
ECON 306: INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMICS

Spring 2021

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Tao Lu

Online Office Hours on **Canvas Chat**: Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM MST. (We may schedule a time to meet if the office hours do not work for you.)

Email: Tao.Lu@colostate.edu

Term Start: January 19, 2021

Term End: May 14, 2021

COURSE WEBSITE

Canvas: <https://colostate.instructure.com/>

- Login using your Colorado State University eID and password
- Under “Course List”, click “2021SP-ECON-306-801: Intermediate Microeconomics”
- Note: all email correspondence will be through your CSU Rams email address.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course builds on your knowledge of microeconomics from Principles of Microeconomics. This class takes the concepts from the introductory course and extends them, analyzing competitive and noncompetitive markets with respect to their efficiency. It takes the general models you learned in principles and builds mathematical models which represent the decisions of consumers, producers and workers.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Develop mathematical models to explain economic decision-making.
- Explain the process of resource allocation within a market, and understand how the structure of a specific market will impact this allocation.
- Illustrate how government intervention may improve or degrade the functioning of markets.

- Understand how these tools may be used in a real-world context.

PREREQUISITES FOR COURSE

ECON 202 (Principles of Microeconomics) or AREC 202 (Agricultural and Resource Economics); and Calculus [i.e., MATH 141 (Calculus in Management Sciences), or MATH 155 (Calculus for Biological Scientists I), or MATH 160 (Calculus for Physical Scientists I)], or equivalent from another institution. These are enforced.

TEXTBOOK / COURSE READINGS

REQUIRED: CHOOSE 1 OF 2. The first option is a paper copy of the book with MyEconLab access, and the second is just MyEconLab access, which comes with an online e-text for the duration of the course.

- 1) *Microeconomics* (looseleaf)-w/MyEconLab
Author: Pindyck & Rubinfeld
Edition: 9th
ISBN: 9780134643175
- 2) *Microeconomics*-MyEconLab
Author: Pindyck & Rubinfeld
Edition: 9th
ISBN: 9780134143071.

Supplemental readings and other materials will be provided in Canvas, via the CSU Library electronic reserve, or by links to websites.

TECHNOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS

The technology requirements for this online course are listed below:

Hardware

- A Windows or Macintosh computer with at least 2 GB of RAM and a fast, reliable broadband Internet connection (e.g., cable, DSL).
- Recommended computer monitor and laptop screen size be 13-inches or larger for optimum visibility of course material.
- Computer speakers or headphones to listen to recorded content. CAMERA, TOO FOR HONORLOCK!
- Enough space on your computer for 1) install the required and recommended software and, 2) save your course assignments.

Software (see [recommendations from CSU](#))

- Web browser (GOOGLE CHROME NEEDED FOR HONORLOCK - [free download](#))
- Adobe Acrobat Reader ([free download](#))
- Flash Player ([free download](#))
- Microsoft Office ([free download](#))

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY AND DELIVERY

This course is delivered via distance education format using the CSU Canvas system. This format will use a combination of readings, online discussion, and other web-based sources. You will interact with the instructor and other students using the communication functions provided by Canvas. You will submit assignments in accordance with the course schedule using Canvas. **It is extremely important that you regularly check your CSU email including your Canvas message as it is our main form of communication through Canvas.**

COURSE PRESENTATION AND PROCEDURES

This course has 16 modules, and one module will be released on Mondays each week throughout the semester. Modules will be comprised of readings from the course texts, supplemental class notes, graded discussion questions, problem sets, instructions related to policy analyses to help you prepare for the exams, and various outside sources of information such as additional readings and video content. A detailed description of the course schedule and due dates is provided separately.

ONLINE CLASSES

Online education requires skills and habits that may be less essential in traditional courses. Specifically, consistent reading and communication is essential to being successful in this course! As an instructor, I need to be able to communicate class information to you, but I also need you to communicate any feedback in return. For example, if you are struggling on a particular section or assignment, I encourage you to talk to me. Given the nature of the class, assigned readings are extremely important.

ONLINE COURSE ATTENDANCE

This course is conducted entirely online. You should expect to be online at least 3 times per week. The modules will guide you through the week's readings, lecture notes, supplemental materials, quizzes, and discussion posts. Access each module as soon as possible and expect to work on them

throughout the week! This course is flexible in the sense that you can finish the materials on the days that work for you, but it must be completed by the due date.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

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. It is my 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, due to unforeseeable circumstances, the grading of your work takes longer than expected, I will keep you informed of my progress and make every effort to return your work with feedback as soon as I can!

The total grade for this course is 800 points. Course grades will be determined by the completion of the assignments as shown below:

Assignment*	Frequency	Points per Assignment	Total Points	Grade Percentage
Discussion Posts	4	25	100	12.5%
Problem Sets	14	10	140	17.5%
Quizzes	13	20	260	32.5%
Midterm Exam	1	140	140	17.5%
Final Exam	1	160	160	20%
TOTAL			800	100%

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

Grade	Grade Percentage	Equivalent Points
A+	98.0% – 100%	784 and above
A	92.0% – 97.99%	736 – 783
A-	90.0% – 91.99%	720 – 735
B+	88.0% – 89.99%	704 – 719
B	82.0% – 87.99%	656 – 703
B-	80.0% – 81.99%	640 – 655
C+	78.0% – 79.99%	624 – 639
C	70.0% – 77.99%	560 – 623
D	60.0% – 69.99%	480 – 559
F	below 60%	below 480

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 week in the discussion questions, not wait until the last minute to post on discussion topics.

DISCUSSION POSTS (100 POINTS)

To remain engaged with the course material and other students in the course, we will have 4 discussion posts that you will be required to complete. Detailed instructions will be posted on canvas for each discussion assignment. Each post must be 1 to 2 paragraphs in order to be considered for the week's discussion credit. Your comments/questions should be respectful and considerate. Please complete these in a timely manner, as this will help foster discussion! Your grade on the discussion posts will be determined by its content, organization, and spelling and grammar.

PROBLEM SETS (140 POINTS)

The problem sets will be a series of problems using MyEconLab that we will have covered during the week. These problems are in the format of what you will see on the exam, so it is important to complete these and ask questions as necessary! **Problem Sets are always due on Sunday by 11:59 PM MST.**

MEL QUIZZES (260 POINTS)

There will be 14 quizzes completed using MyEconLab (MEL). The quizzes are open book and open notes. You will have two attempts on each quiz, the highest grade being the one recorded. These quizzes are graded, and your lowest 1 quiz grade will be dropped from your final grade. **Quizzes are always due on Sunday by 11:59 PM MST.**

EXAMS (300 POINTS)

There will be 2 exams. The exams will contain material from the textbook, the Canvas modules, and quiz material from MyEconLab. None of the exams are cumulative. These exams are to be taken individually. This will be a closed book/note exam, but a one-page, single sided, handwritten notes sheet (8.5"x11") and a graphing calculator are allowed. There will be a more detailed study guide with specific sections of the chapters to focus on which I will create before the exams and post on canvas. All of the exams in the course are PROCTORED by using Honorlock. Tests will be given through MyEconLab and must be completed by the respective due date. Be sure to take

the exam somewhere that you will not be interrupted and that has a reliable internet connection. You will have 120 minutes to complete each exam.

PROCTORED EXAMS

All exams will be proctored.

You are required to take your exams with Honorlock, an online proctoring service that uses a webcam and microphone. To use this service, you must have access to a computer with a webcam and a microphone.

Please see Canvas for detailed information about proctoring, including the contact information for Honorlock.

In order to take exams, the exam space cannot be a public space. You will need to provide photo identification to your proctor prior to taking any exam. Appropriate identification includes driver's license, CSU student ID, passport, or other government issued photo identification.

EXPECTATIONS OF INSTRUCTOR

Below is an example of a weekly schedule that students are expected to be engaged in the course, including both instructional time (reviewing lectures) and other time engaged with the course materials.

Total Course Time Estimates	
Activity	Time Estimates
Reading	4 hours
Reviewing lectures and notes	4 hours
Complete assignments	4 hours
Exam study time	6 hours
	TOTAL 18 hours

Course Withdrawal Policy: Any student who wishes to withdraw from the course must submit a request directly to Division of Continuing Education CSU Online. For complete information, please visit their website: <https://www.online.colostate.edu/faqs/policies/drop-policy.dot>

LATE WORK POLICY

It is your responsibility to turn in each assignment on the required date. All assignments turned in after the scheduled due date will be penalized 10% of the grade for each day it is late. If there is a personal emergency or a conflict with turning in an assignment, please try to communicate with me before the assignment is due. There will be NO make-up exams. If you must unexpectedly miss an exam, you must present evidence of a medical or family emergencies.

CANVAS INFORMATION & TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Canvas is the where course content, grades, and communication will reside for this course.

- [Login for Canvas](#)
- [Canvas Support](#)
- For passwords or any other computer-related technical support, contact the [Central IT Technical Support Help Desk](#).
 - (970) 491-7276
 - help@colostate.edu

The [Technical Requirements](#) page identifies the browsers, operating systems, and plugins that work best with Canvas. If you are new to Canvas quickly review [the Canvas Student Orientation](#) materials.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY & CSU HONOR PLEDGE

This course will adhere to the CSU [Academic Integrity/Misconduct](#) policy as found in the General Catalog and the [Student Conduct Code](#).

Academic integrity lies at the core of our common goal: to create an intellectually honest and rigorous community. Because academic integrity, and the personal and social integrity of which academic integrity is an integral part, is so central to our mission as students, teachers, scholars, and citizens, I will ask that you affirm the CSU Honor Pledge as part of completing your work in this course.

Further information about Academic Integrity is available at CSU's [Academic Integrity - Student Resources](#).

UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING/ACCOMMODATION OF NEEDS

I am committed to the principle of universal learning. This means that our classroom, our virtual spaces, our practices, and our interactions be as inclusive as possible. Mutual respect, civility, and the ability to listen and observe others carefully are crucial to universal learning.

If you are a student who will need accommodations in this class, please contact me to discuss your individual needs. Any accommodation must be discussed in a timely manner. A verifying memo from [The Student Disability Center](#) may be required before any accommodation is provided.

The Student Disability Center (SDC) has the authority to verify and confirm the eligibility of students with disabilities for the majority of accommodations. While some accommodations may be provided by other departments, a student is not automatically eligible for those accommodations unless their disability can be verified and the need for the accommodation confirmed, either through SDC or through acceptable means defined by the particular department. Faculty and staff may consult with the SDC staff whenever there is doubt as to the appropriateness of an accommodative request by a student with a disability.

The goal of SDC is to normalize disability as part of the culture of diversity at Colorado State University. The characteristic of having a disability simply provides the basis of the support that is available to students. The goal is to ensure students with disabilities have the opportunity to be as successful as they have the capability to be.

Support and services are offered to student with functional limitations due to visual, hearing, learning, or mobility disabilities as well as to students who have specific physical or mental health conditions due to epilepsy, diabetes, asthma, AIDS, psychiatric diagnoses, etc. Students who are temporarily disabled are also eligible for support and assistance.

Any student who is enrolled at CSU, and who self-identifies with SDC as having a disability, is eligible for support from SDC. Specific accommodations are determined individually for each student and must be supported by appropriate documentation and/or evaluation of needs consistent with a particular type of disability. SDC reserves the right to ask for any appropriate documentation of disability in order to determine a student's eligibility for accommodations as well as in support for specific accommodative requests. The accommodative process begins once a student meets with an accommodation's specialist in the SDC.

THIRD-PARTY TOOLS/PRIVACY

Please note that this course may require you to use third-party tools (tools outside of the Canvas learning management system), such as Skype and others. Some of these tools may collect and share information about their users. Because your privacy is important, you are encouraged to consult the privacy policies for any third-party tools in this course so that you are aware of how your personal information is collected, used and shared.

COPYRIGHTED COURSE MATERIALS

Please do not share material from this course in online, print, or other media. Course material is the property of the instructor who developed the course. Materials authored by third parties and used in the course are also subject to copyright protections. Posting course materials on external sites (commercial or not) violates both copyright law and the CSU Student Conduct Code. Students who share course content without the instructor's express permission, including with online sites that post materials to sell to other students, could face appropriate disciplinary or legal action.

UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT SUPPORT

Any CSU student who faces challenges or hardships due to their legal status in the United States and believes that it may impact their academic performance in this course is encouraged to visit [Student Support Services for Undocumented, DACA & ASSET](#) for resources and support. Additionally, only if you feel comfortable, please notify your professor so they may pass along any additional resources they may possess.

TITLE IX/INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE

For the full statement regarding role and responsibilities about reporting harassment, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and the retaliation policy please go to: [Title IX – Sexual Assault, Sexual Violence, Sexual Harassment](#).

If you feel that your rights have been compromised at CSU, several resources are available to assist:

- Student Resolution Center, 200 Lory Student Center, 491-7165
- Office of Equal Opportunity, 101 Student Services, 491-5836

A note about interpersonal violence: If you or someone you know has experienced sexual assault, relationship violence and/or stalking, know that you are not alone. As instructors, we are required by law to notify university officials about disclosures related to interpersonal violence. Confidential victim advocates are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to provide support related to the emotional, physical, physiological and legal aftermath of interpersonal violence. Contact the Victim Assistance Team at: 970-492-4242.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES

CSU does not discriminate on the basis of religion. Reasonable accommodation should be made to allow individuals to observe their established religious holidays. Students seeking an exemption



from attending class or completing assigned course work for a religious holiday will need to fill out the [Religious Accommodation Request Form](#) and turn it in to the Division of Student Affairs, located on the second level of the Administration building.

Once turned in, the Division of Student Affairs will review the request and contact the student accordingly. If approved, the student will receive a memo from the Dean of Students to give to their professor or course instructor.

Students are asked to turn in the request forms as soon as the conflict is noticed. Similarly, unanticipated conflicts requiring a religious observance, such as a death in the family, can also be reviewed.

CSU PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY

Inclusion: We create and nurture inclusive environments and welcome, value and affirm all members of our community, including their various identities, skills, ideas, talents and contributions.

Integrity: We are accountable for our actions and will act ethically and honestly in all our interactions.

Respect: We honor the inherent dignity of all people within an environment where we are committed to freedom of expression, critical discourse, and the advancement of knowledge.

Service: We are responsible, individually and collectively, to give of our time, talents, and resources to promote the well-being of each other and the development of our local, regional, and global communities.

Social Justice: We have the right to be treated and the responsibility to treat others with fairness and equity, the duty to challenge prejudice, and to uphold the laws, policies and procedures that promote justice in all respects.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The [Mission, Vision, and Focus](#) webpage of the Vice President for Diversity includes a comprehensive statement of CSU's commitment to diversity and inclusion.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS ON COVID-19

All students are required to follow public health guidelines in any university space, and are encouraged to continue these practices when off-campus(es). Students also are required to report any COVID-19 symptoms to the university immediately, as well as if they have potentially been exposed or have tested positive at a non-CSU testing location. If you suspect you have symptoms, please fill out the COVID Reporter (<https://covid.colostate.edu/reporter/>).

If you have COVID symptoms or know or believe you have been exposed, it is important for the health of yourself and others that you complete the online COVID Reporter. Do not ask your instructor to report for you; if you report to your instructor that you will not attend class due to symptoms or a potential exposure, you are required to also submit those concerns through the COVID Reporter. If you do not have access to the internet to fill out the online COVID-19 Reporter, please call (970)491-4600.

If you report symptoms or a positive test, your report is submitted to CSU's Public Health Office. You will receive immediate, initial instructions on what to do and then you will also be contacted by phone by a public health official. Based on your specific circumstances, the public health official may:

- choose to recommend that you be tested and help arrange for a test
- conduct contact tracing
- initiate any necessary public health requirements or recommendations and notify you if you need to take any steps

If you report a potential exposure, the public health official will help you determine if you are at risk of contracting COVID.

For the latest information about the University's COVID resources and information, please visit the **CSU COVID-19 site** (<https://covidrecovery.colostate.edu/>).