

San José State University
Department of Economics
ECON 109: Analysis of Economic Issues for Teachers
Spring 2020

Instructor:	James (Steve) O'Brien
Office Location:	Dudley Moorhead Hall (DMH) 219
Email:	james.obrien@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Tues/Thur 8:30AM (By appointment)
Class Days/Times:	Tues/Thur 9am-10:15am
Classroom:	DMH 161
Prerequisites:	Upper division standing.

Notes: Not acceptable for Economics majors, except double majors; acceptable for Economics minors.

Course Description

Economic analysis of such topics as unemployment, inflation, poverty, pollution, education and international trade will be covered within the context of K-12 education.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. CLO 1 Comparative Advantage: Define and appreciate the critical role of specialization and how it contributes to gains from trade and globalization.
2. CLO 2 Supply and Demand: Apply the notion that economics is about the allocation of scarce resources, that scarcity forces choice, tradeoffs exist and that every choice has an opportunity cost.
3. CLO 3 Develop the ability to relate basic Macro Economic concepts to the world around us
4. CLO 4 Develop the ability to relate basic Micro Economic concepts to the world around us

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Modern Principles: Microeconomics by Tyler Cowen and Alex Tabarrok (2nd, 3rd or 4th Edition)

This textbook is available for rental as well as purchase from many different sources. I would recommend browsing Amazon. Purchasing the textbook is a requirement for this course, and questions for quizzes and exams will include information from the readings.

Other Readings

I will post or link any additional readings on the Canvas course website.

Canvas: the learning management system will be the central online communication hub for the class. Grades, additional readings and messages related to class will be posted through the Canvas system. You will access Canvas using your SJSU login and password at <https://sjsu.instructure.com>.

**Please be sure that your email is listed correctly or you risk missing key information communicated throughout the semester.*

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>

NOTE that [University policy F69-24](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf> states that “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

Note that “All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See [University Policy F13-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

Grading Policy

Your grade in this course consists of two midterms, one final exam, ten in class quizzes (out of twelve possible scores) and a class presentation. The midterms and final exam cover material presented both in class and in the textbook. Quizzes will cover both lecture and reading materials.

While attendance is not mandatory, in class quizzes are an important component of your grade. I will not list a schedule of quizzes; they will generally be unannounced “pop” quizzes. Twelve quizzes will be offered, of which, your ten best scores will count toward your grade. These quizzes will be excellent preparation for questions on the midterms and the final exam. If you miss a quiz, I will not be passing out additional copies and there are no opportunities for

makeups. I will periodically allow notes to be used for quizzes, but not your textbook or any electronic devices including laptops, phones, and tablets. Please come to class prepared to participate in small group and larger class discussions. I reserve the right to call on you in class at my discretion.

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

Midterm 1	20%
Midterm 2	20%
Final Exam	30%
Class Presentation	10%
Quizzes	20%

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
97.5% to 100%	A+	93% to 97.49%	A	90% to 92.9%	A-
87.5% to 89.9%	B+	83% to 87.49%	B	80% to 82.9%	B-
77.5% to 79.9%	C+	73% to 77.49%	C	70% to 72.9%	C-
67.5% to 69.9%	D+	63% to 67.49%	D	60% to 62.9%	D-
0% to 59.9%	F				

Classroom Protocol

My hope is to have a fun and engaging class. We will be covering and discussing topics and concepts that may be new to some, but familiar to others. Please come to class prepared to engage in discussions with an open mind and curiosity regarding how our class can relate to the world around us. Let's be respectful of the time and effort we all put into this class. If you arrive late, please quietly find a seat. Please turn cell phone ringers off. If you need to take a call, just excuse yourself.

University Policies

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU's policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See [University Policy S90-5](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf>. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the [SJSU catalog](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html), at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html>. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

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](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/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](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

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 make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. [Presidential Directive 97-03](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

ECON 109, Spring Course Schedule

Course Schedule

**Schedule is subject to change but only with plenty of notice in class and on Canvas*

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1/23	Introduction and Course Overview
2	1/28	Cowen/Tabarrok (CT) Ch. 1-2, Economic Ideas, Trade, Comparative Advantage
2	1/30	CT Ch. 3 Supply and Demand
3	2/4	CT Ch. 3 Supply and Demand (continued)
3	2/6	CT Ch. 4 Equilibrium and Prices
4	2/11	CT. Ch. 6 Taxes and Subsidies
4	2/13	CT Ch. 8 Price Ceilings and Floors (parts of Ch. 7 Price Signals)
5	2/18	CT Ch. 9 International Trade
5	2/20	CT Ch. 10 Externalities
6	2/25	Catch Up and Review
6	2/27	Midterm #1
7	3/3	CT Ch. 24-25 GDP and Economic Growth
7	3/5	CT Ch. 24-25 (Continued)
8	3/10	CT Ch. 28 Unemployment and Labor Force Participation
8	3/12	CT Ch. 28 (Continued)
9	3/17	CT Ch. 29 Inflation and the Quantity Theory of Money
9	3/19	CT Ch. 29 (Continued)
10	3/24	Catch Up and Review
10	3/26	Midterm #2
11	3/31	Spring Break
11	4/2	Spring Break
12	4/7	CT Ch. 32 The Federal Reserve System
12	4/9	CT Ch. 33 Monetary Policy

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
13	4/14	CT Ch. 34 The Federal Budget: Taxes and Spending
13	4/16	CT Ch. 35 Fiscal Policy
14	4/21	CT Ch. 34-35 (Continued)
14	4/23	CT Ch. 13 Monopoly
15	4/28	CT CH. 13 Monopoly
15	4/30	CT Ch. 19 Political Economy and Public Choice
16	5/5	CT Ch. 20 Economics and Public Policy
16	5/7	Review for Final Exam
Final Exam	Tuesday 5/19	7:15AM - 9:30AM DMH 161