

San José State University

Department of Economics

Econ 1B, *Principles of Economics: Microeconomics* Section 21, FA 2010

Instructor:	Matthew J. Holian, Ph.D.
Office Location:	DMH 131
Telephone:	408-924-1371
Email:	Matthew.Holian@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday & Thursday, 3p.m. – 4:30 p.m.• most other times, by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday and Thursday, 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.
Classroom:	DMH 358
Prerequisites:	May be taken concurrently or prior to Econ 1A
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	GE social science D1

Faculty Web Page and E-mail Issues

Copies of the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. may be found on my web page <http://mattholian.com>. Please be aware that you are responsible for regularly checking the e-mail address you currently have on file with MySJSU, and your spam box.

Course Description

Our general goal in a “principles” class is to teach you to think like an economist. This skill can take you very far in the business, government and nonprofit sectors alike. We also have specific learning objectives, which are outlined below.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

General SLO’s that the Economics Department emphasizes in this class include:

- **Incentives Matter** (law of demand; law of supply; rational decision makers weight marginal costs versus marginal benefits; the power of self-interest)
- **Opportunity Cost** (sunk costs; production possibilities; the free-lunch fallacy; tradeoffs in consumption and production; gains from interpersonal and international trade; comparative advantage.)
- **Supply and Demand** (understanding the S&D model as a representation of individual choices in exchange based on individual preferences, knowledge and circumstances; ability to examine current events using S&D tools; movement versus shift; welfare analysis.)

Required Texts/Readings

1. *Hidden Order: The Economics of Everyday Life* by David D. Friedman, published July 1997 by Harper. (paperback edition, ISBN: 978-0887308857)
2. *Economics in One Lesson*, Henry Hazlitt (any edition will work; you can download one here: http://www.fee.org/pdf/books/Economics_in_one_lesson.pdf)

Recommended Text

1. *Principles of Microeconomics* by Libby Rittenberg and Timothy Tregarthen, published May 2009 (1st edition) by Flat World Knowledge.
Buy a paperback: www.flatworldknowledge.com, or get a free download: <http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/matthew.holian/Econ>)

Assignments and Grading Policy

There will be two midterms and a final, homework and a term paper. I will also give random pop quizzes throughout the semester based on the day's assigned readings. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading (Academic Policy F-69-24.)

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Due Dates</u>
Pop Quizzes	10 points	TBA
Midterm I	15 points	9/23
Midterm II	15 points	10/28
Final	20 points	12/13 (12:15 p.m.)
Homework	20 points	TBA
Term Paper	20 points	12/9

I will add the points you earn on these assignments, and use the standard grading scale to determine your final score: 100-98 A+, 98-92 A, 92-90 A-, 90-88 B+, 88-82 B, 82-80 B, 80-78 C+, 78-72 C, 72-70 C-, 70-68 D+, 68-62 D, 62-60 D, less than 60 F

University Policies

Dropping and Adding

Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes. Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-324.html> . <http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/>

Academic integrity

Students should know that the University's Academic Integrity Policy: http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf. Your enrollment at San Jose State University requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

Econ 1B / Principles of Microeconomics, Fall 2010, Course Schedule

The schedule (8/14/10) is subject to change. I will announce any changes in class, and post an updated syllabus on the course web page.

Week(s)	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines	Deadlines
1	<i>Economics for Pleasure and Profit Friedman Chapters 1 & 2</i>	
2-4	<i>Price, Value and Cost Friedman Chapters 3-8</i>	
5	<i>Review, Midterm 1</i>	9/23, mid1
6	<i>Economics in One Lesson, Hazlitt, Chapters 1, 2, 15, 21 & 7</i>	
7-9	<i>In Search of the Real World, Friedman Chapters 9 - 14</i>	
10	<i>Review; Midterm 2</i>	10/28, mid2
11-14	<i>Applications, Friedman Chapters 15 - 21</i> (no class 11/11 and 11/25)	
15	<i>Discuss Term Papers, Current Events and Review</i>	12/9, paper
Final Exam	<i>Final exam Monday, 12/13, 12:15 p.m.</i>	12/13, final

Appendix I: Registering for Zoho Challenge!

Students are required to complete online homework assignments that will be given throughout the semester. These assignments will be announced in class, and will be posted at the following webpage:

<http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/matthew.holian/zohochallenge.html>

The link above will contain detailed information on these assignments. Zoho Challenge! is free, but students must register online.

Appendix II: Term Paper Instructions

Students are also required to write a 1,500 word essay. Please indicate the word count under your name on the first page. Failure to do so will result in a loss of 10 points. I will accept papers in the range of 1400-1600 words without penalty. Papers are due in class on 12/9. Please note this is NOT the date of the final.

Throughout the semester, we will watch PBS Newshour stories (<http://video.pbs.org/program/979359630/>). You will identify **THREE** stories that can be understood through one or more of the models (supply and demand, budget constraints, cost curves, etc.) that is depicted graphically in the main course text (*Hidden Order*). Your job is to carefully describe the stories, using graphs, as well as verbal descriptions.

Be sure to make your **thesis statement** clear in the first or second paragraph. You must always tell a reader very early on what your paper is going to say. Your thesis statement will be something like, "In this paper, I discuss how three Newshour videos illustrate some important economic concepts."

Your paper should have five sections (intro, story 1, story 2, story 3, conclusion), and you should try to have five paragraphs per section (more or less), where each paragraph has five sentences (more or less).

Finally, to improve your writing, read this document: <http://web.uconn.edu/langlois/WRITING.HTML>. Also, SJSU's Writing Center will read your paper, and give you free advice: www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter.