

**San José State University**  
**Economics Department**  
**Econ 1B: Principles of Microeconomics, Sec 02, Fall 2018**

### **Course and Contact Information**

Instructor:	Brian Hurst
Office Location:	DMH 214
Telephone:	408-924-5400 (Econ Department)
Email:	professorbhurst@gmail.com
Office Hours:	M/W 12:15 - 1:15
Class Days/Time:	M/W 1:30 - 2:45
Classroom:	DMH 161
Prerequisites:	May be taken concurrently with, or prior to, Econ 1A.
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	Area D1: Social Science, Human Behavior

### **Course Format**

#### **Canvas**

Course materials such as the syllabus, handouts, grades, and more can be found on Canvas Learning Management System. The login website is <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for checking Canvas regularly. I recommend downloading the app, or bookmarking the page in your browser.

#### **Course Description**

Micro 1B Catalog Description: Allocation of resources and distribution of income as affected by the workings of the price system and by government policies.

Note: This class is a four-unit class. Students should plan to spend twelve hours per week throughout the semester (3 hours per week per unit). Roughly 3 of these hours will be spent in class for lecture. This leaves 9 hours available for readings, homework, studying, etc.

#### **Course Goals**

This course aims to teach students basic microeconomics principles that can be applied in their own lives. Applications of economic thinking range from understanding political implications, to interpreting events, to better decision making skills in every day life.

#### **GE Learning Outcomes**

Economics 1B is a general education course that meets the requirements for area D1 in the social science area. Students learn to apply microeconomic theory, to evaluate social information, draw upon different points of view, and formulate policy implications. Finally, students are able to place social events in an appropriate context. The GE writing requirement (1500 word minimum) will be satisfied by several written assignments.

#### **Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)**

- **Opportunity Costs** - There is no free lunch. Why do economists like to say this?

- **Supply and Demand** - What determines price and quantity in a market? What forces can change them?
- **Marginal Thinking** - What is marginal thinking, and why is it so important?
- **Scarcity** - What is scarcity? Why does it matter in economics?
- **Benefits from Trade** - Why trade at all? Should we limit trade? Who does trading benefit?
- **The Market & The Government** - How do these powers organize, work, and how can they fail?
- **Incentives Matter** - What impacts can incentives have when making a decision? What about a lack of incentives?

**Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to:**

- Define economics.
- Recognize marginal benefits and costs
- Explain the concepts of scarcity and opportunity cost and how they are vital to economics.
- Explain how a supply and demand curve determine price and quantity (among other things).
- Define elasticity. Explain various types of elasticity, and their implications.
- Interpret news in a new way, and make more informed decisions in life, at work, and in politics.
- Distinguish between:
  - normative and positive statements
  - demand and quantity demanded
  - supply and quantity supplied
  - demand schedule and demand curve
  - supply schedule and supply curve
  - movement along vs a shift in a demand or supply curve.

**Required Texts/Readings**

**Textbook**

*Principles of Microeconomics, 8th Ed or previous* (2016) by N. Gregory Mankiw

**ISBN-13:** 978-1305971493

**ISBN-10:** 1305971493

This textbook is available for rent or purchase (including in ebook form) from many sources. Older editions are suitable, although you should not find the need to look back further than the 5th edition (the 4th is difficult to find, and similar in price). Try eBay or Google Shopping to find a good price.

**Other Requirements**

Students will complete homework assignments online using Aplia, which will require internet access as well as a computer, tablet, etc. Access to Aplia can be purchased with the book, or separately. Homework may also require you to listen to a portion of a podcast (“Podcast Addict App” recommended), or read additional material.

When hand-drawing graphs, we will often use multiple steps that you need to keep separate in your mind. It is a good idea to bring a regular pencil, several different colored pencils, and a trusty straight edge to class. A calculator will also come in handy. Finally, I occasionally distribute readings on current events during the semester.

## Library Liaison

The librarian for the Economics Department is Christa Bailey. She can be reached at [Christa.Bailey@sjsu.edu](mailto:Christa.Bailey@sjsu.edu) or (408) 808-2422.

## Course Requirements and Assignments

This course will include 2 Midterms and a final. There will also be 3 writing assignments, and weekly homework on Aplia.

To create your Aplia account, please visit: [Aplia.com](https://www.aplia.com). The course key is **8MNK-VA56-PGL4**.

## Grading Information

There will be a minimum of one homework assignment per chapter, online through Aplia. Late assignments will not be accepted. Your lowest 3 scores will be dropped.

Exams will be in person, and may consist of multiple choice, short answer, graphical, and essay questions which draw from class lectures, assignments, and readings. The Final will be comprehensive, with approximately 50% covering material from Midterms 1 & 2. *You will need a Scantron 882-E for all exams.*

Your numerical grade will be based on the following categories and weights:

Homework	20%
Midterm 1	20%
Midterm 2	20%
Final Exam	25%
Papers	15%

I may use a grading curve depending on the overall class grade. Your final numerical grade will be the weighted average of your scores in the above categories, and your corresponding letter grade will be assigned as follows:

Percent	Grade	Percent	Grade	Percent	Grade
98-100%	A+	93-97%	A	90-92%	A-
88-89%	B+	83-87%	B	80-82%	B-
78-79%	C+	73-77%	C	70-72%	C-
68-69%	D+	63-67%	D	60-62%	D-
0-59%	F				

To earn GE credit for this course, you must earn a C- or better. If for any reason you must miss Midterm 1 or 2, your Final Exam will have that midterm's value added to it, and will become 45% of your overall grade.

Extra Credit: Up to 1.5% EC will be available in this course. To earn each 0.5% EC, you must attend a Provocative Lecture and write a 1/2 page summary which includes at least three things that you learned. Alternatively, you can listen to any Planet Money podcast and turn in a similar summary (this summary must include a description of how the podcast related to our course). You may only do a podcast summary once.

## **Cheating**

Cheating is a violation of the University Honor Code. If you are caught cheating, you will immediately lose all points for that assignment, and may face additional disciplinary action. Cheating can jeopardize your degree. Don't do it.

## **Attendance Policy**

Missing class can reduce your grades through preparation for the homework, quizzes, and exams. If you miss class, please refer to my website or find out from a fellow student what you missed, get relevant assignments, and do the work to catch up. Missing exams is not an option except under circumstances of medical excuse or a death in your family (documentation necessary in either case). Additionally, please come to class on time.

## **Classroom Protocol**

Although the textbook will cover many similar topics, the lectures will not be identical. For exams and quizzes, I will use questions about material covered in class as well as in the book. Therefore, I highly suggest being diligent in your attendance. If you must come to class late (or need to leave early), please sit near the door to avoid disrupting your fellow students. Additionally, please note:

- Laptops, phones, tablets, and headphones are not allowed during class; including for taking notes.
- For exams and quizzes, cell phones or similar devices may not be used as a calculator.
- The classroom should have an environment for group learning. Please, respect your classmates by not interrupting, and silencing all electronic devices.

## **University Policies**

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

## **Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material**

University Policy S12-7, <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”
  - Under certain circumstance, students may record instructor material in this class. In order to do so, a student must have written permission from the instructor that outlines what will be recorded, when the material will be recorded, the use of the material that is recorded, and with whom the material will be shared. The instructor will provide a form for this approval.
  - In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated

material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

**Ground Rules for Class:**

1. Classes feature group discourse. Please maintain proper decorum: no interruptions, disruptive talking, offensive language, and/or other improper conduct.
2. No beeping please. Turn off cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices. Laptop computers are okay. Headphones are not. ***Please do not*** browse the web, TM, IM, or otherwise communicate to the outside world during class. *Your use of a laptop in class gives me permission to randomly call on you to answer a question from your seat or from in front of the class.*
3. If you must come to class late or leave early, please do so from the back of the class with as little disruption as possible.
4. For quizzes and exams simple calculators may be necessary, but please avoid using devices that can send/receive data, store text or equations, or display graphics, even if they happen to also have a calculator on them. If you are uncertain about whether your device is acceptable, show it to me in advance.
5. Treat the classroom as an environment for group learning and respect.

## Course Schedule

*This schedule is subject to change with fair notice through Canvas, and/or announcements in class.*

Week	Date		Topics	Due Dates
			*read chapters prior to each lecture	
1		8/22	Syllabus and Introduction Chapter 2	Optional Aplia Practice Read Ch 1 & 2
2	8/27		Chapter 3	HW Due: Ch 1, 2
		8/29	Chapter 3 <b>Discuss Papers</b>	<b>8/31 Last day to drop freely</b>
3	9/3		<b>No class (campus closed)</b>	-
		9/5	Chapter 4	HW Due: Ch 3
4	9/10		Chapter 4 Midterm 1 Review (passed out)	<b>Last day to add</b>
		9/12	Chapter 5	HW Due: Ch 4
5	9/17		Chapter 5 Midterm 1 Review (work w/ peers)	HW Due: Ch 5
		9/19	<b>Midterm 1</b>	
6	9/24		Chapter 6	
		9/26	Chapter 6	<b>Paper #1 Due</b>
7	10/1		Chapter 7	HW Due: Ch 6
		10/3	Chapter 7	
8	10/8		Chapter 8	HW Due: Ch 7
		10/10	Chapter 10	HW Due: Ch 8
9	10/15		Chapter 10	
		10/17	Chapter 11	HW Due: Ch 10

Week	Date		Topics *read chapters prior to each lecture	Due Dates
10	10/22		Chapter 11 Midterm 2 Review (passed out)	
		10/24	Chapter 12	HW Due: Ch 11
11	10/29		Chapter 12 Midterm 2 Review (work w/ peers)	HW Due: Ch 12
		10/31	<b>Midterm 2</b>	
12	11/5		Chapter 13	
		11/7	Chapter 13	<b>Paper #2 Due</b>
13	11/12		<b>No class (campus closed)</b>	
		11/14	Chapter 14	HW Due: Ch 13
14	11/19		Chapter 14	
		11/21	<b>No class (campus open)</b>	
15	11/26		Chapter 15	HW Due: Ch 14
		11/28	Chapter 15 Final Review (passed out)	
16	12/3		Chapter 16	HW Due: Ch 15
		12/5	Chapter 16	
17	12/10		Applying Economics Final Review (work w/ peers)	HW Due: Ch 16 <b>Paper #3 Due</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>			<b>Wed, Dec 12 12:15 - 2:30p</b>	