

University of Colorado
Department of Economics

ECON 4697: Industrial Organization and Regulation
Fall 2010

Course Description

This is a course in industrial organization, the study of businesses in market settings. Industrial organization focuses on firm behavior in imperfectly competitive markets, which are far more common than the perfectly competitive markets that were the focus of the basic microeconomics courses. Industrial Organization analyzes the acquisition and use of market power by firms, strategic interactions among firms, welfare implications and the role of government competition policy. We will approach this subject from both theoretical and applied perspectives. The field of industrial organization requires a thorough understanding of both theory and empirical work, so while focusing on theory, as much empirical evidence as possible will be included in this course.

Instructor:

Grading Scale

A	94 or above
A-	90 - 93.99
B+	86 - 89.99
B	83 - 85.99
B-	80 - 82.99
C+	75 - 79.99
C	70 - 74.99
D	60 - 69.99
F	below 60

Homework Policy

I will give regular homework assignments. You can work together with your classmates on the homework questions. Homework assignments will not be graded but quizzes on homework questions may be given on the days they are due. You will be also given opportunities to earn extra credit from solving homework questions in class.

Exam Policy

There will be one midterm examination and one final exam. No show at the midterm with no valid excuse according to university policy will be graded zero. There will not be any make-up exam. If you miss an exam with a valid excuse then the final exam will weigh 95% towards your final grade. The date of the midterm exam will be announced in class. The date of the final exam will be determined by the university.

Communication Policy

Methods of Communication

Face to face conversation (Preferred)

Phone call (For urgent situations)

Email (For non-urgent and low priority matters only)

I will be available during my office hours and/or just after class for questions on both class materials and other course-related matters such as questions about the homework, concerns about the deadlines or missing classes, missing exams etc.. If you need to see me outside office hours, please make an appointment either during class, or by email, as I may not be available to see you if you come by without an appointment. The use of emails should be limited to brief communications such as keeping me informed or sending me files. Email is too time-consuming a method to give answers at any length to academic questions, such as homework questions or questions about what we covered in class. Please come by during office hours instead.

Tentative Schedule

Basic Microeconomic Theory

The Firm and Its Costs (Chapter 4 and lecture notes)

Perfect Competition (Chapter 2)

- { Extensive Representation of Games
- { Subgame Perfect Nash Equilibrium

Oligopoly Theory

Markets for Homogeneous Products

- { The Cournot Model (Chapter 9.4)
- { The Stackelberg Model (Chapter 11.1)
- { The Bertrand Model (Chapter 10)
- { Collusion
- { Application of Cournot Model in International Trade

Technological Change and Research and Development (Chapter 22, Chapter 23 and lecture notes)

- { Schumpeter and the Process of "Creative Destruction"
- { The Relationship Between Market Structure, Firm Size and Technological Advance
- { The Economics of Patent Systems

Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html> student-code