

San José State University
College of Social Sciences/Economics

Econ 1A, Principles of Economics: Macroeconomics, Section 08,
Spring 2026

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Maria Aziz
Office Location:	DMH 219
Email:	maria.aziz@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Mon & Wed 12:30 pm -1:30 pm (or by appointment)
Class Days/Time:	Mon & Wed/4:30 pm – 5:15 pm
Classroom:	DMH 234
Prerequisites:	May be taken concurrently or before Econ 1B

Course Description

This course stimulates interest in students about determining economic aggregates such as total output, total employment, the price level, and the rate of economic growth. May be taken concurrently or before ECON 1B.

MYSJSU Messaging and Canvas

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](#). You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](#) on [Spartan App Portal](#) (or other communication systems as indicated by the instructor) to learn of any updates.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students have a concrete foundation to pursue intermediate study in macroeconomic theory related to three broad areas: comparative advantage, macroeconomic measures, and macroeconomic models. Specific learning objectives include:

- Comparative Advantage (specialization and the gains from trade; globalization)
- Macroeconomic Measures (real versus nominal calculations; components and concept of GDP; components and concept of unemployment figures; calculation of inflation)

· Macroeconomic Models (circular flow; monetary and fiscal policy; the market for loanable funds & interest rate determination; the demand and supply of money & price level determination)

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Modern Principles: Macroeconomics by Tyler Cowen - Alexander Tabarrok - Worth Publishers – 4th Edition

This book is easily available on www.amazon.com and it's very inexpensive. Make sure that you are buying the 4th edition of the **Macro** text, and not the 6th edition, which is a lot more expensive. (New and used copies of the older editions are available online.)

You also need to buy access to an online course offered by **Achieve**. The cost is \$50.

Other Readings

Other reading material will be posted on the class website on Canvas.

Other technology requirements/equipment/material

As mentioned above, you need to buy access to an online course offered by **Achieve**. You also need to familiarize yourself with **Canvas** as all communications will be done through this portal.

Library Liaison

Christa Bailey, christa.bailey@sjsu.edu

Course Requirements and Assignments

The course consists of two midterms, one comprehensive final exam, and weekly online assignments (Achieve). The midterms and final exam cover material presented in class. Achieve assignments reinforce the key course concepts.

Students should attend all class meetings, not only because they are responsible for the discussed material, but also because active participation frequently ensures maximum benefit for all classmates. Attendance per se, though, shall not be used as a criterion for grading. Participation, however, is.

If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what transpired in it. Ask fellow students, review their notes, and re-read the textbook to learn what was covered. If I have covered the answer to a question in class, I will refer you to class materials for you to find the answer.

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course-related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practice. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Grading Information

If you experience any difficulty in this course, please do not hesitate to come to me for help. I am available not only during office hours but also by email and appointment. I am always happy to clarify difficult concepts, resolve any lingering confusion, or otherwise assist you in making this course enjoyable and rewarding.

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>	<i>97 to 100%</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>93 to 96%</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>90 to 92%</i>
<i>B plus</i>	<i>87 to 89 %</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>83 to 86%</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>80 to 82%</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>77 to 79%</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>73 to 76%</i>
<i>C minus</i>	<i>70 to 72%</i>
<i>D plus</i>	<i>67 to 69%</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>65 to 66%</i>
<i>F</i>	<i>Below 65%</i>

“This course must be passed with a C- or better as a CSU graduation requirement.”

Determination of Grades

10 Achieve Assignments (10 pts each)	25%
Class Participation	10%
Mid-term 1	20%
Mid-term 2	20%
Final Exam	25%

12 Achieve assignments will be given over the semester; I will drop your two lowest-scored assignments. This means you may miss or skip two assignments if you choose. You must have 10 assignment scores; any additional missing assignments will be counted as zeroes.

I do not recommend missing Achieve assignments, as they will cover important material that will be on the midterm and final exams. However, things come up in life so I offer the dropped score option for unanticipated disruptions to your schedule. Having said this, because you have the opportunity to drop two assignments, I will not accept any late submissions. There will be firm deadlines for all assignments and late assignments will be recorded as a zero.

*If a personal emergency comes up causing you to miss a midterm for a *verified and valid* personal emergency or medical reason *documented to me in advance of or immediately after the exam*, the final exam will then take on the weight of the final plus the missed midterm. If a similar situation takes place around the final exam for a *verified and valid* reason *documented to me in advance of the final*, contact me and we will reschedule your final exam.

Classroom Protocol

I expect students to arrive prepared to discuss the assigned readings on time. Class participation, perfect attendance, and arriving timely in class help students perform better in class. Students must ensure that they place any device that might disturb the class into silent mode. I expect students to conduct themselves in a way that respects the goals of the instructor and fellow students.

Academic Honesty

The Department of Economics takes academic honesty very seriously and follows the policies posted online at <https://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf>. It is the responsibility of all students to read and understand what constitutes a violation of academic honesty. Claims of ignorance cannot be used to justify dishonest behaviors. Any student caught engaging in activities that violate the University academic honesty policy will receive zero credit for the course instrument(s) which violates the academic honesty policy, and up to a semester grade of “F” for this course. Faculty are required to report cheating, plagiarism, and all instances of academic misconduct (including self-plagiarism) to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development and to the Chair of the Department of Economics who tracks violations. All students must also complete or retake the SJSU Plagiarism Tutorial & Quiz at <https://libguides.sjsu.edu/plagiarism> by the second week of the semester.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](#), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for a recording of the class, etc., and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](#) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Disability Notice

Please contact me as soon as possible if you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability. Presidential Directive 97-03 at https://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center at <https://www.sjsu.edu/aec/> to establish a record of their disability.

Religious Accommodations

Please contact me as soon as possible if you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a religious holiday. University Policy S14-7 at <https://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf> requires that students requesting accommodations must inform me in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify me, in writing, at least three days before the date that they will be absent.

Econ 1A / Principles of Economics: Macroeconomics, Section 08, Spring 2026

The schedule is subject to change with fair notice in class and on Canvas.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	01/26	Introduction and Chapter 1, The Big Ideas
1	01/28	Chapter 2, The Power of Trade and Comparative Advantage, Assignment 1
2	02/02	Chapter 3, Supply and Demand
2	02/04	Chapter 3, Continued

3	02/09	Chapter 4, Equilibrium: How Supply and Demand Prices, Assignment 2
3	02/11	Chapter 5, Price Ceilings and Floors
4	02/16	Chapter 6, GDP and the Measurement of Progress, Assignment 3
4	02/18	Chapter 7, The Wealth of Nations and Economic Growth
5	02/23	MIDTERM 1
5	02/25	Chapter 9, Saving, Investment, and Financial System, Assignment 4
6	03/02	Chapter 10, Stock Markets and Personal Finance
6	03/04	Chapter 11, Unemployment and Labor Force Participation
7	03/09	Chapter 11, Continued, Assignment 5
7	03/11	Chapter 12, Inflation and the Quantity Theory of Money
8	03/16	Chapter 12, Continued, Assignment 6
8	03/18	Chapter 13, Business Fluctuations: Aggregate Demand and Supply, Assignment 7
9	03/23	Chapter 13, Continued
9	03/25	MIDTERM 2
10	03/30-04/03	SPRING RECESS "NO CLASSES"
11	04/06	Chapter 15, The Federal Reserve System and Open Market Operations
11	04/08	Chapter 15, Continued
12	04/13	Chapter 16, Monetary Policy, Assignment 8
12	04/15	Chapter 17, The Federal Budget: Taxes and Spending Assignment 9
13	04/20	Chapter 18, Fiscal Policy
13	04/22	Chapter 18, Continued, Assignment 10
14	04/27	Chapter 19, International Trade
14	04/29	Chapter 19, Continued, Assignment 11
15	05/04	Chapter 21, Political Economy and Public Choice

15	05/06	Chapter 21. Continued, Assignment 12
16	05/11	Review for Final Exam
Final Exam	05/18 Monday	FINAL EXAM – 3:15 pm – 5:15 pm Exam will be held in our usual classroom