

Intermediate Microeconomic Theory

ECON 3070 - 001

Syllabus - Summer 2015

Instructor: William Ridley (william.ridley@colorado.edu)

Office: Economics 401

Office Hours: Tuesday/Friday 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM, Thursday 12:00 noon - 1:00 PM

Class Time and Location: MWF 9:00 AM - 12:00 noon, ECON 117

Class Website: <https://learn.colorado.edu>

Course Description: This course studies the behavior of individual economic agents and their market interactions. The course is roughly composed of four parts. Part 1 introduces the basics of microeconomic analysis, and serves as a quick review of some basic economic concepts. Part 2 studies consumer behavior and market demand. We will show how consumers make optimal choices, how individual demands are formed, and how market demand is derived. Part 3 discusses the firm's technologies, production functions and costs of production. We shall see how firms make optimal input choices to minimize production costs. This lays the foundation for the study of behavior of firms under different market structures. Part 4 integrates the previous material into models of prices and outputs. Time permitting, topics in game theory, economic efficiency, and public policy issues will also be discussed.

Textbook: Microeconomics 5th edition, by D. Besanko and R. Braeutigam (earlier editions are fine)

Prerequisites: In order to take this course, you must have passed an introductory course in microeconomics, and have some working knowledge of calculus. In this course we will use calculus (mostly taking derivatives) almost every day. It is assumed that every student has a firm grasp on basic algebra, calculus and graphing skills.

Economics: ECON 2010

Mathematics: ECON 1078 & 1088 or MATH 1300 or MATH 1310 or MATH 1081
or MATH 1080 & 1090 & 1100 or APPM 1350 or equivalent.

Attendance: Since this is a Summer session class that moves at an accelerated pace, you are expected to attend every lecture. You are responsible for all material presented in lecture, so if you miss a class, it is your responsibility to connect with a classmate to get the notes that you missed, or meet with me at office hours to go over the missed material.

Email Policy: I am happy to answer questions about course material and concepts by email or during office hours. Keep in mind that some of the material that we will discuss is easier explained in person than

Grading ¹

Participation	10%
Exam 1	30%
Exam 2	30%
Exam 3	30%

Participation: On some class days I will distribute in-class assignments, which will count towards your participation grade. Students can form groups to discuss and complete these questions but everyone must submit their own answers separately. Grading of these problem sets will be done on a completion basis, but quality will also be taken into consideration.

Exams: There will be 3 exams in total. Exams will not be cumulative, but the material builds upon itself, so it is important to have a firm understanding of each concept along the way. Any material covered in lecture and/or in the assigned readings is fair game for the exams.

The first exam will take place on Friday, May 15th, and will cover the chapters on consumer theory (Chs. 1 - 5). The second exam is scheduled for Friday, May 22nd, and will cover the chapters relating to producer theory (Chs. 6 - 9). The third and final exam will take place on Friday, May 29th, and will cover the chapters relating to market structure and strategic behavior (Chs. 10 - 14). All exams will take place in our regular classroom. There will be no make-ups for missed exams and no early exams. The format of the exams will be true/false and short answer questions. Please bring a calculator (no graphing or cell phone calculators) to every exam.

Practice Problems: You will not fully grasp the material unless you practice on a regular basis. In order to facilitate this practice, I will post practice problems and their solutions to the course website. While these problems will not be graded, it is essential that you work through all of these problems, since solving the problem sets is extremely important for your success in this class. You are encouraged to form study groups to discuss the practice problems and lecture materials.

Important Dates

Exam 1	Friday, May 15th
Exam 2	Friday, May 22nd
Exam 3	Friday, May 29th

Tentative Course Outline

Topics	Readings
1. Introduction to Microeconomic Analysis	Ch. 1-2
2. Consumer Preferences and Utility	Ch. 3
3. Consumer Choice	Ch. 4
4. Individual and Market Demands	Ch. 5
5. Inputs and Production Functions	Ch. 6
6. Input Choices and the Cost of Production	Ch. 7-8
7. Perfectly Competitive Markets	Ch. 9-10
8. Monopoly	Ch. 11
9. Market Structure and Competition	Ch. 13
10. Game Theory and Strategic Behavior	Ch. 14

¹ I reserve the right to apply a curve towards the final grade or individual components of the final grade.

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