

University of Colorado at Boulder
Department of Economics

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Economics 4626
Tentative syllabus and Schedule

hours and be worth 150 points. Any student who has three or more final examinations scheduled on 4 May has the right to reschedule all exams following the first two. Any student wishing to invoke this right must do so by 20 March.¹

Two midterm examinations will each take 40 minutes, and be worth 40 points. They will take place on 10 February and 7 April unless class progress deviates significantly from expectations. Examinations will ordinarily consist of short essay questions addressing the material in lectures and readings. They may also include short computational exercises.

Two papers complete the course requirements. Each will analyze the issues presented in a case from the Harvard Business School, based on discussions in class and the material in readings. The cases will be available at the UMC Book Store. Both papers must be type-written, double-spaced, with conventional margins. Papers that exceed the maximum lengths, either in physical length or because of compressed format, will be penalized. These papers must be submitted electronically to the email address above in the Adobe .pdf format. The computers in the computer lab in the basement of the Economics Building can create .pdf files from Word files. Make sure that you arrange to convert your papers to .pdf format before the deadline for submission. Speak with me in advance if you anticipate difficulty with this requirement. Only .pdf files will be accepted.

The first term paper is a three-page discussion of American Outsourcing, Harvard Business School Case No. 9705-037. It will be due on 24 February unless class progress deviates significantly from expectations. It will be worth 20 points. The second paper is a five-page discussion of Mexico: The Unfinished Agenda, Harvard Business School Case No. 9701-116. It will be due on 21 April unless class progress deviates significantly from expectations. It will be worth 50 points.

Excuses for the five course requirements will be granted only under extraordinary circumstances. If granted, the excused points will be reallocated to subsequent requirements. The course as a whole is valued at 300 points. The score attained by each student, evaluated relative to those of other students and to the score which would be attained by an intelligent student of economics at this level, will determine final letter grades.

The material to be mastered in this class is contained in the lectures and assigned readings. The tentative schedule of topics below also includes the list of assigned readings. All articles in the Journal of Economic Perspectives are available as .pdf files through the University Library's website. From any University computer, follow this protocol:

1. Access the library website at <http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/>.

¹ University policies regarding multiple final examinations on the same day are available at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/final-examination-policy>.

29 January

6. Institutions and inequality

Levine, Ross (2005) "Law, endowments and property rights", Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 19 No. 3, Summer, 688.

Svensson, Jakob (2005) "Eight questions about corruption", Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 19 No. 3, Summer, 102.

3 February

7. Intertemporal inequality

Easterlin, Richard A. (2000) "The worldwide standard of living since 1800", Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 14, No. 1, Winter, 7-26.

Lee, Ronald (2003) "The demographic transition: Three centuries of fundamental change", Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 17, No. 4, Fall, 167-190.

5 February

8. Inter-country inequality

Pritchett, Lant (1997) "Divergence, in time", Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 11, No. 3, Summer, 137.

10 February

First midterm examination

III. The Microeconomics of Distribution

12 February

9. Investments in human capital: Schooling, training, experience and the value of life

Card, David and Alan B. Krueger (1996) "School resources and student outcomes: An overview of the literature and new evidence from North and South Carolina", Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 10, No. 4, Fall, 31-50.

Hutchens, Robert M. (1999) "Seniority, wages and productivity: A turbulent decade", Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 13, No. 4, Fall, 49-64.

17 February

10. Intragenerational mobility

19 February

11. The inheritance of economic status, intergenerational mobility and red

12 March 17. Equivalence scales

17 March 18. Consumption inequality

Jorgenson, Dale W. (1998) "Did we lose the war on poverty?" Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 12, No. 1, Winter, 7996.

19 March 19. Poverty

Hoynes, Harry W., Page, Marianne E. and An Huff, (2006) "Poverty in America: Trends and explanations", Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol 20, No. 1, Winter, 47-68.

Smeeding, Timothy (2006) "Poor people in rich nations: The United States in comparative perspective", Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol 20, No. 1, Winter, 6990.

31 March 20. Children's welfare

Duncan, Greg J

14 April

23. Preferences for redistribution and feasible red

30 April

28. Discrimination in automobile and other markets

Yinger, John (1998) "Evidence on discrimination in consumer markets", Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 12, No. 2 Spring, 23-40.

4 May

Final examination 4:30p.m.-7:00p.m.

University policies:

The University adheres to the standards for student privacy rights and requirements as stipulated in the Federal Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974.² Campus policy regarding disabilities requires that faculty adhere to the recommendations of Disability Services. In addition, campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly accommodate all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled examinations, assignments or required attendance. Any student eligible for and needing academic adjustments or accommodations because of disability or religious practice should arrange to meet with me immediately. Those with disabilities should immediately submit a letter from Disability Services describing appropriate adjustments or accommodations.³

Students and faculty share responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. All are subject to the University's policies on Sexual Harassment and Amorous Relationships.⁴ Students who fail to adhere to appropriate behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner

² A description is available at <http://www.colorado.edu/registrar/resources/family-educational-rights-and-privacy-act-ferpa>.

³ University policies regarding religious practice are available at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/observance-religious-holidays-and-absences/classesand-or-exams>. University policies regarding disabilities are available at <http://disabilityservices.colorado.edu>. Disability Services can be contacted by telephone at 303-492-8671, or in person at Wilard 322.

⁴ University policies regarding Sexual Harassment and Amorous Relationships are available at <http://hr.colorado.edu/dh/Pages/default.aspx>. The Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance can be reached by telephone at 303-492-2127. The Office of Student Conduct can be reached at 303-492-5550.

in which students express opinions⁵ I am happy to discuss any issues of individual or group treatment in office hours or by appointment.

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to this institution's policy regarding academic integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, lying, bribery, threatening behavior and assistance to acts of academic dishonesty are examples of behaviors that violate this policy. Ordinarily, a student engaged in any act of academic dishonesty will receive a failing grade for the course. In addition, all incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Office. Depending on its findings, students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to non-academic sanctions, including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion.⁶

⁵ University policies regarding classroom behavior are available at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-classroom-and-course-related-behavior> and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

⁶ The Honor Code Office website is at <http://honorcode.colorado.edu/>. The Honor Code office can be contacted by email at honor@colorado.edu or by telephone at 303-35-2273. Additional information regarding the Student Honor Code Policy is available at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html>.