

ECON 3070-030 : Intermediate Microeconomic Theory

Spring 2021

Syllabus

Instructor Sutianjie Zhou (Joe)

Course Meetings: Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 9:10-10:00 AM

Class Zoom: <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/92432006479>

Office Hours: Monday 1:00-2:00 PM, Tuesday 9:00-10:00 AM, Wednesday 4:00-5:00 PM, Thursday 10:00-11:00 AM

Office Hours Zoom: <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/92143201588>

Contact: sutianjie.zhou@colorado.edu

TA: Minghui Li, minghui.li@colorado.edu

Course Info

Description This course introduces the theoretical framework for analyzing the economic behavior of individual decision-makers, such as consumers, workers, and firms. The course will be divided roughly into 3 parts. The first will be an introduction to microeconomics, along with a review of supply and demand. The second part will be a discussion of consumer and firm behavior in competitive markets, along with an analysis of these markets. The third part of this course, we will relax some of the assumptions built into our model of competitive markets and consider cases where these assumptions do not hold.

Prerequisites ECON 2010 AND one of ECON 1088, MATH 1081, MATH 1300, MATH 1310, APPM 1350, or FNCE 2010 with a minimum grade of C-.

Textbook

Microeconomics with MyLab, 9th Edition, by Pindyck and Rubinfeld, Pearson Publishing, ISBN 9780134153988. Students are required to have access to MyLab (which includes an eBook) at a minimum and can optionally choose to purchase a paper text. MyLab is where you will read your textbook and complete some graded assignments. You will access MyLab through our course website on Canvas.

Structure

On the following dates and times the midterms and final exam will be held:

- Midterm 1: Friday, February 19 9:10-10:00 AM
- Midterm 2: Friday, March 19, 9:10-10:00 AM
- Midterm 3: Friday, April 23, 9:10-10:00 AM

- Final: Saturday, May 1, 4:30-7:00 PM

The course consists of lectures, homework, early module assignments, recitations, and exams.

Lecture I highly encourage but do not require attendance at lectures. I will occasionally offer opportunities to earn bonus points on exams during lectures through clicker questions or in-class participation. With regards to classroom behavior, please exercise common courtesy. Please arrive on time, refrain from leaving early, and do not discuss non-course related content. You may use electronic devices for educational purposes, however I maintain the right to disallow use of electronic devices if they are used inappropriately.

Homework Each week during the semester, I will post homework assignments on myEconLab for you to complete. The homework assignments will consist of practice problems designed to re-enforce material covered during lecture and to prepare you for the types of questions you will answer on exams. Homework assignments will generally be due on Sundays at 11:59 PM. Late submissions and make-ups will not be allowed. I will drop the lowest homework grade at the end of the semester. If you experience any difficulties (ie myLab is not working) you must notify me before an assignment is due.

Early Modules Each week during the semester, I will post early module assignments on Canvas. These assignments are Canvas quizzes that are designed to provide a review of math and principles-level material that will be useful for introducing the material covered in lecture each week. Early module assignments will generally be due on Mondays at 9:10 AM. Late submissions and make-ups will not be allowed. I will drop the lowest early module grades at the end of the semester. If you experience any difficulties (ie Canvas is not working) you must notify me before an assignment is due.

Recitation Starting with the 2nd week of classes you will meet weekly with the TA for this course. The goal of recitation is to ask questions, review concepts, and practice with the material. Your TA will determine how grades are assigned.

Exams Exam dates are listed above. Midterms will be held during lecture on February 19, March 19 and April 23 9:10-10:00 AM. The final will be held on May 1 at 4:30 - 7:00 PM. Midterms will consist of multiple choice and free-response questions which are non-cumulative. The final will consist of multiple choice and free-response questions which are cumulative. You must take the final exam in this course; failure to do so will result in a failing grade. The topics that each exam encompasses will be announced in class prior to the exam. University policy allows students who have more than three finals to reschedule the last final of the day. If students wish to reschedule a final, they must inform me by March 20.

Grading

Your grade will be determined by the following components and weights:

- Recitation: 10%
- Early Modules: 5%
- Homework: 10%
- Midterm 1: 15%
- Midterm 2: 15%
- Midterm 3: 15%
- Final Exam: 30%

I will follow economics department guidelines which means the average grade will be curved to a B-. The size of this curve will not be known until after all components of the course have been graded.

Course Policies

Missed Assignments In the case that an extreme illness is experienced leading to missing homework and/or early modules I will shift the weight of these to subsequent homework and/or early modules. In the case that a midterm exam is missed then it will count as your lowest midterm, which is dropped. If more than one midterm exam is missed then the final exam score will replace the missed midterm (there will be no make-up exams).

Communication Outside of lectures and office hours, the optimal way to contact me is through email. I will not respond to emails if the answer to your question is in the syllabus. Please use your Colorado.edu account to email me, and include in the subject line ECON 3070. Please allow 24 hours for a response during the week, and 48 hours on weekends. I will occasionally distribute information through official university email; thus, it is expected that you will maintain and monitor your university email address.

Exam Policy Exams are the only components used to determine grades for which collaboration is explicitly prohibited. If you are caught cheating you will receive a 0 on the associated assignment. Non-graphing calculators are allowed to be used during exams; use of any other device will be considered cheating. An online proctoring service may be utilized while exams are taken. I do not know what data the online proctor collects nor how securely this data is stored; by enrolling in this class you acknowledge that I am not liable for this and that you will be agreeing to the terms of service dictated by the online proctor.

Intellectual Property All course materials are the property of the instructor and may not be shared with any individual outside of the course at any time for any reason without permission in writing from the instructor. Course materials, including but not limited to lecture presentation slides, assignments, grading rubrics, exams, discussion posts, and recitation activities, may not be posted to any website (e.g., Course Hero or similar sites, social media, etc.). The same applies to any audio or video recordings of lecture or recitation. A violation of this policy will be treated as a violation of the academic integrity policy.

Electronics Cell phone use is not permitted during class. If there is an emergency requiring the use of a cell phone please step outside the classroom. The use of tablets and laptops for educational purposes (ie lecture slides, Canvas, MyLab) is permitted; however, I reserve the right to disallow their use if electronics are not being used appropriately.

University 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>.

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.

Before returning to campus, all students must complete the COVID-19 Student Health and Expectations Course. Before coming on to campus each day, all students are required to complete a Daily Health Form.

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 and complete the Health Questionnaire and Illness Reporting Form remotely.

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. If you have a conflict, please contact me at the beginning of the term so that we can make proper arrangements.

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.

Discrimination and Harrasment Policy: The University of Colorado at Boulder Discrimination and Harrasment Policy and Procedures, the University of Colorado Sexual Harrasment 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 nonacademic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion).