a link in a reminder email you will receive with the subject heading "Day 1 Digital Access".
- You must opt out before **February 4th**, otherwise you will be charged for the materials.
- Please keep in mind that "opting out" means that your access to these materials will be turned off.

Achieve Platform allows you to access ebook and homework assignments. To gain access you will need to sign up in CANVAS. You can find the instructions on how to sign up [here](#).

Every week you will need to complete one homework assignment. The assignments will become available on Wednesday in the Assignment section. The deadline for each assignment will be posted on CANVAS homepage. There will be no make-up assignments for missed homework. I will discard one homework assignment with the

lowest score when calculating your final grade. **Achieve Platform** is also used for extra-credit assignments and contains non-graded pre-class videos.

Exams and Grading

Exams will be conducted online using Proctorio. Students will have to register there and complete a practice quiz before the first midterm. Clear instructions on how to register will be posted on CANVAS homepage.

Important dates:

Midterm I: February 16th

Midterm II: March 30th

Final: May 1st-2nd

We will have two midterms and a cumulative final exam. The exams will be remotely proctored. There will be no make up exams. The weights of the final grade are as follows:

Final exam: 40%

Maximum of Midterm I and Midterm II: 30%

In-video questions: 10%

Homework assignments: 10%

Recitations: 10%

Total: 100%

(Extra Credit: 2%)

When calculating the final grade for the class, I will use the maximum score you get for either of the two midterms. Hence, if you miss one of the midterms, the score for this test will be automatically dropped. However, if you miss both midterms due to a documented medical reason (you will have to provide proofs for both), the weight of the midterm will be shifted to the final exam.

Extra credit assignments are not required. Only complete them if you need additional practice/help with your reading or you feel that you will need extra points. Extra-credit points can account for a maximum of 2% of your total grade. Extra-credit assignments will have deadlines and are accessible via Achieve.

There will be no make up exams or other extra-credit assignments. If your scores for both midterms are in top 5% of the class, you will get 10% added to your final exam.

Office Hours and Contact Information

Office hours will be held in Zoom. You can attend office hours of any TA. You can also attend office hours held by the professor. The schedule and zoom links for office hours are available [here](#).

If you have questions or concerns you can contact your assigned TA or the Lead TA for this course Anja Gruber at Anja.Gruber@colorado.edu. You may also contact the instructor at Sergey.Nigai@colorado.edu. Please use your official school email address.

We will not be able to respond to personal email. Include the subject “ECON2010 - Spring 2021” and state your name and section.

Accommodation for Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please contact Lead TA with your information in the first two weeks of classes.

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.

Spring Pause

The week of March 22-26 will be used in this class as a “spring pause” to provide us all with a safe and supportive way to promote health, wellness and learning without leaving campus. During this week, we won’t have any exams or assignments due. We will still have class with interactive class activities that will require your attendance and be part of your final course grade. Attendance is still required for all class sessions that week, except for the campus-wide wellness day on Thursday, March 25. I wish we could take a regular spring break, but public-health concerns prevent us from doing so. I would like to emphasize that it is still important for you all to behave responsibly. Do not use the week to travel or engage in risky behavior that could result in an outbreak on campus.

CU Policies

We will comply with all CU Boulder policies including:

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 Code of Conduct](#).

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 public health orders in place to reduce the risk of spreading infectious disease. Required safety measures at CU Boulder relevant to the classroom setting include:

- maintain 6-foot distancing when possible,

- wear a face covering in public indoor spaces and outdoors while on campus consistent with state and county health orders,
- clean local work area,
- practice hand hygiene,
- follow public health orders, and
- if sick and you live off campus, do not come onto campus (unless instructed by a CU Healthcare professional), or if you live on-campus, please alert CU Boulder Medical Services.

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 policies on COVID-19 Health and Safety and classroom behavior and the Student Code of Conduct. If you require accommodation because a disability prevents you from fulfilling these safety measures, please see the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus.

All students who are new to campus must complete the COVID-19 Student Health and Expectations Course. Before coming to campus each day, all students are required to complete the Buff Pass.

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 and unable to complete assignments or tests, email the lead TA.

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. 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 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. The midterms and final exam are going to be conducted online via Proctorio. We will review the videos and in case of academic dishonesty you will get a score of 0 for the exam. 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 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 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 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 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. In this class, email me the details in advance.