

AREC/ECON 506: **Applied Microeconomic Theory**  
Fall 2020  
Colorado State University

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**Instructor:** Christopher Goemans

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**Office:** B-312 Clark Building

**Course Website:** <https://colostate.instructure.com/courses/108472>

**Office Hours:** We will use Google Meet for Office Hours.

Open Office hours (anyone can join): 1:30-2:30 on Wednesdays

By [Appointment](#)<sup>1</sup>: 2:30-3:30 on Wednesdays

**Important!!! All students should fill out a student-specific symptom checker each day before coming to class (<https://covidrecovery.colostate.edu/daily-symptom-checker/>). In addition, please utilize the symptom checker to report symptoms, if you have a positive test, or exposed to a known COVID contact. If you know or believe you have been exposed or are symptomatic, it is important for the health of yourself and others that you report it through this checker. You will not be in trouble or penalized in any way for reporting. If you report symptoms or a positive test, you will receive immediate instructions on what to do and CSU's Public Health Office will be notified. Once notified, that office will contact you and most likely conduct contact tracing, initiate any necessary public health requirements and/or recommendations and notify you if you need to take any steps. For the latest information about the University's response, please visit the CSU COVID-19 site (<https://covidrecovery.colostate.edu/>).**

**Course Overview:** This is a first-year, master's level, course in microeconomic theory. This class will provide an introduction to mathematical models in modern microeconomics, including utility maximization, profit maximization, general equilibrium analysis, and market failures. Students are expected to enter the course with an understanding of microeconomic theory on par with what is taught in a typical undergraduate, intermediate level, microeconomics course. Students are also expected to have a solid understanding of calculus, including derivatives and integration. Students will be expected to "keep-up" regardless of their background, so please see the instructor during the first week or two of class if you are unsure as to whether or not this course is appropriate for you.

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<sup>1</sup> [Click "Appointment" above or HERE to make an appointment.](#)

**Required Textbook<sup>2</sup>:** Nicholson, W. and C.M. Snyder. 2017. Microeconomic Theory: Basic Principles and Extensions, 12th edition.

**Recommend Textbooks:**

- Chiang, A., and K. Wainright. Fundamental Methods of Mathematical Economics (any edition)
- Any introductory level microeconomics textbook

**Student Evaluation<sup>3</sup>:**

- *Assignments*

(4) Problem Sets	80 Points (20 points each)
Midterm	100 Points
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>120 Points</u>
Total	300 Points

- *Grading Scale*

Range	Grade
$\geq 95$	A
89-94%	A-
83-88%	B+
72-82%	B
66-71%	B-
55-65%	C
35-54%	D
$< 35\%$	F

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<sup>2</sup> If you want to save on costs, you will probably be OK going with an early version of this book. However, if you decide to go with an earlier version, it is your responsibility to deal with any differences between your earlier version and the version used for this class.

<sup>3</sup> Dates are indicated on the schedule posted on the course website.

Each problem set will be scored on a 20-point scale. The following provides a general overview as to how each problem set will be graded:

20 Points	Answers are thorough/complete and 100% correct.
15-19 Points	Answers are either incomplete or contain a few mistakes, but demonstrate understanding.
10-14 Points	Answers are incomplete and contain mistakes, do not demonstrate a complete understanding of the material.
5-9 points	Answers have major omissions and demonstrate no understanding of the material.
<5	Completely wrong, evidence that minimal effort was put into the assignment.

**General:**

Exams will be administered only on the scheduled dates listed in the syllabus. **NO make-up exams OR quizzes will be given unless the student notifies the instructor prior to the date of the exam that she/he will be gone for a University approved trip.** Students missing exams due to DOCUMENTED medical reasons will be allowed to make up the exam. Substitute grading assignments will not be offered to those students who miss exams or quizzes. Reasonable accommodations will be given to those persons with documented disabilities.

\*\*\*You have one week after receiving a graded assignment or exam to provide the instructor with a written grade appeal. The appeal should identify which question(s) is believed to be incorrectly scored. Note that the instructor reserves the right to re-grade the entire work, potentially resulting in a lower overall grade.

**Additional Notes/Thoughts:**

- It is YOUR responsibility to be prepared for the exams and to understand what is expected for the written assignments. If you have questions come to me BEFORE the exam or the assignment is due.
- Cheating will NOT be tolerated. Cheating will result in a zero score on the exam/assignment and possibly a failing grade in the course.
- Turn off cell phones!!! Please turn your cell phones and similar devices off before class! *If your phone rings during class or if there is any other disruption due to electronic devices (including checking your e-mail and surfing the web) then five points will be deducted from your total semester point score. If this disruption happens during an exam 20 points will be deducted from your total semester point score!!!*
- If you are finding that you have difficulties in this course, ask for help as soon as possible. The instructor wants you to do well and meet your academic goals. The sooner you ask for help, the sooner you can get back on track.

*If you are a student who will need accommodations in this class due to a disability or chronic health condition, please make an appointment with me to discuss your individual needs. Any accommodation must be discussed in a timely manner prior to implementation. A verifying accommodation letter from Resources for Disabled Students is required before any accommodation is provided. The Student Disability Center (<https://disabilitycenter.colostate.edu/>) is located in TILT, room 121 or can be contacted via phone 970-491-6385.*

**Additional Information:**

*Principles of Community*

The Principles of Community support the Colorado State University mission and vision of access, research, teaching, service and engagement. A collaborative, and vibrant community is a foundation for learning, critical inquiry, and discovery. Therefore, each member of the CSU community has a responsibility to uphold these principles when engaging with one another and acting on behalf of the University

**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.

*Mental Health statement*

Need Help? CSU is a community that cares for you. If you are struggling with drugs or alcohol and/or experiencing depression, anxiety, overwhelming stress or thoughts of hurting yourself or others please know there is help available. Counseling Services has trained professionals who can help. Contact 970.491.6053 or go to <http://health.colostate.edu>. If you are concerned about a friend or peer, tell someone at by calling 970.491.1350 to discuss your concerns with a professional who can discreetly connect the distressed individual with the proper resources (<http://supportandsafety.colostate.edu/tellsomeone>). Rams take care of Rams. Reach out and ask for

help if you or someone you know is having a difficult time.

*Sexual Assault and Violence Elimination*

CSU's Student Sexual Harassment and Violence policy, following national guidance from the Office of Civil Rights, requires that professors follow CSU policy as a "mandatory reporter" of any personal disclosure of sexual harassment, abuse, and/or violence related experiences or incidents shared with the professor in person, via email, and/or in classroom papers or homework exercises. These disclosures include but are not limited to reports of personal relational abuse, relational/domestic violence, and stalking. While professors are often able to help students locate appropriate channels of assistance on campus (e.g., see the CSU Health Network link below), disclosure by the student to the professor requires that the professor inform appropriate CSU channels to help ensure that the student's safety and welfare is being addressed, even if the student requests that the disclosure not be shared.

For counseling support and assistance, please see The CSU HEALTH NETWORK, which includes a variety of counseling services that can be accessed at: <http://www.health.colostate.edu/>. And, The Sexual Assault Victim Assistance Team is a confidential resource for students that does not have a reporting requirement and that can be of great help to students who have experienced sexual assault. The web address is <http://www.wgac.colostate.edu/need-help-support>.