
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

ECON 2010 SYLLABUS, SPRING 2024

PROFESSOR: BILLY MERTENS

Email: mertens@colorado.edu

Online Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday: 1:15 – 2:15pm through Zoom:
<https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/5838330659>

Email is by far the best way to contact me. I check my email and respond (if time) two times every weekday. Once in the morning (typically between 8:30 and 9am, but sometimes earlier). There is typically not enough time to respond to all emails during that time, so I will respond in the afternoon. I typically do not check emails at other times or over the weekend, but there are some exceptions such as exam times. We can set up times to Zoom over the weekend if you give me plenty (2 weeks) of advance notice.

Office Phone: (303) 492-4784

Please leave a message including your name, number, and brief explanation of the reason for the call. Please keep in mind that email is the best way to contact me, and if you seek a quicker response, I recommend emailing me.

INSTRUCTOR BIO:

Billy Mertens, PhD, University of Colorado, 2000, is a senior instructor specializing in teaching undergraduate classes in economic theory. His research interests are in the fields of public choice economics and international trade. He has examined the political effects of international political economic sanctions policies, particularly as applied to dictatorships. He has also conducted a public choice analysis of the motivations behind uses of different immigration policies, and more recently he is focused on research into the pedagogy of economics. Billy enjoys running, coaching (running), mogul skiing, and spending time with family and friends.

COURSE WEBSITE:

Term Start: January 22, 2024

Term End: May 3, 2024

Canvas is our class website:

Login using your University of Colorado Boulder identikey and password

ECON 2010: Principles of Microeconomics

graded discussion questions, homework and quizzes, exams, and various outside sources of information such as additional readings and video content, among other content.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Review the separate class schedule titled "Class Schedule" found on Canvas under the "Introduction" section in "Modules".

CLASS PARTICIPATION:

This course is designed to engage you through class discussions on the topics covered in the course materials. It is important that you participate in class discussions to facilitate learning by other students and gain exposure to different viewpoints of other students in the class. It is therefore necessary to participate throughout the course in the discussion questions, not wait until the last minute to post on discussion topics.

EVALUATION AND GRADING:

Course grades will be determined by the completion of assignments, exams, and discussions, as shown below:

Assignment*	Points per Assignment	Frequency	GRADE POINTS	GRADE PERCENTAGE
Discussions (post and response)	(30)	* (5)	= 150	15%
Quizzes	(20)	* (11)	= 220	22%
Homework	(10)	* (11)	= 110	11%
Practice Midterm Exam	(10)	* (1)	= 10	1%
Proctored Midterm Exam	(200)	* (1)	= 200	20%
Practice Cumulative Final Exam	(10)	* (1)	= 10	1%
Proctored Cumulative Final Exam	(300)	* (1)	= 300	30%
<i>TOTAL</i>			= 1000	= 100%

*Keep a copy of all work created for the course, including work submitted through Canvas.

COURSE GRADING CRITERIA

Grade	Percentage Grade	Indicates
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ECON 2010: Principles of Microeconomics

<i>D+</i>	<i>68-69.99</i>	
<i>D</i>	<i>62-68.99</i>	<i>Below Average</i>
<i>D-</i>	<i>60-61.99</i>	

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- c. With Proctorio. Online proctoring is a service that uses a webcam and microphone to ensure academic integrity. To use this service, you must have access to a computer with a webcam and a microphone. There is no cost for using this proctor.

If you are outside of Boulder, you can take your exam:

- a. At an accredited college or university testing center in your town or nearby. There may be a cost for using this testing center.
- b. With Proctorio or a comparable online proctoring service as determined by your instructor. Online proctoring is a service that uses a webcam and microphone to ensure academic integrity. To use this service, you must have access to a computer with a webcam and a microphone. There is no cost for using this proctor.

Please see Canvas for detailed information about proctoring, including the contact information for the UTC, Proctorio, and a nationwide list of accredited college or university testing centers. If you are in a rural area or on a military base, you may need to be approved to use a person as a proctor and information is provided on Canvas for this approval process.

EXTRA CREDIT:

There will be 30 points of extra credit available (= 3% of the course grade).

1. Problems and Applications in MindTap. Each time you complete an assigned P&A activity by the due date, you will receive 2 points extra credit, up to 24 points total (= 12 * 2 points).
2. An additional 6 points extra credit will be available during the semester for completing certain activities, such as listening and commenting on a podcast, etc. These extra credit opportunities will be determined by the instructor and announced on Canvas.

EXPECTATIONS OF INSTRUCTORS:

As a student enrolled in this course, one of your responsibilities is to submit course work by the due dates listed in the Schedule. With that said, I take my role as your instructor very seriously, and, in fact, I care about how well you do in this course and that you have a satisfying, rewarding experience. That said, I am adamant about giving each student an equal opportunity to perform well in the course

To that end, it is our commitment to you to respond individually to the work you submit in this class and to return your work in a timely manner. If, however, there will be

ECON 2010: Principles of Microeconomics

Sun Java Runtime Environment (JRE) Macintosh • Mac OS X (Ventura 13.1 and above) •
Minimum 4GB RAM
High speed internet connection: 20 Mbps or above (Cable, DSL, FiOS)

ACCOMMODATION FOR DISABILITIES, TEMPORARY MEDICAL CONDITIONS, AND MEDICAL ISOLATION

[Disability Services](#) determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so your needs can be addressed. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance.

If you are sick and will need an excused absence, unless you are incapacitated, you must notify me immediately (by email) in order to obtain that excused absence status. Also see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) on the Disability Services website.

PREFERRED STUDENT NAMES AND PRONOUNS

CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they

