

San José State University (1/25/2019)

Economics 2B, *Microeconomics Lab*, Section 1, SP 19

Instructor/Email*:	Matthew Holian, Ph.D / Matthew.Holian@sjsu.edu
Office Hours* / Location:	by appointment
Lecture Room/ Lab Room	NA -- This is an online class with no physical meeting location
Prerequisites:	A three-unit principles of microeconomics class

*Email is my preferred form of communication. Also, during final exam week, office hours are by appointment only.

Faculty Web Page, Canvas and Communication Issues

Canvas is the Learning Management System at SJSU. Please be sure you can log in and are receiving my announcements. Although I will be communicating with the class through Canvas, if you have an individual question for me, please email me directly. For info on accessing Canvas visit <https://sjsu.instructure.com>.

Course Description

This course is designed to complement and add to a three-unit, traditional microeconomics class. A distinguishing feature of four-unit Principles of Microeconomics courses at SJSU is their writing component. This lab will require students to complete weekly quizzes and also “reflection” writing assignments, where students will reflect on the questions they were asked in the quizzes and the content of the readings associated with the quizzes. The class will not meet physically and all assignments and announcements will be through Canvas. Please pay close attention to announcements and deadlines.

Course and Program Learning Objectives (CLOs and PLOs)

This course emphasizes two PLOs: *microeconomic theory* (ECON PLO1) and *communication* (PLO5). There are two specific Course Learning Objectives for ECON 2: CLO 1.) Explain core concepts in microeconomics. CLO 2.) Use tools of microeconomic analysis to analyze a problem of social importance. CLOs 1 will be assessed with weekly reflection assignments, and CLO 2 by a term paper.

Required Textbook Resources

- 1.) *A Multimedia Principles of Economics Textbook* is based on the textbook by L. Rittenberg and T. Tregarthen, originally published by Flatworld Knowledge. Students can download a free PDF of all the chapters covered in this course here: http://www.sjsu.edu/people/matthew.holian/courses/1B/s1/READER_ECON_1B_SP_14.pdf. I have also created videos for each section we will cover: <https://mattholian.blogspot.com/2014/03/a-multimedia-principles-of-economics.html>

Assignments and Grading

Passing this class requires earning at least 12 Weekly Lab Assignment points AND passing the Term Paper. In the table below you will find the total points associated with these assignments. Explanations for each of these assignments follow the table.

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Due Dates</i>
Weekly Assignments	15 (1 point each)	Fridays @ 11:59p.m.
Term Paper	1	Final Paper 5/3

Weekly Quizzes and “Reflection” Writing Assignments

The Weekly Reflection Assignments revolve around quizzes which in turn are based on the material in the textbook. Although you will be taking the quizzes each week, *your scores on the quizzes themselves do not directly determine your grade*. Instead, each week you will be writing a “reflection” paper based on the questions you answered in the quizzes, and the textbook and video material that the quizzes were drawn from, and your performance on *these reflection assignments alone* will determine whether or not you earn the Weekly Assignment point for the week. For example, a typical reflection assignment will ask you to critique and evaluate the questions you were asked based on how well they assess student learning of microeconomic theory. Many of the answers to the quiz questions can be found online, so the fact that you can answer them correctly doesn’t necessarily reveal anything to me about your grasp of microeconomic theory. What is more important is whether, for example, you can distinguish between good and bad questions, as only someone with a good command of microeconomic theory can write compelling reflection papers on these questions.

Term Paper

Some of the reflection assignments will also ask you to describe and critique “Case in Point” boxes that appear in each section of the textbook. These boxes usually contain about 3-5 paragraphs of writing. They typically use some tools of microeconomics to analyze a problem of social importance. In the Term Paper, you will be writing three original Case in Point (CIP) articles, that will be similar in length and spirit to those from the textbook. All term papers will have five sections: Section 1 will be a one paragraph introduction that describes the three original CIP articles you wrote. Sections 2 through 4 will be the CIP articles. Section 5 will be a one paragraph conclusion that highlights any similarities across the CIP articles and any general conclusions. Students can draw inspiration for their original CIP articles from those in the textbook, contemporary news stories dealing with microeconomic issues, as well as their observations on everyday life. “Economics is everywhere” and this semester, you should be on the lookout for real-life examples that highlight or illustrate core microeconomic concepts.

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/>”