

Syllabus for Principles of Microeconomics

ECON 2010 Fall 2021

Instructor and contact information

Instructor: Dr. Daria Bottan

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I will hold *office hours* every week from 3:00 to 4:00 pm on Wednesday and Friday in my office ECON 04B. I will also hold online office hours over zoom every Monday 11am to 1pm. Here is the zoom link (you might have to wait a little in the waiting room if I am talking about private matters with other students): <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/98089728316>

Feel free to stop by, ask questions, and just chat. If you would like to talk to me but your schedule does not allow you to come during office hours, email me and we can arrange a personal appointment.

I realize that coming to office hours may be uncomfortable and even a little scary. But once you do come to office hours, you'll probably realize it isn't as bad as you imagined. I also feel like going to office hours can be really useful: I can help you resolve a lot of questions and issues if we speak one on one. Do not hesitate to reach out no matter how small or large your issue is. I am here to help. I am available to you, your issues matter to me and office hours is the best way to discuss them.

Description of the course

In this class you will learn tools to analyze how individuals, firms and governments make economic decisions. Among other things you will be introduced to trade-offs, opportunity costs, how the forces of supply and demand shape prices, how firms make their production and pricing decisions, why certain goods are provided by the government while others are provided by the free market, cases when free markets fail to deliver efficient outcomes.

Course goals

By the end of the semester, you will learn basic tools of economic reasoning and will be able to apply those tools to your daily life decisions. In addition to that you will be able to use these tools to form your own judgment about issues like minimum wages, free trade, drug related crimes, and antitrust laws.

Class format

The class will be taught in a flipped format: you will watch short videos and answer some questions before watching the video lectures. The work you do before class will allow us to free up some class time for a richer experience during the video lectures. During video lectures we will: 1. Discuss more challenging aspects of the material in detail. 2. Practice answering questions similar to those that will appear on the exams. 3. You will not have to read the textbook. 4. The lectures

will be easier to follow because you will already know something on the topic before class. The flipped format will help you learn better and be more prepared for the exams.

I will record the lectures on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and will post them by 10am on those days. The pre-lecture videos and assignments will be due right before lectures are posted.

Note: **Pre-lectures do NOT replace lectures!** Just watching Pre-lectures will NOT give you enough information to answer questions on homework and most importantly exams. However Pre-lectures will help you make the most out of our time during the video lectures.

The most important thing for doing well in this class: *During the lectures I will ask you questions. I recommend you to pause the video when I ask the questions and try to answer the questions on your own before you hear my explanations. I know it seems like an extra effort and one is always lazy to put in the extra effort. However contemplating questions is the best way to learn! Learning happens in your head, not on my slides. Attempting this questions on your own will aid your learning so much and will really help you get a higher grade on the exams (there is a lot of pedagogy research suggesting that). The one best thing you can do for yourself in this class is attempting to solve those questions.*

Discussion sections will be led by teaching assistants and will include: additional practice questions, discussion of topics covered in class. A discussion section is a great opportunity to ask additional questions and get clarifications. Different thoughts, questions and opinions are valuable.

After class and the discussion sections you will do homework, to further practice the concepts you learned.

Grading

Your grade will consist of:

10% Average Pre-lecture assignment grade (both video and questions)

15% Average Homework Grade

20% Midterm Exam 1

20% Midterm Exam 2

35% Final Exam

Grading Scale

93% and above corresponds to A, 90-92% corresponds to A-; 87-89% corresponds to B+, 83-86% is B, 80-82% is B-; 77-79% corresponds to C+, 73-76% is C, 70-72 is C-; 60-69% corresponds to D; below 60 corresponds to F.

There is no rounding. This rule holds regardless of how close you are to a grade cutoff. For example, 89.99 is a B+ and will not be rounded to an A-.

Extra Credit

To compensate for the fact that there is no rounding I will occasionally offer extra credit activities. Those are bonus points and there is no way to recover them if you miss them.

Exams

Exams will consist of multiple choice questions. The questions will be based on the material covered during lectures. During most of the classes some time will be devoted to practicing multiple choice questions similar to those that will appear on the exams. All exams will be open book and open note and will take place online.

If you miss an exam without *documented excused absence*, the grade for that exam will be zero. In case of an excused absence for the midterm exam, the weight of the midterm will be shifted to the final (final exam will have a weight of 55%). It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor about the excused absence as soon as possible.

Currently *Midterm Exam 1 is scheduled for October 5th and Midterm Exam 2 is scheduled for November 4th*. I will provide more information on timing of the exams and proctoring as the semester progresses.

Pre-lecture assignments

You will do and submit Pre-lecture assignments through the following website: [achieve.macmillanlearning.com](https://www.achieve.macmillanlearning.com) (see the information on how to join it below, the most important information you will need is the course ID and I highlighted it in yellow below). To get full points for a pre-lecture assignment, you need to both watch videos (Pre-lectures) and answer questions regarding them (Bridge Questions) before the video lectures I'll post. If either of the two is incomplete the grade for that Pre-lecture assignment is zero. Typically we will have 2 Pre-lecture assignments per week. One assignment will be due at 10:00 am before Tuesday video class is posted and the second assignment will be due at 10:00am either before Thursday class. Information about pre-lectures and when they are due will be available in a tentative calendar (posted in the same folder as the Syllabus on MyCourses) and on the Achieve website. The grade for *pre-lectures will be based on completion rather than on correctness*, you will get a full grade as long as you put reasonable effort in and complete the assignments.

The due date of pre-lecture assignments will NOT be extended for any reason. However, I will drop the 2 Pre-lecture assignments with the lowest grades when calculating the final grade for the semester.

Important note regarding technical problems: *there will be absolutely NO excuses accepted for technical problems.* If you had technical problems you will have to use your free assignments (which is partly the reason they are offered). If you leave the assignment for the last minute, you are taking the risk of not having enough time in case a technical problem comes up during the submission process. I assume all of you are rational individuals and considered this risk at the time of making your decision to leave the assignment for the last minute.

Homework assignments

There will be approximately 12 Homework assignments. These will consist of multiple-choice questions. Homework assignments can only be submitted online through the Achieve website. Homework will be due on Sunday by 11:55pm. Information about Homework Assignments will be posted on Canvas.

The homework questions are graded based on correctness. However, if you answered the question incorrectly, you have several more attempts to answer the same question. Each extra time you attempt the question you receive a grade penalty but it is just 5% per attempt. I hope Homework is a learning experience for you, rather than something stressful.

The due date on homework assignments cannot be extended for any reason. However, I will drop the homework assignment with the lowest grade when calculating your final grade for the semester. Again, there will be absolutely no excuses accepted for technical problems.

Course Webpages and Materials

Course Website

Announcements for the class, information about Pre-lecture assignments and Homeworks, along with due dates, lecture slides and grades will be posted on Canvas. It is your responsibility to check the announcements regularly.

The main website you will use is Achieve website. All the assignments except for Midterm and Final Exams will be submitted through there.

Books

I realize that books are expensive and that many students don't read them. That is why there is no required book for this class. I think the Pre-lectures, Lectures and all the practice questions are enough to succeed in this class. However, if you would like a book, I recommend buying the following used book (the edition doesn't matter, recent editions have slightly more fun examples but the theory is the same in every book): Krugman, Paul, Robin Wells, and Kathryn Graddy. "Essentials of economics." This book covers the material in a way that is very similar to how I cover it in this class.

Achieve: accessing the online system for Homework and Pre-lectures

To access achieve you will need the following:

- 1) Access code to the course (you have to purchase it but there is two weeks trial period);
- 2) The course ID: t8za5h (The course is called Principles of Micro Fall 2021)

Here are short steps on how to do it:

Step 1: Go to achieve.macmillanlearning.com

Step 2: Click "I need to enroll in a course"

Step 3: Enter your course ID: t8za5h

Step 4: Choose your payment method, start a grace period (2 weeks), or enter your access code

Step 5: "Sign In" if you already have an Achieve account or "Create an Account" if this is your first time using Achieve. After creating your account and registering for the course, please make sure to use the same email to continue logging into the course in the future.

Step 6: You can now access the Achieve course assignments

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. Also feel free to email me any information you find important regarding this matter.

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. In this class, please email me if you have any conflicts for religious reasons.

The class policies are subject to change due to unexpected external conditions and to ensure better student learning.