

ECON 202: Principles of Microeconomics

Fall 2020

Instructor: Michelan Wilson

Class Time: Tu/Th 1:00-1:50pm

Delivery Method: Hybrid

1. Course description

Economics is the study of how people interact with each other and with their natural surroundings to provide for their livelihoods. This course addresses the production and distribution of goods. We will use economic models to study economic stagnation, economic growth, work hours, social dilemmas, economic power, labor markets, monopolistic markets, competitive markets, and inequality.

2. Course objectives

- To make sense of economic data using spreadsheets
- To apply mathematical and graphical models of the economy
- To communicate effectively about economic topics
- To use economic thinking to inform your role in the world

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3. Teaching team

This course is team taught with three Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs). Your instructor will help provide two recorded lectures a week and your Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) will hold weekly recitations and grade your coursework. You may attend the office hours of any team member for help with course material, but you should see your GTA for grade-related questions. Below are office hours and zoom links for all members of the team:

Michelan Wilson

michelan.wilson@colostate.edu

Zoom T/Th 10:00-11:00am; T/Th 1-2pm

Zoom ID: <https://zoom.us/j/6013248343>

Debora Nunes (R34, R35, R36)

debora.nunes@colostate.edu

Zoom: Tu/F 2:00-3:30pm

Zoom ID: <https://zoom.us/j/2954313482>

Lackson Mudenda (R13, R14, R15)

lacksond.mudenda@colostate.edu

Zoom: M/F 9:00-10:30am

Zoom ID: <https://zoom.us/j/91411029244>

Password: CSUEcon202

Elene Murvanidze (R28, R29, R30)

elene.murvanidze@colostate.edu

Zoom: W 12:00-1:30pm, F 11:30-1:00pm

Zoom ID: <https://zoom.us/j/8454667490>

4. Course materials

The course website at <http://canvas.colostate.edu> provides the syllabus, assignments, weekly quizzes, a discussion forum, and the gradebook. The required book for this course is *The Economy*, written by the CORE team. The book is available in three formats.

1. Purchase a printed copy at the University Bookstore for \$58.50 new or \$39.75 used
2. Read the ebook for free in a web browser at www.core-econ.org
3. Download the app The Economy by CORE ECON on your phone or tablet.

Regardless of how you read the book, I recommend studying the interactive figures and the unit questions in using a web browser or tablet.

5. Course prerequisites and credits

To enroll in this course, you must be proficient in algebra. You must have completed MATH 117 (College Algebra in Context I) or MATH 118 (College Algebra in Context II) or MATH 141 (Calculus in Management Sciences) or MATH 155 (Calculus for Biological Scientists I) or MATH 160 (Calculus for Physical Scientists I)]. This course meets the All-University Core Curriculum (AUCC) requirements for Social/Behavioral Sciences (Category 3C) and is approved under gtPathways in the content area of Economic or Political Systems (GT-SS1). Credit not allowed for both ECON 202 and AREC 202 (Agricultural and Resource Economics).

GT Pathways

This course meets the [All-University Core Curriculum \(AUCC\)](#) requirements for Social/Behavioral Sciences (Category 3C) and is approved under [GTPathways](#) in the content area of Economic or Political Systems (GT-SS1).

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education has approved this course for inclusion in the Guaranteed Transfer (GT) Pathways program in the GT-SS1 Category. For transferring students, successful completion with a minimum C– grade guarantees transfer and application of credit in this GT Pathways category. For more information on the GT Pathways program, go to <http://higher.ed.colorado.gov/academics/transfers/gtpathways/curriculum.html>

Pursuant to this certification, students will learn, in this class, to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of economic or political systems.
2. Use the social sciences to analyze and interpret issues.
3. Explain diverse perspectives and groups.
4. Explore diverse perspectives.
5. Recognize and explore various cultural identities, heritages, and important similarities and differences as depicted in the arts, or reflected in geography, or in economic or political systems.
6. Explore interactions among groups and identities as relevant to the discipline.

Furthermore, students in this course have the following Civic Engagement, Critical Thinking, Diversity & Global Learning, and Written/Oral Communication student learning outcomes:

GT Pathways Core Student Learning Outcomes Economic or Political Systems (GT-SS1)

Civic Engagement

1. Civic Knowledge: a) Connect disciplinary knowledge to civic engagement through one's own participation in civic life, politics, and/or government.

Critical Thinking

2. Explain an Issue: a) Use information to describe a problem or issue and/or articulate a question related to the topic.
3. Utilize Context: a) Evaluate the relevance of context when presenting a position. b) Identify assumptions. c) Analyze one's own and others' assumptions.
4. Understand Implications and Make Conclusions: a) Establish a conclusion that is tied to the range of information presented. b) Reflect on implications and consequences of stated conclusion.

Diversity & Global Learning

5. Build Self-Awareness: a) Demonstrate how their own attitudes, behaviors, or beliefs compare or relate to those of other individuals, groups, communities, or cultures.
6. Examine Perspectives: a) Examine diverse perspectives when investigating social and behavioral topics within natural or human systems.
7. Address Diversity: a) make connections between the world-views, power structures, and experiences of individuals, groups, communities, or cultures, in historical or contemporary contexts.

Written/Oral Communication

8. Develop Content and Message: a) Create and develop ideas within the context of the situation and the assigned task(s).
9. Use Sources and Evidence: a) Critically read, evaluate, apply, and synthesize evidence and/or sources in support of a claim.
10. Use language appropriate to the audience

6. Course structure

Each week you will read units of *The Economy*, watch two lectures, engage in one discussion forum, submit one quiz, work through one homework problem, and participate in one recitation section. Over the course of the semester, you will also write an essay and take 2 midterm exams and a final exam.

1. **Reading:** Students *must* prepare for lectures by reading the assigned units, working with interactive figures, and answering the questions embedded in the text. Engaging with the textbook is crucial to success in this course. Economics is very abstract, and the readings will provide you with a foundation to understand the lectures and complete discussions, quizzes, and homework.
2. **Lectures:** There will be video lectures posted on Canvas twice a week by Tu/Th at 1pm. The instructors teaching this course in Fall 2020 will share the responsibility of creating these videos,

so you will hear from all four of us. During your assigned lecture time, your instructor will hold virtual office hours on Zoom for students to ask questions about the material covered in the lecture, so you are encouraged to watch the video beforehand.

3. **Recitations:** You will have one recitation with your graduate teaching assistant (GTA) and twenty-some classmates each week. Some of these sections are face to face, some are online via Zoom, and some are hybrids. If you would like to switch your format, please enroll in another section with openings. The recitations will facilitate discussion of course material and help you solve homework questions. You will receive extra credit participation points for attending *and* participating in recitations worth up to 2% of your final grade. In online and hybrid sections, we ask you to turn on your video so that your GTA and classmates can see you.
4. **Discussion posts:** Each week you will discuss the course material with your recitation group on Canvas. These discussions provide a space for you to engage with the material by addressing whether you think that week's model really explains the economic facts presented in the book, why it explains (or fails to explain) other data, and how else we might think about that week's topic. I will provide several prompts in the form of questions, but you address anything related to the week's topic. By midnight on Tuesdays you should post a short, relevant essay related to that week's material: it should open with a thesis and briefly defend that thesis. You are encouraged to link to relevant articles or videos from outside of class. Please respond to one or two of your peers' posts over the course of the week. The discussion forum is meant to provide us with a jumping-off point for recitations, so all posts and replies are due Friday at 11am, two hours before the first recitation, so students and GTAs have time to review the forum. Your posts and replies are expected to be respectful. This does not mean that you aren't allowed to disagree - disagreement is welcome and valuable! But your posts and replies should be thoughtful and considerate analyses of ideas, not people. If you feel that these expectations are being violated, please reach out to Michelan or your GTA. You will receive grades based on your engagement on the discussion forum every 4 weeks, according to the rubric provided on Canvas.
5. **Quizzes:** You have an 8-question multiple-choice quiz on Canvas that is due every Thursday by 11:59pm (before the first recitation section). These quizzes will help prepare you for the exams. I encourage you to discuss these questions with your classmates. You have two attempts to complete the quiz, and your grade will be the average of your two attempts. Late attempts are worth 0 points. As a result, you should not submit a 2nd attempt after the deadline, because doing so will lower your average grade. (If you do so accidentally, email me.) The lowest week's score will be automatically dropped.
6. **Homework:** There will be one short-answer question for every week of the class. Your recitation section will help you solve these questions, but you will also need to devote time to them outside of class. The homework questions are challenging, and you are encouraged to work on them with a partner or in a small group. Both strong and weak students benefit from working together. These homework questions are not graded, but they provide crucial preparation for the short-answer questions on the exams. Answer keys will be posted the week before the associated exam, but it is essential that you work on the solution to each problem before reviewing the key.
7. **Social dilemma essay:** You will write one essay between the two midterms. Detailed instructions and a grading rubric will be posted on Canvas.

8. **Exams:** Your understanding of microeconomics will be tested in two midterm exams and a cumulative final exam. Your exams will consist of multiple-choice questions (modeled on the quizzes) and short-answer questions (modeled on the homework questions). Exams will be proctored online using the [Respondus Lockdown Browser](#).
9. **Extra Credit Assignments:** There will be 12 extra credit assignments assigned over the duration of the course. These are not mandatory and do not make up a portion of the 100% points for this course. It is EXTRA credit. The assignments will be based on homework questions and will be announced by your instructor weekly. Extra Credit assignments are due every Thursday by 11:59pm (before the first recitation section). Three points will be awarded for the completion of each extra credit assignment, adding 3% of the course total.

7. +Course time estimates

Succeeding in this course will require a substantial amount of time. Your weekly workload will approximate the following:

Reading	~3 hours/week
Lectures and recitation	~3 hours/week
Quizzes	~1 hour/week
Homeworks	~1 hour/week
Discussion posts and essay	~1 hour/week
Total	~9 hours/week

5. Grades

Your final grade will be calculated as a weighted average of your grades in the following categories:

10%	Discussion posts
15%	Canvas quizzes
15%	Social dilemma essay
15%	Midterm exam 1
15%	Midterm exam 2
30%	Final exam
2%	Recitation participation (extra credit)
3%	Homework submission (extra credit)

We will use the following scale in this class:

A+	96.67-100	B+	86.67-90	C+	76.67-80	D	60-70
A	93.33-96.67	B	83.33-86.67	C	70-76.67	F	0-60
A-	90-93.33	B-	80-83.33				

Once any grade is posted, you have one week to contact your GTA with inquiries about your assignment grade. Final grades will not be rounded up (because the course provides 3 points in extra credit for participating in lecture and recitation).

6. Summary Course Requirements and Grade Determination

The academic requirements of this course consist of 12 short answer quizzes, 2 mid-semester exams, 1 writing assignment, 12 discussions contributions, and 1 final exam. Course grades will be determined by the completion of assignments, exams and discussions, as shown below:

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Points per Assignment</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Grade Points</i>	<i>Grade Percentage</i>
<i>Discussion posts</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>10%</i>
<i>Canvas Quizzes</i>	<i>15.04</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>180.48</i>	<i>15.03%</i>
<i>Essay</i>	<i>180</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>180</i>	<i>14.99%</i>
<i>Midterm</i>	<i>180</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>360</i>	<i>29.99%</i>
<i>Final Exam</i>	<i>360</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>360</i>	<i>29.99%</i>
<i>Participation (Extra Credit)</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>2%</i>
<i>Homework Extra Credit</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>3%</i>
<i>Total</i>			<i>1,260.5</i>	<i>105%</i>

7. Late work

Makeup discussion posts, quizzes, essays, and exams are not permitted. The only exceptions are in case of documented medical emergencies or conflicts with University sanctioned activities. In these cases, you must provide your GTA with documentation as soon as possible. Except for the case of medical emergencies, make-ups *must* be requested prior to the due date.

8. Academic integrity

This course will adhere to the Academic Integrity Policy of the General Catalog and the Student Conduct Code. As per university policy, "Any student found responsible for having engaged in academic dishonesty will be subject to academic penalty and/or University disciplinary action." (General Catalog 2011-2012, 1.6, p.8). Please be aware that the General Catalog specifically identifies the following examples of academic dishonesty: cheating in the classroom, plagiarism, unauthorized possession or disposition of academic materials, falsification, and facilitation of cases of academic dishonesty.

Cheating in the classroom is defined as follows:

"Cheating includes using unauthorized sources of information and providing or receiving unauthorized assistance on any form of academic work. Examples include copying the work of another student on an exam, problem set, or quiz; taking an exam or completing homework for another student; possessing unauthorized notes, study sheets, answer codes, programmed calculators, or other material during an exam or other graded paper results." (General Catalog 2009-2010, 1.6, p.6).

Plagiarism is defined as follows:

"Plagiarism includes the copying of language, structure, ideas, or thoughts of another, and representing them as one's own without proper acknowledgment. Examples include submission of purchased research papers as one's own work; paraphrasing and/or quoting material without properly documenting the source." (General Catalog 2009-2010, 1.6, p. 6).

9. Accommodations and tutoring

All students are *highly* encouraged to take advantage of these helpful and costless resources.

Student Disability Center: Students with disabilities may be eligible for accommodations in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. It is the student's responsibility to disclose any learning disabilities. To request accommodations, students should contact the Center at 970-491-6385 or <https://disabilitycenter.colostate.edu/>.

Documentation of disability is required and the SDC office will assist in this process. SDC will automatically contact me to schedule your exams, but please contact me if you require any other special accommodations.

michelan.wilson@colostate.edu

Writing Center: Help with written assignments can be found at the Writing Center. For more information is available at: <http://writingcenter.colostate.edu>

12. Important information for Students about COVID-19

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/>).

13. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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.

20. Course Withdrawal Policy

Any student who wishes to withdraw from the course must submit a request directly to Division of Continuing Education. For complete information, please visit their website at <http://www.learn.colostate.edu/help/creditstudents/registration/drop-policy.dot>

21. Technological Requirements

All courses will require that students have online access and a computer. Students can check out an iPad from the library ([Library site](#)) or use a computer in a computer lab. Exams can also be scheduled at the CSU Testing Center (costs about \$5/30 minutes/exam cost to CSU students).

The technology requirements for this course are listed below:

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

- 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 monitors and laptop screen size be 13-inches or larger for optimum visibility of course material.
- Computer speakers or headphones to listen to recorded content.
 - A webcam or other camera may also be necessary if proctoring services are used in this course.
- Enough space on your computer for
 - install the required and recommended software and,
 - save your course assignments.

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

- Web browsers
 - Firefox generally works well with CSU websites - [free download](#)
 - Chrome: [free download](#)
- Adobe Acrobat Reader ([free download](#))
- Flash Player ([free download](#))
- Microsoft Office ([free download](#) through CSU)

22. Disclaimer

All of the information in this course syllabus is subject to change when deemed necessary by the instructor. Students will be notified verbally in class, via postings on the class homepage, or by email if such changes occur.

Schedule

Date	Reading	Topics	Coursework
8/25/2020	1.0-1.5	The capitalist revolution	
8/27/2020	1.6-1.12	Defining capitalism	D1.1; Q1.1, HW1.1. Income growth
9/1/2020	2.0-2.6	Economics of innovation	D1.2; Q1.2
9/3/2020	2.7-2.11	Malthusian economics	HW1.2. Malthusian trap
9/8/2020	3.0-3.6	Labor and production	D1.3; Q1.3
9/10/2020	3.7-3.11	Wages and work hours	HW1.3. Optimal work hours
9/15/2020	4.0-4.5	Social dilemmas	D1.4; Q1.4
9/17/2020	4.6-4.12	Experimental economics	HW1.4. Prisoners' dilemma
9/22/2020	4.13-4.14, 21.3	Multiple equilibria and innovation	Prepare for Midterm Exam 1
9/24/2020		Midterm Exam 1	
9/29/2020	5.0-5.7	Property and power	D2.1; Q2.1
10/1/2020	5.8-5.11, 22.1	Bargaining over the surplus	HW2.1. Power and distribution
10/6/2020	5.12-5.14	Equity and efficiency	D2.2; Q2.2
10/8/2020	6.0-6.3	The capitalist firm	HW2.2. Lorenz and Gini, Essay
10/13/2020	6.4-6.7	Labor discipline	D2.3; Q2.3
10/15/2020	6.8-6.11	The labor market	HW2.3. Labor discipline
10/20/2020	7.0-7.5	Price-setting firms	D2.4; Q2.4
10/22/2020	7.6-7.9	Inefficiency of monopoly	HW2.4. Price-setting firm
10/27/2020	7.10-7.13	Market power	Prepare for Midterm Exam 2
10/29/2020		Midterm Exam 2	
11/3/2020	8.0-8.5	Supply and demand	D3.1; Q3.1
11/5/2020	8.6	Efficiency of competition	HW3.1. Supply and demand
11/10/2020	8.7	Taxes	D3.2; Q3.2
11/12/2020	8.8-8.11, 21.4	Monopoly, competition, and innovation	HW3.2. Price-taking firm
11/17/2020	12.0-12.4	Externalities	D3.3; Q3.3
11/19/2020	12.5-12.10	Limits to markets	HW3.3. External effects
11/24/2020	Fall Break		
11/26/2020	Fall Break		
12/1/2020	9.3-9.8, 19.0-19.1	Equilibrium inequality	D3.4; Q3.4
12/3/2020	19.2-19.3	Accidents of birth	HW3.4. Lorenz and Gini redux
12/8/2020	19.4, 19.7-19.12	Optimal inequality?	
12/10/2020		Microeconomics in review	Prepare for Final Exam
		Final Exam for section 005	

