

**Instructor:** Benjamin Zhang (pronounced j-ah-ng)

The course is divided into three parts. The first deals with theories of consumer behavior and demand. We will show how a consumer may make optimal choices, how individual demands are formed, and how market demands can be derived. Part two discusses the firm's technologies and production. This lays the foundation for the study of firm behavior under different forms of market structure. The third part of the course integrates the previous material into models of prices and outputs under different market structures. A variety of market structures are examined including perfect competition, monopoly, and oligopoly. If time permits, we will close the semester with an introduction to game theory and the economics of information.

**Grading Policy:** Your course grade is composed of six parts.

Weekly problem sets - 15%

Recitation - 10%

Group project - 10%

Exam 1 - 15%

Exam 2 - 15%

Exam 3 - 15%

Cumulative final exam - 20%

**Grading Scale:** Standard ten-point scale with plus or minus (A+ not given)

**Lectures:**

**Email:** Please use email wisely. I will do my best to respond to emails in a timely fashion, usually less than 2 hours - keep in mind your instructors also have lives, do not expect a fast response out of regular business hours (M-F 8-5). If your question has to do with clarification, it may be difficult to explain fully over email, so I will suggest coming to office hours. If I feel the entire class could benefit from the clarification, I will do so in lecture. *Finally, I will not answer emails if your question can be answered by the syllabus. ie when is exam 3?*

**Extra Help:** Do not hesitate to come to my office during office hours or by appointment to discuss a homework problem or any aspect of the course. You also may want to consider the free tutoring lab offered by the department, they do a wonderful job helping students! If you want to hire a graduate student tutor (for a fee), you can find a list of such people through the department website.

**Important Dates:** <https://www.colorado.edu/academics/academic-calendar>

First Exam .....	September 28st
Second Exam .....	October 26th
Third Exam .....	November 30th
Course Final.....	December 18th

**Tips for Success:** Things that I think generally help you do well in my class:

- 1) Read the book chapter before class. This will greatly increase what you get out of lecture, and improve recollection of the material for the exam.
- 2) Skim the book chapter again after class. Recall the concepts which seemed difficult prior to class, those that are still difficult, and those that seem easy.
- 3) Do the homework as we cover the material in class. Do not wait until the day/day before the exam. If you work as we go, the homework will naturally build from lecture materials, and won't take as long as if you wait to tackle it at midnight.
- 4) Use office hours effectively. This means coming prepared with specific questions either from lecture, homework or other sources.
- 5) Use the tutoring lab, and/or hire a private tutor.
- 6) Come to class. This seems like a no-brainer, but it always amazes me how many students skip every lecture, only to be lost come exam time.
- 7) Don't be afraid to ask questions, or to ask for help!
- 8) Finally, don't cheat. If you don't know the material, own up to it, and take the grade you earn.

**University Policies:**

**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: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>

**Religious Observance Policy:** Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort 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.

**Code of 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 students 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 the 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](mailto: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). Other information on

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