

**Instructor:** Aidin Hajikhameneh  
**Office Location:** DMH 142  
**Email:** aidin.hajikhameneh@sjsu.edu  
**Virtual Office Hours:** Wednesdays, 10:00am-11:00am; and by appointment  
**Class Days/Time:** Online  
**Prerequisites:** Economics 101, 104

## **1 Course Description**

### **1.1 Catalog Description**

Advanced analysis of costs, pricing, revenue, market structures, economic efficiency, rates of wages, rent, interest, profits and allocation of resources; analytical models and economic equilibrium. Prerequisite: ECON 101 and ECON 104.

### **1.2 Additional Description**

This course covers some extended topics in economic decision making. Specifically, we will put emphasis on the following aspects of consumers/individuals and firms' behavior:

1. Consumer Theory: here, we mainly discuss consumers' preferences and that how consumers maximize their utility/pleasure subject to their budget/money constraint.
2. Producer Theory: we analyze the production process, in which firms employ inputs and produce outputs, and will discuss how firms aim at either maximizing their profit or minimizing their cost.
3. Game Theory: we will have a closer look at how two or more rational agents (that is, individuals, firms, and etc.) engage in transactions and/or make decisions that will affect each other's utility, profit, or welfare.

**Note:** A solid grasp of logic, graphical methods, maximization / minimization techniques, and partial derivatives is essential. Class lectures, homework, and exams will make regular use of algebra and calculus since most economic concepts lend themselves to mathematical expression. If the student becomes lost or is unfamiliar with some of the economic concepts or mathematical techniques early in the class, the student should let the instructor know as soon as possible.

## 2 Course Format

This is an online class delivered through Canvas. As such, students are required to have access to a computer that has the most up to date operating system, up to date web browser and associated media players, a webcam, and microphone. There are computers available on campus and at libraries, tech centers, proctoring centers, etc. These are all to ensure that you have the necessary system requirements to smoothly run the Canvas site and therefore participate in the class activities.<sup>1</sup>

Students are prohibited from recording class activities (including class lectures, office hours, advising sessions, etc.), distributing class recordings, or posting class recordings. Materials created by the instructor for the course (syllabi, lectures and lecture notes, presentations, etc.) are copyrighted by the instructor. This university policy (S12-7) is in place to protect the privacy of students in the course, as well as to maintain academic integrity through reducing the instances of cheating. Students who record, distribute, or post these materials will be referred to the Student Conduct and Ethical Development office. Unauthorized recording may violate university and state law. It is the responsibility of students that require special accommodations or assistive technology due to a disability to notify the instructor.

### 2.1 Lectures via Zoom in Canvas

The lectures are delivered asynchronously via Zoom in Canvas. That is, I record the lectures and make them available each week on Mondays.

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<sup>1</sup>In an online class it is your responsibility to ensure you have the proper technology to view the online curriculum. [Canvas](#) or [SJSU eCampus](#) can provide support for you to get started. Technical support is provided on campus when you are having technical difficulties such as password reset, browser problems, computer problems, accessibility and issues encountered when using Canvas courses. <http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/> or: (408) 924-2337 or: [ecampus@sjsu.edu](mailto:ecampus@sjsu.edu)

## 2.2 Office Hours via Zoom in Canvas

I have synchronous office hours via Zoom in Canvas on Wednesdays from 10 to 11 am. This is an excellent opportunity to interact with your fellow students and me in real time. To join office hours from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android, use the following links and password:

<https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/91494632710?pwd=OFFXSms3eIVUeWtOSjcwWjJuMzE5Zz09U>

Password: 6l365l

## 2.3 Exams in ProctorU

All exams are held synchronously via [ProctorU](#). All students take their exam at same time. For details of exams' weight and time, see Sections [5.2](#) and [8](#), respectively.

ProctorU is an online proctoring service that allows you to take your exam from your home. ProctorU is available 24/7. Creating a ProctorU account is simple! All you will need to do is visit the following link; <https://go.proctoru.com/registrations> and select the "Test-Taker" option.

Please be sure to review the [Student Resource Page](#) to prepare yourself and your work-space for your appointment. ProctorU encourages students to test their computer by logging in to your ProctorU account and clicking "Test your Equipment" to make sure your computer is optimal for testing to ensure you have the best possible testing experience. You will be able to test your equipment and connect with a ProctorU representative for tech support 24/7 if needed.

**In order to use ProctorU you will need to have a high-speed internet connection, a webcam (internal or external), a Windows or Mac Operating System, and a government issued photo ID. Please note tablets (Chromebooks, iPads, and Surface Pro's) are not compatible. You must have a working webcam and microphone in order to test.**

## 3 Course Learning Outcomes and Program Learning Objectives

To develop and apply knowledge and understanding of the workings of governments and markets. This course fits into the following Department of Economics program leaning objectives (PLO).

- PLO 1: Microeconomics
- PLO 4: Specialist Area (Policy Economics, Quantitative Methods)

- PLO 5: Communication

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to demonstrate the following:

- CLO 1 Explain how formal models of rational behavior help us better understand the formation of and citizen responses to public policies.
- CLO 2 Recognize how the nature of certain goods and services often leads to government intervention in markets.
- CLO 3 Identify how political institutions and social choice rules shape the types of policy we see.
- CLO 4 Examine several analytical methods of analyzing government, including social choice models, public choice models, and welfare economics.

## **4 Required Texts/Readings**

### **4.1 Primary Textbook (Required)**

- "Microeconomic Theory: Basic Principles and Extensions", (12th Edition) by Nicholson and Snyder. ISBN 9781305505797

If you choose to use an older version of the text, it is your responsibility to account for any differences in assigned readings and homework problems.

### **4.2 Other Readings (Not Required)**

- "Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach" by Hal Varian is the textbook if you want a refresher on microeconomics.
- "Microeconomic Analysis" by Hal Varian If you are more comfortable with highly mathematical approach to microeconomics.
- "Microeconomic Theory" by Mas-Colel, Whinston, and Green for an advance treatment of topic covered in this course. Note that this book is the standard textbook used in most PhD programs.

## 5 Assignments and Grading Policy

Grades for this course are composed of three homework, two midterms, and a final exam. The grading rubric and a description of each component is provided below:

### Grade Breakdown:

- Homework            30% (10% each)
- Midterm Exams    40% (20% each)
- Final Exam           30%

### 5.1 Homework

There will be 3 homework assignments. Each is worth 10% of the final grade. Take the homework assignments seriously. Students often learn more from carefully thinking through the homework questions than taking exams. Working in groups on homework assignments is allowed (and advised). Each student must prepare a separate write-up. You may earn extra 2 points per assignment if it is typed using a tool such as  $\text{\LaTeX}$ . Students should submit their homework assignments through Canvas in a Microsoft Word or PDF file. The file name should be of the following format:

*First name-Last name-Student number-Course name-Homework #*

For example:

*Aidin-Hajikhameneh-123456789-Microeconomic Analysis-Homework 1*

See Section 8 for homework due dates and due times. **No late homework will be accepted.**

### 5.2 Midterm and Final Exam

Each midterm is worth 20% of your grade. The final exam is worth 30% of your grade. All exams are cumulative. Exams will be composed of short answer, essay, and problem-solving questions. The best way to prepare is to review all homework assignments, study all of the readings, and practice with some of the questions out of the primary textbook.

Exams will be proctored in this course through ProctorU. Please note it is the instructor's discretion to determine the method of proctoring. If cheating is suspected the proctored videos may be used for further inspection and may become part of the student's disciplinary record.

### 5.3 Grading Criterion

Category	Letter Grade	Numerical Grade
<i>A</i>	<i>A</i> <sup>+</sup>	97-100
	<i>A</i>	93-96
	<i>A</i> <sup>-</sup>	90-92
<i>B</i>	<i>B</i> <sup>+</sup>	87-89
	<i>B</i>	83-86
	<i>B</i> <sup>-</sup>	80-82
<i>C</i>	<i>C</i> <sup>+</sup>	77-79
	<i>C</i>	73-76
	<i>C</i> <sup>-</sup>	70-72
<i>D</i>	<i>D</i> <sup>+</sup>	67-69
	<i>D</i>	63-66
	<i>D</i> <sup>-</sup>	60-62
<i>F</i>	<i>F</i>	Below 60

Table 1: **Grades will be curved as needed.**

## 6 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](#).

## 7 MYSJSU Messaging

Copies of the syllabus, assignments, notes etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System](#). Check the Canvas for updates regularly.

## 8 Econ 201 Course Schedule and Readings

All due dates and due times are according to Pacific Standard Time (PST).

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines	Due Dates & Due Times
1	Aug 24	Overview of the course & Math Review (N&S Ch. 1 and 2)	
2	Aug 31	Consumer Theory: Preferences and Utility (N&S Ch. 3)	
3	Sep 8	Consumer Theory: Preferences and Utility cont. (N&S Ch. 3)	
4	Sep 14	Consumer Theory: Utility Maximization (N&S Ch. 4) Expenditure Minimization (N&S Ch. 4)	
5	Sep 21	Consumer Theory: Income & Substitution Effects (N&S Ch. 5)	
6	Sep 28	Firm Theory: Production (N&S Ch. 9)	<b>HW1</b> <b>Due Sep 28 by 6:00 pm</b>
7	<b>Oct 5</b>	<b>Midterm 1: Consumer Theory</b>	<b>From 6:00 to 8:00 pm</b>
8	Oct 12	Firm Theory: Cost (N&S Ch. 10)	
9	Oct 19	Firm Theory: Profit maximization (N&S Ch. 11)	
10	Oct 26	Firm Theory: Cost minimization (N&S Ch. 10, 11)	
11	Nov 2	Game Theory: Introduction (N&S Ch. 8)	<b>HW2</b> <b>Due Nov 2 by 6:00 pm</b>
12	Nov 9	Game Theory: Introduction cont. (N&S Ch. 8)	
13	<b>Nov 16</b>	<b>Midterm 2: Firm Theory and Consumer Theory</b>	<b>From 6:00 to 8:00 pm</b>
14	Nov 23	Game Theory: Advanced Concepts (N&S Ch. 8)	
15	Nov 30	Game Theory: Signaling (N&S Ch. 8, 15)	
16	Dec 7	Game Theory: Bertrand and Cournot Models (N&S Ch. 15) & Review	<b>HW3</b> <b>Due Dec 7 by 6:00 pm</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	Dec 11		<b>From 20:00 to 22:00 pm</b>

Table 2: Fall 2020 Course Schedule.