

PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS

ECON 2010-100

SUMMER 2010

Instructor:	Shatanjaya Dasgupta
Class Time:	MTWRF 9:15 am – 10:50 am
Classroom:	HLMS 201
Email:	shatanjaya.dasgupta@colorado.edu
Course Website:	https://culearn.colorado.edu
Office:	ECON 309B
Office Hours:	MWF 11:00 am – 12:15 pm and by appointment
TA:	Sooyoung Lee, sooyoung.lee@colorado.edu

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Mankiw, N. Gregory, (2009) *Principles of Microeconomics* (5th Edition), South-Western Publishers.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Economics is the study of how people, firms, and societies choose to allocate scarce resources among alternate uses to satisfy human wants. Hence, economics is a social science as it analyzes what choices people make. Microeconomics is the branch of economics that examines the decision-making process of the individual unit (e.g., the household, firm, or industry) and how they interact in specific markets.

The primary goals of this course are to introduce the student to an economic way of thinking and to develop a “tool-kit” to help the student understand the interactions between economic agents and how government policies affect these interactions.

Note: Students may not receive credit for ECON 2010 if they have received credit for ECON 1000 or ECON 1001.

COURSE LEVEL AND PREREQUISITES

This is an introductory economics course; no previous knowledge of economics is assumed. The student should, however, be comfortable with high school level algebra (i.e., solve simple simultaneous equations graphically and algebraically) and geometry (i.e., finding the area of a triangle).

COURSE STRUCTURE

There are four components to the course: lectures, recitation, in class assignments and exams.

1. The lectures will follow the textbook in terms of topics covered. However, there may be some material covered in lecture that is not covered in the textbook.
2. Your TA will announce her grading policy with regard to recitation.
3. Throughout the term, I will grade 5 in-class assignments.
4. There will be two midterm exams and a final exam.

GRADING

Your course grade will be calculated as follows:

Midterm 1: 25%

Midterm 2: 25%

Final exam: 25%

In-class assignments: 10%

Recitation: 15%

Grading Scale:

<u>Your Score</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Your Score</u>	<u>Grade</u>
93-100%	A	73-76%	C
90-92%	A-	70-72%	C-
87-89%	B+	67-69%	D+
83-86%	B	63-66%	D
80-82%	B-	60-62%	D-
77-79%	C+	≤59%	F

LECTURES

You are responsible for all information covered in class lectures. **I do not post or give out my notes.** If you miss a class, you should be able to get notes from one of your classmates. You can come to my office hours to discuss the material you missed, but you must first obtain the notes and relevant handouts, go over the information for yourself, and prepare specific questions.

RECITATION

Recitation constitutes a compulsory 15% of the total course grade. During recitation, your TA will review material that is presented in lecture, as well as provide you with more examples and practice problems to prepare you for the exams. Your TA will describe her grading policy and what is expected of you during your first recitation.

Recitation begins **Wednesday, June 2.**

IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

In-class assignments constitute 10% of your course grade. We will do an in-class assignment regularly. However, I will collect these assignments (unannounced) only for 5 days in the entire term out of which the best 4 will count towards your grade.

EXAMS

Exams will be of multiple-choice type only. You must bring a #2 pencil and a **non-graphing/non-scientific/non-financial** calculator to the exam. **If you bring a graphing calculator or cell phone calculator to the exam, 5 points will be deducted from your grade on that exam.**

Neither the midterm exams nor the final exam will be cumulative. Exam material will be based off of the lecture notes and in-class assignments. I will announce before each exam the topics that will be included.

Midterm 1 will take place on **Thursday, June 10th** and midterm 2 will take place on **Tuesday, June 22nd**. **The final exam** will take place on **Friday, July 2nd**. All exams will be held in the usual classroom during lecture time.

There will be **no extra credit opportunities.**

MISSED EXAMS

There will be no makeup exams and early exams. Exam absences will only be excused for compelling circumstances (generally family emergencies or documented illness), in which case the other exams will be re-weighted.

GRADING DISPUTES

Please do NOT email me about a grading dispute – grades cannot be discussed over email. You must come and see me during my office hours.

TENTATIVE CHAPTERS TO BE COVERED

Chapter 1 – Ten Principles of Economics
Chapter 2 – Thinking like an Economist
Chapter 4 – The Market Forces of Supply and Demand
Chapter 5 – Elasticity and its Applications
Chapter 7 – Consumers, Producers and Efficiency of Markets
Chapter 6 – Supply, Demand and Government Policies
Chapters 3 and 9 – International Trade
Chapter 13 – The Costs of Production
Chapter 14 – Firms in Competitive Markets
Chapter 15 – Monopoly
Chapters 10 and 11 – Externalities/Public Goods

IMPORTANT DATES

Class starts: Tuesday, June 1st
Recitation starts: Wednesday, June 2nd
Midterm 1: Thursday, June 10th
Midterm 2: Tuesday, June 22nd
Final exam: Friday, July 2nd

OTHER INFORMATION

EMAILS

I reserve the right to NOT answer emails with questions for which you already have access to the answer (e.g. questions that are answered in the syllabus). When you do send emails, please try and maintain email etiquette such as putting in proper salutations and giving a subject heading. I will usually answer emails within a 24-hour period, this gap may be longer during the weekends.

Disability Policy:

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter from Disability Services to me in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>, 303-492-8671, Willard 322.

Religious Observance Policy:

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal 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 semester so we can make proper arrangements.

Classroom Behavior Policy:

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance, 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.

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; 303-725-2273).

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 non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion).

For more information, visit <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>.

Discrimination & Harassment Policy:

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment (<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/discrimination.html>), the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships applies to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about ODH and the campus resources is available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>.