

San José State University
Department of Economics
Econ 1B, Principles of Economics: Microeconomics, Section 63, Fall 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Maria Aziz (Adeel)
Office Location:	https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/94902029191
Telephone:	Email is preferred.
Email:	maria.adeel@sjsu.edu (Remember to write “Econ 1B-63 ” or something similar, together with the topic of the email)
Office Hours:	MW 3:00pm – 4:00pm (or by appointment)
Class Days/Time:	Monday & Wednesday/ 10:30am – 11:45am
Classroom:	https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/99540563230
Prerequisites:	May be taken concurrently or prior to Econ 1A

MYSJSU Messaging and Canvas

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, grades, messages regarding the class, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](#) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](#) at <http://my.sjsu.edu> to learn of any updates. See [University Policy F13-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-2.pdf> for more details.

Course Description

This course stimulates interest in students about allocation of resources and distribution of income, as affected by the workings of the price system and government policies. May be taken concurrently or prior to ECON 1A.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students have concrete foundation to pursue intermediate study in microeconomic theory related to three broad areas: Incentives, Opportunity Cost, and Supply and Demand.

Specific learning objectives include:

- Incentives Matter (law of demand; law of supply; rational decision makers weight marginal costs versus marginal benefits; the power of self-interest)
- Opportunity Costs (sunk costs; production possibilities; the free-lunch fallacy; tradeoffs in consumption and production; gains from interpersonal & international trade; comparative advantage)
- Supply and Demand (understanding the S&D model as a representation of individual choices in exchange based on individual preferences, knowledge and circumstances; ability to examine current events using S&D tools; movement versus shift; welfare analysis)

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Tyler Cowen and Alex Tabarrok, *Modern Principles: Microeconomics* 2nd ed. (New York: Worth, 2011). ISBN-13: 978-1429239998. ISBN-10: 1429239999.

This book is easily available on www.amazon.com and its very inexpensive. Make sure that you are buying the second edition of the Micro text, and not the third edition, which is a lot more expensive. (New and used copies of the second edition are available for sale on the Internet.)

You also need to buy access to an online course offered by **Sapling Learning**. The cost is \$42 (and access to **two** Sapling courses is \$64). I'll inform you when the course is activated, which will be very soon.

Other Readings

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

Other technology requirements / equipment / material

As mentioned above, you need to buy access to an online course offered by **Sapling Learning**. 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

As this class is a four unit class, successful students should expect to spend about 180 hours (normally twelve hours per week or three hours per unit per week) throughout the semester, including reading, preparing for class, attending class, participating in course activities, and so on. *More details can be found from [University Syllabus Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>.*

The course consists of two midterms, one final exam, weekly online assignments (Sapling) and a term paper. The midterms and final exam cover material presented in class. Sapling assignments reinforce the key course concepts. Further details on the term paper will be provided later in the semester.

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.

Grading Information

Converting number grades to letter grades:

95-100 A+	90-94 A	85-89 A-	80-84 B+	75-79 B	70-74 B-	
65-69 C+	60-64 C	55-59 C-	50-54 D+	45-49 D	40-44 D-	0-39 F

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.

Determination of Grades

10 Sapling Assignments (10 pts each)	20%
Class Participation	5%
Mid-term 1	20%
Mid-term 2	20%
Final Exam	20%
Term Paper	5% + 10%

12 Sapling assignments will be given over the course of 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 sapling assignments, as they will cover important material that will be on 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 a silent mode. I expect students to conduct themselves in a way that respects the goals of the instructor and fellow students.

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/>"

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

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	08/19	Introduction and Chapter 1, The Big Ideas
2	08/24	Chapter 2, The Power of Trade and Comparative Advantage, Assignment # 1
2	08/26	Chapter 3, Supply and Demand
3	08/31	Chapter 3, Continued
3	09/02	Chapter 4, Equilibrium: How Supply and Demand Prices, Assignment # 2
4	09/07	Labor Day Holiday
4	09/09	Chapter 5, Elasticity and its implications
5	09/14	Chapter 6, Taxes and Subsidies Assignment # 3
5	09/16	Chapter 7, The Price System: Signals, Speculation, and Prediction
6	09/21	MIDTERM 1
6	09/23	Chapter 8, Price Ceilings and Floors
7	09/28	Chapter 8, Continued And <i>Discussion on the Research Paper</i> , Assignment 4
7	09/30	Chapter 9, International Trade
8	10/05	Chapter 10, Externalities: When the Price is Not Right, Assignment 5
8	10/07	Chapter 11, Cost and Profit Maximization Under Competition,
9	10/12	Chapter 12, Competition and the Invisible Hand, Assignment 6
9	10/14	Chapter 13, Monopoly
10	10/19	Chapter 13, Continued, <i>Submit Rough Draft of the Paper</i> ; Assignment 7
10	10/21	Chapter 14, Price Discrimination and Pricing Strategy
11	10/26	MIDTERM 2
11	10/28	Chapter 15, Oligopoly and Game Theory
12	11/02	Chapter 16/ 17, Monopoly/ Competition and Advertising, Assignment 8
12	11/04	Chapter 18 Labor Markets
13	11/09	Chapter 18, Continued, Assignment 9
13	11/11	Veteran's Day Holiday
14	11/16	Chapter 19, Public Goods and the Tragedy of Commons, Assignment 10
14	11/18	Chapter 19, Continued

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
15	11/23	Chapter 20, Political Economy and Public Choice, <i>SUBMIT FINAL PAPER</i>
15	11/25	Non-Instructional Day
16	11/30	Chapter 20, Continued, Assignment 11
16	12/02	Chapter 21, Economics, Ethics, and Public Policy, Assignment 12
17	12/07	Review for Final Exam
Final Exam	12/14 Monday	FINAL EXAM – 9:45am – 12:00 pm,