

Econ 2010 – Principles of Microeconomics
Fall 2014 – Section 30
MWF 10:00 - 10:50 – RAMY C250

Instructor: Tim Larsen

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Office: Econ 309A (3rd floor of the Econ Building)

Office Hours: Tuesday 3:00-4:00, Wednesday 11:00-12:00 and by appointment

Website: learn.colorado.edu

Course Description

Nearly all income growth in history has come over the last 200 years with the integration and development of market economies across the world. This course will introduce you to the mechanisms behind a modern market economy, including specialization and trade, the forces of supply and demand, what drives companies' production decisions, and what governments should and should not do to help markets work.

Microeconomics studies how costs and benefits are weighed in making decisions at the level of individual households, firms (companies), and industries. Macroeconomics, which you may take later on, will introduce you to decisions made by the government that affect many people and industries at once, such as things that affect unemployment.

Understanding economics goes a long way for understanding why things are the way they are. As such, we will explore various theories in light of current and historical events from around the world. This course serves as an excellent foundation for future study in business, law, political science, history, international affairs, and environmental studies. Regardless of your major or career choice, this course will give some new insight for judging current events, political issues, and business decisions later on.

Prerequisites

College Algebra (make sure you're completely comfortable with graphing/slopes, simultaneous equations, percent changes, fractions, and basic algebraic manipulation of equations)

T.A.'s

Rebecca Jennings – rebecca.jennings@colorado.edu

Li Yao - li.yao@colorado.edu

Textbook

N. Gregory Mankiw. *Principles of Microeconomics*, 7th Edition (earlier editions okay)

Optional: John McMillan.

Other books referenced in lecture:

Todd Buckholz. (brief historical sketches and summary of main theoretical contributions from famous economists)

Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson. (excellent book on why some nations are rich and others aren't)

Esther Duflo and Abhijit Banerjee.

James R. Kearl. (my freshman economics textbook)

P.J. O'Rourke. (funny look at free-market economics around the world)

Peter Jay. (short economic history of the world)

Grading

Midterm 1 – 20%

Midterm 2 – 20%

Midterm 3 – 20%

(Lowest of three scores above will be dropped)

Recitation – 10%

Homework/Lecture – 20%

Final – 30%

Laptop/Phone Policy

Laptops are not allowed in this classroom unless you have permission from disability services. For several lectures, slides will be available on D2L ahead of time—you can print them and bring them

Midterms - 20% each, drop lowest score

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 <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/go.cgi?select=temporary.html>.

Disability Services' letters for students with disabilities indicate legally mandated reasonable accommodations. The syllabus statements and answers to Frequently Asked Questions can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>.

Religious Observance Policy

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, if you have a conflict, please contact me at the beginning of the term so that we can make proper arrangements. See full details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html.

Classroom Behavior Policy

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's 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 appropriate changes to my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html>