

San José State University
Economics Department
Econ 1A: Principles of Macroeconomics, Sections 80 and 81, Fall 2019

Course and Contact Information

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|------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Instructor: | Brian Hurst | |
| Office Location: | DMH 214 | (meetings are remote only) |
| Telephone: | 408-924-5400 | (Econ Department) |
| Email: | Brian.Hurst@sjsu.edu | |
| Office Hours: | Individually Scheduled | |
| Class Days/Time: | Online | |
| Classroom: | n/a | |
| Prerequisites: | May be taken concurrently with, or prior to, Econ 1A. | |

Course Format

Canvas

All course materials including the syllabus, worksheets, 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

Macro 1A Catalog Description: Determination of economic aggregates such as total output, total employment, the price level and the rate of economic growth.

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

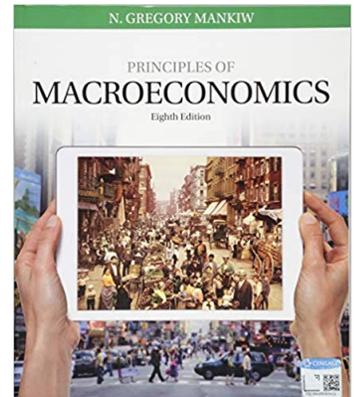
This course aims to teach students basic macroeconomics principles that can be applied in their own lives. Applications of economic thinking range from understanding political implications, to interpreting events, to better decision making skills in every day life.

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.



(see image above)

Required Texts/Readings**Textbook**

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

ISBN-13: 978-1305971509

ISBN-10: 1305971507

A digital copy of the 8th edition will be included with your purchase of Aplia (discussed below), and you can rent a copy for only \$7.99. However, if you wish to purchase a hard copy to keep, this textbook is available for rent or purchase from many sources. Older editions are suitable, but not much cheaper (the 5th edition and earlier are difficult to find, and similar in price). Try eBay or Google Shopping to find a good price. ***Amazon is more expensive.***

Other Requirements - Aplia

Homework assignments will be completed 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”, “iTunes”, or visiting the podcast website directly are all recommended strategies to access these podcasts), or to read additional material that will be provided online.

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 use a regular pencil, several different colored pencils, and a trusty straight edge to take notes. A calculator will also come in handy. Finally, I occasionally distribute readings on current events during the semester. Please keep an eye out for that.

To create your Aplia account, please visit the link in Module 1, entitled “Create Aplia Account”.

Library Liaison

The librarian for the Economics Department is Christa Bailey. She is very helpful, and can be reached at 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 2 written assignments, and homework on Aplia.

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 online and may consist of multiple choice, short answer, or graph based questions which draw from class lectures, assignments, and readings. The Final will be comprehensive, with approximately 50% covering material from Midterms 1 & 2. 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 50% of your overall grade.

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

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|------------|-----|
| Homework | 20% |
| Midterm 1 | 20% |
| Midterm 2 | 20% |
| Final Exam | 30% |
| Papers | 10% |

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 credit for this course, you must earn a C or better. This minimum grade requirement may differ depending on what major you are pursuing, so if you are concerned about course credit I encourage you to reach out to your department's academic advisor.

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 minimum 200 word 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).

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 entire degree, even after the degree has been awarded. It's not worth it!

Attendance Policy

Since this is an online class there is no attendance required. However, please be diligent in completing all homework, quizzes, and exams. A “zero” on an assignment is much worse for your grade than the average “F”. Missing exams is not an option except under circumstances of medical excuse or a death in your family (documentation necessary in either case).

Classroom Protocol

Although the textbook will cover many similar topics, the lectures are not identical in content. 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 reading.

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) 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), <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.”

Course Schedule

| Week | Date | Suggested Schedule: read or complete (by date shown) | | Due Dates |
|------|--------------|---|--|--|
| | | Reading | Lectures/Material | |
| 1 | Wed 8/21 | Syllabus, Chapter 1 | Syllabus and Introduction | |
| 2 | Wed 8/28 | Chapter 2 | Chapter 2 | 2 Quizzes: Syllabus, Introduction Optional Aplia Practice |
| 2 | Fri 8/30 | Chapter 3 | Chapter 3 Paper #1 Assigned | HW Due: Ch 1, 2 |
| 3 | Fri 9/6 | Chapter 4 | Chapter 4 | HW Due: Ch 3 9/3 Last day to drop freely |
| 4 | Fri 9/13 | Chapter 5 | Chapter 5 Midterm 1 Review Worksheet | HW Due: Ch 4 9/10 Last day to add |
| 5 | Fri 9/20 | Q&A on Friday @ 7 PM on Zoom <i>(Optional open forum for Midterm and general questions)</i> | | HW Due: Ch 5 |
| 6 | Tue 9/24 | Midterm #1 Tue 9/24 @ any time | | |
| 6 | Fri 9/27 | Chapter 6 | Chapter 6 Paper #2 Assigned | Paper #1 Due |
| 7 | Fri 10/4 | Chapter 7 Chapter 9 (optional) | Chapter 7 Chapter 9 (partial) | HW Due: Ch 6 |
| 8 | Fri 10/11 | Chapter 8 | Chapter 8 | HW Due: Ch 7 HW Due: Ch 9 |
| 9 | Fri 10/18 | Chapter 10 | Chapter 10 | HW Due: Ch 8 |
| 10 | Fri 10/25 | Chapter 11 | Chapter 11 Midterm 2 Review Worksheet | HW Due: Ch 10 |
| 11 | Fri 11/1 | Q&A on Friday @ 7 PM on Zoom <i>(Optional open forum for Midterm and general questions)</i> | | HW Due: Ch 11 |
| 12 | Tue 11/5 | Midterm #2 Tue 11/5 @ any time | | |
| 12 | Fri 11/8 | Chapter 12 | Chapter 12 | Paper #2 Due |
| 13 | Fri 11/15 | Chapter 15 | Chapter 15 | HW Due: Ch 12 |
| 14 | Fri 11/22 | Chapter 16 | Chapter 16 | HW Due: Ch 13 |
| 15 | Tue 11/26 | Chapter 20 (optional) | Applying Economics Final Review Worksheet | HW Due: Ch 15 |
| 16 | Fri 12/6 | Q&A on Friday @ 7 PM on Zoom <i>(Optional open forum for Midterm and general questions)</i> | | HW Due: Applying Economics |
| 17 | Thu 12/12 | Final Exam Thu 12/12 @ 5:15 - 7:30p | | |