

**Intermediate Microeconomic Theory**  
**ECON 3070-010**  
Maymester 2017

---

**Instructor:** William Ridley ([William.Ridley@colorado.edu](mailto:William.Ridley@colorado.edu))

**Office:** ECON 401 (north tower office)

**Office Hours:** MTWRF 11am - noon

**Class Time and Location:** MTWRF 12:30pm - 3:30pm, ECON 117

**Class Website:** <http://learn.colorado.edu>

---

### **Course Description**

Microeconomic theory is the study of individual decisions<sup>2</sup> typically those made by consumers and firms<sup>2</sup> in the presence of constraints. In this class we will explore how and why economic agents make these decisions. The models and techniques presented in this course are used by every economist in every field of economics, and by the end of the class, you will have acquired the tools to advance further in the study of economics and to better understand the microeconomic foundations of the world around you.

The class is broadly divided into four parts. Part 1 introduces the basics of microeconomic analysis and explores consumer behavior. Part 2 analyzes how firms/businesses make optimal decisions under different market structures. Part 3 combines the consumer and producer results from parts 1 and 2 to explore how consumers and producers interact in a market setting. Finally, part 4 explores different market structures and game theory/strategic behavior.

### **Recitation/TA information**

Cameron Duff ([Cameron.Duff@colorado.edu](mailto:Cameron.Duff@colorado.edu))

Recitation time/location: MTWRF 4:00pm - 4:50pm, ECON 119

Office: ECON 401

Office hours: F 10am - noon

Jacob Howard ([Jacob.Howard@colorado.edu](mailto:Jacob.Howard@colorado.edu))

Recitation time/location: MTWRF 4:00pm - 4:50pm, ECON 2

Office: ECON 401

Office hours: W 10am - noon

### **Textbook**

Microeconomics 5th edition, by D. Besanko and R. Braeutigam (4th edition is also fine)

### **Prerequisites**

In order to take this course, you must have passed an introductory course in microeconomics (ECON 2010), and have some working knowledge of calculus (through Calculus 1). In this course we will use calculus (mostly taking derivatives) almost every day. I assume that every student has a solid grasp of basic algebra, calculus, and graphi

## **Attendance**

Since this is a Maymester class that moves at a highly accelerated pace, you are expected to attend every lecture, but since you are all (legally) adults, I do not require attendance. 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 or your TA at office hours to go over the missed material.

## **Grading**

|                      |     |  |
|----------------------|-----|--|
| In-class Assignments | 5%  |  |
| Recitation           | 20% | (12% from quizzes, 8% from attendance) |
| Exam 1               | 25% |  |
| Exam 2               | 25% |  |
| Exam 3               | 25% |  |

### In-class Assignments

In order to provide a break in the middle of a very long day, and to give practice working with the new concepts, I will assign in-class assignments (1 or 2 per week). You will be able to use your lecture notes, your classmates, etc. to help you work out the problems. Everyone will turn in their own assignment for a grade.

### Recitation

Recitations give an opportunity to work through the material, ask questions, and get practice on the types of

## Important Dates

|               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Drop deadline | Tuesday, May 16th |
| Midterm 1     | Friday, May 19th  |
| Midterm 2     | Friday, May 26th  |
| Midterm 3     | Friday, June 2nd  |

## Schedule

| Topic                              | Date   | Textbook Chapter |
|------------------------------------|--------|------------------|
| Economic modeling, calculus review |        | Ch. 1 and 2      |
| Preferences and utility            | Week 1 | Ch. 3            |
| Consumer choice                    |        | Ch. 4            |
| Theory of demand                   |        | Ch. 5            |
| Inputs and production functions    |        | Ch. 6            |
| Costs and cost minimization        | Week 2 | Ch. 7            |
| Cost functions and cost curves     |        | Ch. 8            |
| Perfectly competitive markets      |        | Ch. 9            |

**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 <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see guidelines at