

## Econ 2B--Principles of Microeconomics Online Lab

**OVERVIEW:** This course is excellent review of key economic concepts. It is designed for students preparing for graduate programs in business administration or economics and for economics majors transferring a 3-unit principles course.

This is a one-unit course that runs entirely online. Each student is required to purchase a semester subscription to Aplia.com for \$28 (this is much cheaper than a textbook!). To use Aplia.com you need a connection to the Internet from a fairly standard computer on campus or from your home. To sign up for Aplia you need to obtain the current key code at: [www.sjsu.edu/stringham/apliakey.htm](http://www.sjsu.edu/stringham/apliakey.htm) and then follow the instructions.

The expected workload is 2 to 3 hours per week for 8 weeks. It is graded on a credit/no credit basis. To receive credit, you must receive an average score of 75 percent on all graded problem sets.

Assignments are due at 11:00 p.m. every other Saturday, beginning the fourth week of the semester. Please see the Aplia website to see the specific due dates.

There is no reason to miss a due date. You can answer all eight weeks worth of questions in the first few weeks. Submit your answers and keep making changes up to the date the questions are due. You have flexibility on when you work on the assignments but not on when they are due.

This online lab consists of problem sets designed to help you progress in your understanding of key economic concepts. There are two types of problem sets—Graded and Practice. The Practice sets are important for those who need more help refreshing economic concepts. The Practice sets give you *immediate feedback* on your submitted answers along with detailed explanations of why answers are correct or wrong. You will be able to see answers to the Graded sets *only after* the due date. The practice sets are optional and will NOT count toward your total points.

**BOOKS:** None are required. Your old principles textbook or any textbook from the public library can serve as reference support. We recommend the following books:

*Basic Economics* by Walter Wessels. Published by Barrons. Covers micro- and macroeconomics. Available at Amazon for less than \$15, try this link:

[http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0764112740/ref=lib\\_dp\\_TFC](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0764112740/ref=lib_dp_TFC)

*Economic Principles: Seven Ideas for Thinking ... About Almost Anything* by Douglas Allen. This Online textbook focuses mostly on the essential ideas in microeconomics. Author is Doug Allen, from Simon Fraser University, British Columbia. The cost is about \$11.00. Try either of these links.

<http://www.mcinnescreekpress.com/>

<http://www.sfu.ca/~allen/>

**LIVE CONTACT PERSON:** For technical difficulties contact the help desk at APLIA. please contact Apla by clicking the Apla Support link at the bottom of any Apla page or by e-mailing support@aplia.com. You will receive a response in one business day. These people are efficient, courteous and effective in dealing with problems related to the operation of the program.

For advising, enrollment and University questions related to this course contact: Dr. Edward Stringham, 924-5419, <mailto:estringh@email.sjsu.edu>

The assignments are due on four Saturdays in the semester. The homework will be due Saturday at 11pm of week 4, week 6, week 8, and week 8. The specific dates are posted in Aplia. You are welcome to turn in all of the assignments as early as you wish.

<b>SCHEDULE FOR ECON 2B MICROECONOMIC PRINCIPLES ONLINE LAB</b>
---

**Introduction to Using APLIA – 1 Day**

A few simple, graded problems

All Graded Assignments  
must be submitted by  
11:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

**Scarcity, Choice, and Opp. Cost – 2weeks**

Decisions on the Margin

Production Possibilities Frontier

Gains from Trade

Week 4

---

**Supply and Demand – 2 weeks**

Demand

Supply

Equilibrium

Week 6

---

**Elasticity – 1 week**

Own Price Elasticity of Demand

Income Elasticity

Cross Price Elasticity

Elasticity of Supply

**Efficiency and Market Distortions – 1 week**

Price Controls

Consumer and Producer Surplus

Week 8

---

**Production, Cost, and Competition – 1 week**

Production and Costs

Perfect Competition

**Imperfect Competition – 1week**

Simple Monopoly

Week 10

---