

Instructor: Oleg Baranov (*Assistant Professor, Department of Economics*)

	Instructor Info		Class Info
Office:	ECON 14A	Class Location:	EDUC 155
Voice:	303.492.7869	Meeting Times:	TTH 2:00 { 3:15
Email:	oleg.baranov@colorado.edu	Office Hours:	MF 11:00 12:00
Website:	www.obaranov.com		(or by appointment)

1 Class Website

All course materials will be posted on the [Canvas](https://canvas.colorado.edu/) website that can be accessed at <https://canvas.colorado.edu/>.

2 Course Description

Topics in Microeconomics uses analytical techniques to examine optimal decision making under uncertainty including analysis of strategic situations. The course consists of three parts. Part I reviews probability concepts and introduces game theory. Part II examines risk and information in the context of utility maximization. Part III investigates problems with imperfect information such as adverse selection and moral hazard. **The course meets a requirement for the Actuarial Studies Certificate Program.**

3 Textbook/Readings

There is no required textbook for this class. Your textbook from ECON 3070 *Intermediate Microeconomic Theory* will prove extremely useful for many topics. Alternatively, you might consider picking up a second-hand copy of: *Microeconomics*, by David Besanko and Ronald Braeutigam, John Wiley & Sons; *Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach*, by Hal Varian, W.W. Norton and Company (any latter edition); or *Contract Theory*, by Patrick Bolton and Mathias Dewatripont, the MIT press.

4 Prerequisites

Available to students who have completed ECON 3070 *Intermediate Microeconomic Theory*. Completion of ECON 4808 *Introduction to Mathematical Economics*, or the equivalent, is desirable. The course will be taught with the mathematical emphasis. Students should be familiar

7 Tentative Course Outline

Week	Covered Material
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PART 1: PROBABILITY & GAME THEORY	
1 - 2	Review of Probability
3 - 5	Game Theory
Feb 20th	MIDTERM I (in class)
PART 2: RISK & INFORMATION	
6 - 7	Utility Maximization with Certainty
7 - 8	Uncertainty
8 - 9	Insurance and Diversification
9 - 10	Risky Assets
Mar 19th	MIDTERM II (in class)
PART 3: IMPERFECT INFORMATION	
12 - 13	Adverse Selection
13 - 14	Signaling
14 - 15	Moral Hazard
15 - 16	Contracts
May 3rd	FINAL EXAM (at 4:30 pm, regular classroom)
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8 Tutors

The Economics Department provides a free drop-in tutorial lab which provides assistance on all core courses in the major, and occasionally on other undergraduate courses in the Department. See appropriate links here <https://www.colorado.edu/economics/undergraduate-program>.

9 University Policies

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#)

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code (honor@colorado.edu); 303-492-5550). Students found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](#).

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