

Syllabus for Principles of Microeconomics

ECON 2010 Spring 2021

Instructor and contact information

Instructor: Dr. Daria Bottan

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My Office Hours:

I will hold *office hours* during 3 different times every week. 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 (I prefer to email).

When the classes are remote, I'll give office hours over zoom. Once/if we can gather in person the office hours will be in person in my office ECON 04B (It is in the basement of the economics building).

I will give office hours from 12:30 to 1:30 on Tuesday and Thursday.

And from 11am to 12pm on Wednesday. The zoom link for office hours will always be the same and is: <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/98032994195>

TA office hours:

TA office hours will be posted on the Canvas web page below the syllabus by the end of the first week of classes. Our TAs are very competent and I highly recommend their office hours too.

Questions about technical issues:

I'll cover these questions in more detail further in the syllabus however note that I can't help students with most of the technical issues regarding our class website (Achieve), however technical support can and here is the link for it:

<https://macmillan.force.com/macmillanlearning/s/chat-with-us> If you email me, I'll just give you the same link.

If you still have questions after chatting with technical support, please email your TA who will be able to get back to you faster than me or come to office hours.

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 coming to class. The work you do before class will allow us to free up some class time for a richer experience during the class. During the classes we will: 1. Discuss more challenging aspects of the material in detail (because you already know the basics from the pre-lecture videos). 2. Practice answering questions through iClicker 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. 5. You will get bonus extra credit points from the iClicker questions. The flipped format will help you learn better and be more prepared for the exams.

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 class time.

The most important thing for doing well in this class: *During the lectures I will ask you questions. I recommend you to really 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.*

Recitations will be led by teaching assistants and will include: additional practice questions (best way to learn), discussion of topics covered in class. A recitation is a great opportunity to ask additional questions and get clarifications. Different thoughts, questions and opinions are valuable. recitations will occasionally have extra credit opportunities. The first week of class the recitation will NOT meet.

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.

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 February 22nd and Midterm Exam 2 is scheduled for March 31st*. I will provide more information on timing of the exams and proctoring as the semester progresses (I prefer in person exams, but if that will not be possible, the exam will be proctored online).

Lectures

I strongly prefer to have the lectures in person. However due to covid situation we will start the semester online. Here is the zoom link for all the lectures we will have online: <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/99373353703>

I strongly recommend you to join the lectures on zoom because it will allow you to do the practice questions which is the best way to learn in this class. It also allows you to ask questions in real time. Which I strongly encourage questions: through the chat or just interrupt and ask. Any question is valid and no question is silly, if you have a question probably plenty of others have the same questions too.

I will post the slides from the lectures after class + will post the video recordings of the lectures after class.

I know zoom can be awkward. I'll have my video on during class but you don't have to have yours on. I understand it might be uncomfortable and I would like class to be as comfortable as possible for you. If you do feel like having your video on for some portion of the class that is totally fine too.

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 11:00 am before Tuesday class and the second assignment will be due at 11:00am 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 Canvas) 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 11 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: 7yvk** (The course is called Principles of Micro Economics)

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

Alternatively you can enroll through canvas.

Technical issues with Achieve

You might experience technical issues with Achieve. I know that is very frustrating and I am frustrated with you. I personally don't know how to address most of the technical issues. I just know that the videos Achieve uses are the best in the industry and are substantially cheaper than most textbooks. So I hope you find it a worthwhile system to use as well.

What to do if you experience technical issues:

STEP 1: SELF-TROUBLESHOOT

- Google Chrome is the recommended browser for the best Achieve experience
- Allow pop-ups on your browser
- Clear cache/cookies in your browser settings

- Use a desktop or laptop computer
- Reliable internet connection. Are others sharing bandwidth (streaming movies)?

STEP 2: CONTACT CUSTOMER SUPPORT

CLICK HERE to contact Customer Support

(Chat with Customer Support, then either call tech support or email with Customer Support)

STEP 3: EMAIL YOUR INSTRUCTOR

If AFTER you contact tech support the issue is not resolved, please email me. When doing so, you MUST provide the CASE NUMBER from your phone call or email with tech support. I will not be able to help you without the case number.

Missing work due to technical issues with Achieve

There is no way to recover an assignment if you missed it due to technical issues. Please do assignments in advance to give yourself enough time to resolve technical issues if they appear. There are 400 students in the class, it is not possible to address the missed assignments on a case by case basis because then it is very hard to be fair and treat everyone the same way in this situation. I can't give points back to one student who emails me and not to another student who was too shy to email or agreed with the policy in the syllabus. I find the fair way is having the same policy for everyone and making no exceptions to the policy. And you can use your free assignments for those assignments with technical issues. And there are a lot of assignments so even missing several will not affect your grade by a lot. I am not trying to be mean; I am just really trying to be fair. I think fairness is critical for an academic community.

Only exceptions: Religious holidays and multiple week sickness during the semester (email me in this case).

IClicker

We will use iClicker to answer questions during class. Do NOT purchase access to iClicker. I think I can get it to you for free, I am still figuring out how though and will announce it in one of the first lectures.

The code of the course is: **PrinciplesBottanSpring22**

Grading: if you do all the iClicker questions throughout the semester you will get +1% to your overall grade in the end of the semester. The grade you get for iclicker is proportional to the amount of questions you answer. The grade is based on completion not on correctness, however if I see throughout the semester that students do not put the effort into answering the questions I might make it dependent on performance.

IClicker points are bonus point, there is absolutely no way to recover them if they were missed regardless of why they were missed.

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.

If the only thing you require as an accommodation in this class is extended time on the exam you do not need to email me in advance. However, keep in mind that about 2 weeks before the first midterm exam I will send out a form to fill in for those who have approved extra time. It is very important that you fill in this form because otherwise you will NOT receive the extra time on the exam.

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. Most importantly 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.