

“Economics deals with society's fundamental problems; it concerns everyone and belongs to all. It is the main and proper study of every citizen.” *Ludwig von Mises*

ECONOMICS 101—MICROECONOMICS ANALYSIS

**Friday
9:00AM—11:45AM
DMH 165
San Jose State University
FALL 2019**

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OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday/Thursday
8:45PM—9:45PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

Economics can be defined as *the study of exchange given certain institutional arrangements* or as *the study of human action—people making choices*. This course builds upon your knowledge of introductory microeconomics. You will learn how economic models can help us think about important real world phenomena. Topics to be discussed include the supply and demand model and applications of it; elasticity of demand, elasticity of supply, cross-price elasticity, and income elasticity; theory of consumer choice and using indifference curve analysis; costs of production; market structures (perfect competition, monopoly, monopolistic competition, and oligopoly); basic game theory; externalities and public goods; and public choice analysis

I will not focus on the mathematics of the economics*. It is more important to me that you have an intuitive understanding rather than a mathematical understanding. Of course, you will be expected to learn and apply some graphical models that you did not encounter in your principles class. ***The goal by the end of the semester is to get you to analyze personal situations, listen to the news, discuss politics, and argue with your friends and family using the “economic way of thinking.”***

I understand that students have different learning styles. Some learn by reading (verbal), others by listening (auditory), and still others primarily by doing. I do my best to address all styles of learning (and to make the class more interesting) by incorporating lectures, class discussion, group problem-solving exercises, and videos/video clips throughout the semester.

I may assign some additional short readings on various policy topics. If you come to class, be ready to participate in discussions based on those readings.

UNIVERSITY HONOR CODE

Students are expected to be familiar with the SJSU Policy on Academic Dishonesty which can be found in the University Schedule of Classes and the University Catalog. The Department of Economics Academic Fairness Standards states: “An individual instructor who discovers, or is presented with, conclusive evidence of cheating shall assign a course grade of ‘F,’ and inform the Chairman of the Department the reasons for the grade and for further disciplinary action.” Plagiarism is defined as the act of representing the work of another as one’s own (without giving appropriate credit) regardless of how that work was obtained and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements. Plagiarism at SJSU includes but is not limited to: **1.** The act of incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs or parts thereof, or the specific substance of another’s work, without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as one’s own work, knowingly or unknowingly or **2.** Representing another person’s scholarly or artistic works as one’s own.

Plagiarism is unacceptable. The instructor will discuss any instances of suspected plagiarism with the student involved and apply appropriate sanctions. Evidence of plagiarism will result in course failure and may also result in expulsion from San Jose State University. To avoid plagiarism, a good rule of thumb is to use quotes and citations if you use five words from someone else.

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 talk to me as soon as possible. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu> to establish a record of their disability.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

I expect all students to behave professionally during class. This means that I will not tolerate **cell phone** text messaging, catching up on **Facebook** during class or looking at **irrelevant websites** on your laptop, **reading** the school newspaper or other materials, or **talking** while another student is asking a question, during a video, or when I am lecturing.

Talking is very disruptive to students who want to learn and to me as the instructor. I will not tolerate any **sleeping** or **heads down** during class. If you get tired, **go outside** and walk around until you wake up. If you get **bored**, please do not let me know that by putting your head down on your desk. I would rather you **leave** the classroom.

If sleeping in class becomes an issue (if I have to talk to you more than once), I will ask you to leave my class.

NO CELL PHONES WILL BE ALLOWED DURING CLASS. IF YOU NEED TO TEXT OR CALL, GO OUTSIDE PLEASE. IF YOU NEED TO USE A LAPTOP, YOU MUST SIT IN THE FRONT ROW (ACROSS).

Also be **realistic** about your **personal discipline** and **commitment** to this class. If you know that you will not be focused or if your job/extracurricular activity/other commitments will make it difficult for you to attend class, pay attention, or to stay the entire time, you should take this class at another time.

REQUIRED BOOKS

1. *Microeconomics, 2nd edition* by Goolsbee, Levitt, and Syverson

DROPPING AND ADDING

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's Catalog Policies section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the Current Academic Calendar web page located at http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/. The Late Drop Policy is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising>.

GRADES AND MAKEUP POLICY

- ✓ Three tests: the **highest two** will count—even if you get an “A” on the first two tests, I highly recommend that you do not slack off. The Final will cover material from all the tests and you are required to take the Final) **200 points each**
- ✓ Final (**comprehensive plus** remaining material* after Test 3): **600 points**

Grades will be based on the number of points you received on the **highest 2 tests** (400 points maximum) and the Final (600 points maximum). There will be a total of 1,000 points. ***Whatever percentage you earn out of 1,000 points will determine your grade.***

WARNING!!!!

***There will be no makeup tests.** If you are absent the day of the test, you will receive a “0” and I will drop that test (NO MATTER WHAT THE REASON IS: PERSONAL PROBLEMS, FAMILY SITUATION, ILLNESS, WORK-RELATED, ETC.). SO, PLEASE DO NOT COME TO ME AND ASK ME IF YOU CAN TAKE THE TEST AT ANOTHER TIME! **If you miss any more tests, those tests will be given a zero.**

Please do not ask me if you can take an test early or late or at any other time. **I will give you the test when I decide to give you the test. Bottom line: you need to take the test with the ENTIRE CLASS ON THE SCHEDULED DAY AT THE SCHEDULED TIME---NO EXCEPTIONS.**

I will not drop you after the appropriate date because of poor performance or missing scores.

GRADING SCALE

A+: 96.5—100	D: 59.5—69.4
A: 92.5—96.4	F: 59.4—BELOW
A-: 89.5—92.4	
B+: 86.5—89.4	
B: 82.5—86.4	
B-: 79.5—82.4	
C+: 76.5—79.4	
C: 72.5—76.4	
C-: 69.5—72.4	

ATTENDANCE

It is up to you to measure the costs and benefits of your class attendance. However, I highly recommend regular attendance because the tests will cover more than just the readings.

If I were you, I would exchange phone numbers/email addresses with other members of the class, especially if you cannot get a hold of me. It is your responsibility to find out what you missed if you are absent or late or if you leave early. ***Do not assume anything regarding the schedule. I reserve the right to change my schedule, including test dates and times.*** I will always give you notice if there are any changes, but if you are absent the next class meeting or if you come in late or leave early, there could be another change to the schedule while you are gone.

Bottom line: if you come in late and I am already talking, assume I made an important announcement and ask me during the break if indeed I did make any announcements. If you have to leave early, send an email to me to make sure that I did not change my mind about the schedule or make any further announcements. It is always a good idea to send an email to me to confirm what we covered if you are absent for the entire class.

SCHEDULE AND AGENDA

See my website for the “Topics” file which lists what will be covered for each of the three exams (book chapters, lecture notes, readings, and videos). I will give you a tentative schedule for the first exam after our second class meeting and then I will give you updates for the remaining two exam dates upon completion of an exam. For example, after you take test 1, I will give you the tentative date for test 2 the following class meeting and I will repeat this for test 3 as well.

The Final is on Friday, December 13

NO CHANGES OR EXCEPTIONS!