

University of Colorado - Boulder
Spring 2020

Syllabus ECON1088 - Math Tools for Economists II

Instructor: Shawn Swanson

Class Meetings: MWF 12:00 – 12:50 in ECON 117

Office: ECON 14

Office **Hours: MW** 11:00 – 12:00, or by appointment if you have a scheduling conflict with these times.

Email: shawn.swanson@colorado.edu

Course Description

This class is the second of a two course sequence. It is a continuation of ECON 1078, and builds upon the algebraic foundation developed in that course. We will cover parts of chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, and 14 in the textbook. We will study derivatives, optimization, and integrals, which are important mathematical tools used in economics. These tools will be used extensively in your subsequent economics courses.

Prerequisites

Econ 1078 or equivalent. College level algebra skills are necessary for success in this course.

Required Textbook

Required Textbook: Knut Sydsaeter, Peter Hammond, Arne Strom and Andres Carvajal, *Essential Mathematics for Economic Analysis*, Pearson, 5th ed., 2016 (3rd or 4th edition are also acceptable).

Grading

In fairness to everyone, there are no exceptions to this rule, period. I drop 2 problem sets and 1 midterm to accommodate for life's events, excused or otherwise. Your total grade in this course will be determined as follows:

- Problem sets 10%
- Midterms 60% (30% each)
- Final 30%

Problem Sets:

There will be 11 problem sets. Many of these problems will be solved in during class. It is strongly suggested you attempt additional problems. Problem sets will be graded on completion. Feel free to work in groups, but you must turn in your own work. Unsubstantiated or illegible answers will receive partial credit at most. Late work submitted prior to 5p.m on the date due will receive half credit at most. At 5 p.m. detailed solutions will be released on Canvas, and no further work will be accepted: you will receive a zero for the assignment. Note your two lowest problem set scores will be dropped.

Exams:

There are 3 midterm exams, and while they are not explicitly cumulative, material does naturally build upon itself. The final exam will be *cumulative* and must be held per university policy. The University's final ex

Letter Grades

Electronic Device Policy

Please silence electronic devices during lectures. You are welcome to use electronic devices for note taking and accessing learning materials online. However, do not use electronic devices during class time for non-class activities (i.e. social media, etc), or you will be asked to turn it off and put it away.

Disability Accommodations

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>

Classroom Behavior Policy

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 has 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 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_cod

Religious Observance Policy

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments, or required attendance. If you have a conflict, please contact your instructor as early as possible to discuss your situation.

