

## **ECON 306 Intermediate Microeconomics**

**Spring 2012**

**Instructor: Dr. Anita Alves Pena**

Office: C312 Clark Building

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Class Meetings: TR 9:30-10:45am, Clark C358

Office Hours: T 2:45-4:45pm

Textbook (required): R. Pindyck and D. Rubinfeld: Microeconomics, 7th edition, 2008 (P&R)

(Note loose-leaf and custom options should be available at lower costs from the bookstore.)

Course Website: login at <http://ramct.colostate.edu>

Teaching Assistant: Rhett Smallwood, Email: Rhett@rams.colostate.edu

TA Office Hours: MW 3-3:50pm, tables outside Clark C307 (or inside room if available)

### **Course Objective:**

The course is theoretical in nature and is designed to equip you with analytical and quantitative tools to appreciate and assess economic decision making by individuals and firms and to understand how economic agents interact in a market setting.

### **Prerequisites:**

Prerequisites for this course are principles of microeconomics and of macroeconomics (ECON 202/AREC 202 and ECON 204) AND basic calculus (MATH 141, 155, or 160), or the equivalent to these courses taken at a different university. The prerequisites for the course will be enforced, and it is expected that you are familiar with calculus.

### **Grading:**

Grading will be based on 4 problem sets, 2 midterms, and a final exam in the percentages specified below. The final exam will be cumulative. *Please note the attached schedule now.* No extensions. Final letter grading will be on a curve (if necessary and depending on overall class performance), and will include plus and minus grades.

Problem Sets (20%); Midterm Exam #1 (25%); Midterm Exam #2 (25%); Final Exam (30%)

**Course Policies:**

Problem sets will be assigned at least one week before they are due. No credit will be given for late problem sets. Problems sets are due at the beginning of class on the assigned dates. It is your responsibility to deliver or fax your problem sets to me early if you will not be in class. *Problem sets will not be accepted via email.* Problem sets will consist of practice problem-solving type questions. Working in study groups is highly encouraged. However, problem sets must be written up and submitted individually and will be graded for accuracy. *All pages of your problem set should be stapled, clipped, or otherwise attached together.* I reserve the right to take off points for not following this direction. In general, we will not have time in class to review problem sets. However, answers will be made available when a graded assignment is returned so that you may review and compare your work.

The two midterm and final exam formats will be modeled after problem sets. You are expected to submit your own individual work and use no unauthorized assistance when taking exams. Academic dishonesty is not tolerated, and I will take precautions to prevent it. This includes random seating for examinations, exam proctoring, and photocopying of exams before returning them. *Furthermore, the course will adhere to the Academic Integrity Policy of the Colorado State University General Catalog and the Student Conduct Code.* Make up exams will be given only for scheduled university functions or strenuous circumstances such as serious illness. *Written documentation is required for all make up requests.* Documentation should be submitted prior to the exam date unless this is absolutely impossible. Approval of make up requests is at my discretion.

*You are expected to be present in class and are responsible for material covered in lectures and in-class handouts whether or not that material is covered in the textbook or posted online.* Furthermore, extra credit quizzes and/or other opportunities may present themselves in class. *Disruptive behavior is not tolerated* and is grounds for being asked to leave. This *includes the use of cell phones and reading newspapers* and other unrelated material in class. Offensive or demeaning treatment of an individual is especially not tolerated. Disruptive students will be referred to the department head.

**Accommodations:**

Students requesting special accommodations should contact Resources for Disabled Students (RDS) at 970-491-6385. Special accommodations for exams will not be granted without pre-approval from RDS. If this applies to you, please make arrangements *early* in the semester.

### **Syllabus and Reading List:**

(This schedule is subject to change and will be revised later in the semester if necessary.)

Week of January 16: Preliminaries, P&R Chapter 1.

Week of January 23: Basics of Supply and Demand, P&R Chapter 2.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31: PROBLEM SET 1 DUE.

Week January 30: Consumer Behavior, P&R Chapter 3.

Week of February 6: Individual and Market Demand, P&R Chapter 4.

Week of February 13: Uncertainty and Consumer Behavior, P&R Chapter 5.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16: PROBLEM SET 2 DUE.

Week of February 20: Finish any uncovered material and review.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23: MIDTERM EXAM #1 IN CLASS.

Week of February 27: Production, P&R Chapter 6.

Tuesday, March 6: Cost of Production, P&R Sections 7.1-7.5

THURSDAY, MARCH 8: NO CLASS.

Week of March 12: SPRING BREAK, NO CLASS.

Week of March 19: Profit Maximization and Consumer Behavior, P&R Chapter 8.

THURSDAY, MARCH 22: PROBLEM SET 3 DUE.

Week of March 26: Finish any uncovered material and review.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29: MIDTERM EXAM #2 IN CLASS.

Week of April 2: Analysis of Competitive Markets, P&R Chapter 9.

Week of April 9: General Equilibrium, P&R Chapter 16.

Week of April 16: Monopoly, P&R Chapter 10 and Sections 11.1-11.3.

Week of April 23: Oligopoly, P&R Chapter 12.

TUESDAY, MAY 1: PROBLEM SET 4 DUE.

Week of April 30: Finish any uncovered material and final review.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 6:20-8:20pm\*: FINAL EXAM.

\*The final exam will take place in our regular classroom. The final exam is cumulative.