

San José State University – Economics Department
ECON 1A: Principles of Macroeconomics
Section 03 – Spring 2021

Course and Contact Information

Instructor(s):	Brian Hurst
Office Location:	n/a
Telephone:	n/a
Email:	Canvas Preferred (or brian.hurst@sjsu.edu)
Office Hours:	M/W 9:00-10:00 AM (To schedule, visit: https://office-hours-hurst.appointlet.com)
Class Days/Time:	M/W 10:30 - 11:45 AM
Classroom:	Zoom (online)
Prerequisites:	May be taken concurrently with, or prior to, ECON 1B.

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). In addition to watching lecture videos to gain a thorough understanding of the basics, students should also allow time in their schedule for readings, homework, studying, etc.

Course Format

This is a fully online course that will require students to use a computer with internet connectivity, word processing capabilities, and sound. All course materials including the syllabus, worksheets, grades, and more can be found on or are linked to from Canvas in the modules. The login website is <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for checking Canvas regularly.

All homework will be on Canvas or MindTap platforms. Instructions to follow on page 2. *For help with using Canvas see [Canvas Student Resources page](#)*

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 everyday life.

Course Expectations

Before taking this course, you should be comfortable with XY graphs (creating, manipulating, and interpreting) and algebra. You should also have good reading comprehension, and critical thinking skills.

Furthermore, I expect that students will demonstrate autonomy in this course. In college, your performance and progression through the course is primarily your own responsibility. Professors play a supportive role, but it is your responsibility to ask questions and reach out for help when you need it.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

- 1) Describe comparative advantage, and use it to evaluate and compare policies, and to predict outcomes.
- *Ex: gains from trade, globalization, welfare strategies*
- 2) Identify the role of specialization within a market and the preconditions for specialization (hierarchical structures, prices, etc), and illustrate the role/presence of specialization in regards to current events.
- 3) Recall macroeconomic measures, and apply them to analyze the policies, actions, and decisions of various groups within the economy; from individuals, to businesses, to various levels of government.
- *Ex: real versus nominal calculations, GDP, unemployment, and inflation; as well as the subcomponents that are nested within each of these measures.*
- 4) Reproduce Macroeconomic Models, and describe how they relate to, and interact with, current events and policies.
- *Examples include the circular flow diagram, monetary and fiscal policy, the market for loanable funds, interest rate determination, supply and demand of money, and price level determination.*
- 5) Conduct research and analysis in an independent and unbiased manner.
- *For example, students should be able to distinguish between normative and positive statements, verify information through cross-referencing, construct accurate representations of theories with which they disagree, and identify incomplete or potentially misleading statistical representations of data.*

Required Textbook

Principles of Macroeconomics, 9th Ed (2020) by N. Gregory Mankiw

ISBN-13: 978-0-357-13349-1 **ISBN-10:** 0-357-13349-8

A digital copy of the 9th edition will be included with your purchase of MindTap (see below), and you can rent a hard copy for only \$7.99. However, if you wish to purchase a hard copy to keep, this book is available through many other sources. Recent editions, like the 7th and 8th edition, are also suitable.

Other Requirements - MindTap and Note Taking Tools

To create your MindTap account, please visit the link in Module 1, titled: "Create MindTap Account."

Homework assignments will be completed online using both MindTap and Canvas. Access to MindTap is a paid service, and includes a digital copy of the book, as mentioned above. Homework may also require you to listen to a portion of a podcast, watch videos, or read additional material. This will all be linked to through the Canvas modules.

For note taking during lecture, I recommend a regular pencil, several different colored pencils, a straight edge, and a calculator. When hand-drawing graphs, we will often use multiple steps that you need to keep separate in your mind.

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 cumulative Final. There will also be 1 written essay assignment, reading quizzes, and homework on MindTap. Instructions for these assignments will be discussed during the course, and all assignments will be referenced through the modules.

Final Exam

The final will be comprehensive, with about 50% of the questions dedicated to the new material, and 50% dedicated to material already covered in Midterms 1 & 2.

Grading Information

Homework assignments are due for every chapter. Once you are enrolled, late homework will not be accepted for any reason, without exception. However, if you complete the "Introduce Yourself To Me" assignment within the first month of class (see Module #2), your lowest 3 HW scores will be dropped at the end of the semester. These drops are intended to account for sickness, technological issues, misunderstandings, emergencies, etc. Just like a real job, it is your responsibility to minimize your chances of missing an assignment by avoiding procrastination.

Reading Quizzes are available before each class that starts a new chapter. These quizzes are intended to check that you are prepared for class, and they must be taken the morning of that class. Reading the chapter does not count as prepared; read and re-read until you understand the material. If you do poorly or miss quizzes, you may earn points for up to three reading quizzes via extra credit:

Extra Credit assignments are worth five points each (equivalent to one reading quiz), and can be completed up to three times per semester. The upload link will be available in both midterm modules and the final exam module, and you may upload your work at any time before the final exam. To earn EC, you must listen to any "Planet Money" or "How I Built This" podcast, and turn in a short essay of 200 words or more that describes: 1) Three things you learned, and 2) How the podcast related to our course.

Exams will be online and will consist of multiple choice, graphical, or short answer questions. The exam will contain both mathematical and theoretical questions, and will draw from lectures, assignments, worksheets, and readings. If you miss Midterm 1 or 2 for any reason, your Final Exam will have that midterm's value added to it and will become 40% of your overall grade.

Tests in this class are **intentionally challenging**, but will be curved according to overall class performance. This is a widely practiced strategy for preventing cheating in online classes.

Papers will be submitted and graded in three stages: proposal, first draft, final draft. More information will be available on the essay prompt in Module #3.

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

Homework	20%
Reading Quizzes	10%
Midterm 1	20%
Midterm 2	20%
Final Exam	20%
Papers	10%

Based on the above weights and categories, your letter grade will be assigned as follows:

Percent	Grade	Percent	Grade	Percent	Grade
98-100%	A+	93-97.9%	A	90-92.9%	A-
88-89.9%	B+	83-87.9%	B	80-82.9%	B-
78-79.9%	C+	73-77.9%	C	70-72.9%	C-
68-69.9%	D+	63-67.9%	D	60-62.9%	D-
0-59.9%	F				

This course must be passed with a C- or better as a CSU graduation requirement. This minimum grade requirement may differ depending on your major, so I encourage you to clarify with your academic advisor.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent to record a class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information](#), which is hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Education. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

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 are no attendance requirements. However, please be diligent in completing all work and assignments. A "zero" is much worse for your grade than even an "F". Missing exams is not an option except under circumstances of medical excuse or a death in the family (documentation is needed in either case).

Classroom protocol

The lectures and the textbook cover similar material but are not identical. Exams and quizzes will contain questions from both sources, so I suggest that you be diligent with completing all aspects of the course.

Consent for Recording of Class or Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](#) 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 recording share the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”

- Under certain circumstances, 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, the 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	Module <i>Opens Monday each week</i>	Reading & Lecture Material <i>Read chapters before each class</i>	Assignments <i>Due dates shown left</i>
1 1/27	#1: Course Intro	Syllabus & Introduction (Optional Reading - Ch 1)	Optional: Practice Quiz
2 2/1	#2: PPF's, Gains From Trade	Ch 2 Reading Quiz	Syllabus Quiz Moral Roots Quiz
2 2/3		Ch 3 Reading Quiz	
3 2/8	#3: Supply & Demand	Ch 4 Reading Quiz	Ch 2 HW Quiz Ch 3 HW Quiz
3 2/10		Ch 4 Paper Assigned: 1 st Draft	
4 2/15	#4: Elasticity	Ch 5 Reading Quiz Study Guide - Midterm 1	Ch 4 HW Quiz
4 2/17		Ch 5	- Essay: Proposal
5 2/22	#5: Midterm #1 & Essay	Midterm Review	Ch 5 HW Quiz
5 2/24	Midterm #1		- "Introduce Yourself" Meeting Due by 2/26
6 3/1	#6: Govt Intervention	Ch 6 Reading Quiz	
6 3/3		Ch 6	
7 3/8	#7: Total Surplus	Ch 7 Reading Quiz	Ch 6 HW Quiz
7 3/10		Ch 7 (and part of Ch 9) (Ch 9 reading optional)	
8 3/15	#8: Taxes & DWL	Ch 8 Reading Quiz	Ch 7 HW Quiz
8 3/17		Ch 8	- Essay: Rough Draft
9 3/22	#9: Production & GDP	Ch 10 Reading Quiz	Ch 8 HW Quiz
9 3/24		Ch 10	
10 3/29	NO CLASS - Spring Break		
10 3/31	NO CLASS - Spring Break		
11 4/5	#10: Cost of Living & CPI	Ch 11 Reading Quiz	Ch 10 HW Quiz
11 4/7		Ch 11 Study Guide - Midterm 2	
12 4/12	#11: Midterm #2 & Essay	Midterm #2 Review	Ch 11 HW Quiz Essay: Final Draft
12 4/14	Midterm #2		
13 4/19	#12: Production & Growth	Ch 12 Reading Quiz	
13 4/21		Ch 12	

14	4/26	#13: Unemployment	Ch 15	Reading Quiz	Ch 12 HW Quiz
14	4/28		Ch 15		
15	5/3	#14: The Monetary System	Ch 16	Reading Quiz	Ch 15 HW Quiz
15	5/5		Ch 16		
16	5/10	#15: AD, AS, & Historical Examples	Ch 20	Reading Quiz	Ch 16 HW Quiz
16	5/12	#15: AD, AS, & Historical Examples	Ch 20	Study Guide - Final Exam	
17	5/17	#16: Final Exam	Final Exam Review		Ch 20 HW Quiz
18	5/25	Final Exam Tue 5/25 @ 9:45 am - 12 noon			Extra Credit