

San José State University

Department of Economics

ECON 1B, Principles of Economics: Microeconomics, Section 67&68, Fall 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Fahmida Fakhruddin
Office Location:	DMH 214
Telephone:	Email is preferred
Email:	fahmida.fakhruddin@sjsu.edu (Remember to write “Econ 1B-67 or something similar, together with the topic of the email)
Office Hours:	Wednesdays 12 pm - 2 pm through zoom or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday & Thursday/ 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm (Section 67) Tuesday & Thursday/ 1:30 pm – 2:45 pm (Section 68)
Classroom:	Zoom Class Meeting
Prerequisites:	May be taken concurrently or prior to ECON 1A

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)

MYSJSU Messaging and Canvas

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, grades, messages regarding the class can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](#). You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](#) to learn of any updates. See [University Policy F13-2](#) for more details.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Dirk Mateer & Lee Coppock, **PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS**, 3rd edition, Norton

Paperback ISBN: 978-0-393-42247-4 / Loose leaf ISBN: 978-0-393-43770-6

You will also need access to the online homework system InQuizitive and SmartWork5. Here is how to obtain access to the book and homework system:

- By purchasing a new copy of *Principles of Microeconomics* from the campus bookstore which will contain an activation code.
- By purchasing a copy of the ebook here: <https://digital.wwnorton.com/prinecomi3>
- By purchasing standalone homework access here (if you have a used copy of the book): <https://digital.wwnorton.com/prinecomi3>

Other Readings

Supplemental readings will also be provided throughout the course. Reading of economic press such as The Wall Street Journal, and a reliable newspaper such as the San Jose Mercury News, or the San Francisco Chronicle are also recommended to provide background in current “real life” microeconomic issues.

Library Liaison

Christa Bailey, christa.bailey@sjsu.edu

Class Philosophy

Some of you start classes feeling isolated and lost but not in our class! This class is a community and each of you is part of the community. We all have the same objective: to learn. This class is designed to have you learn in community with your peers. When you're a member of a community, you can rely upon others for help and support when you need it, but you must also be willing to step up and contribute regularly, as well! Let's work together to make this semester awesome for everyone!

Course Requirements

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](#).*

We will use **zoom** for regular class meeting. You need to use canvas to complete all the course activities. There will be InQuizitive assignment, SmartWork5 homework and Quiz involving the application of the theory discussed in class. To do well in the quizzes, midterms and final, it is important that you complete the InQuizitive and SmartWork5 homework each week.

It is expected that you will attend classes each week, participate in discussions in class, complete readings and InQuizitive assignment before class each week, work on homework questions and complete paper on time, and take quizzes, midterms and final exam.

If you feel you are lost or experience any difficulty in this course, please do not hesitate to come to me for help. Please remember that I am just an email away. I am always happy to clarify difficult concepts, resolve any lingering confusion, or otherwise assist you in making this course fun and productive.

Zoom Class Protocol

Use of Camera in Class

I would encourage students to turn on their cameras in Zoom meetings and office hours. If you turn off your video, please have a profile picture that is you. Please use your real name to log in for entry to zoom. Attendance will be taken in every class. I would love to see your beautiful face at least some of the time during our zoom class meetings. Please contact me as soon as possible if you have any concern about appearing on camera yourself.

Recording Zoom Classes

This course or portions of this course (i.e., lectures, discussions, student presentations) will be recorded for instructional or educational purposes. The recordings will only be shared with students enrolled in the class through Canvas. Students are permitted to only view the recordings, not download the videos. The recordings will be deleted at the end of the semester. If, however, you would prefer to remain anonymous during these recordings, then please contact me about possible accommodations (e.g., temporarily turning off identifying information from the Zoom session, including student name and picture, prior to recording). Students are not allowed to record without my permission. 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.

Zoom Classroom Etiquette

- **Mute Your Microphone:** To help keep background noise to a minimum, make sure you mute your microphone when you are not speaking.
- **Be Mindful of Background Noise and Distractions:** Find a quiet place to “attend” class, to the greatest extent possible.
 - Avoid video setups where people may be walking behind you, people talking/making noise, etc.
 - Avoid activities that could create additional noise, such as shuffling papers, listening to music in the background, etc.
- **Position Your Camera Properly:** Be sure your webcam is in a stable position and focused at eye level.
- **Limit Your Distractions/Avoid Multitasking:** You can make it easier to focus on the meeting by turning off notifications, closing or minimizing running apps, and putting your smartphone away (unless you are using it to access Zoom).

- Use Appropriate Virtual Backgrounds: If using a virtual background, it should be appropriate and professional and should NOT suggest or include content that is objectively offensive or demeaning.

Course Assignments and Grading

Your grade will depend on the following assignments:

InQuizitive	5%
Smartwork5 Homework	10%
Smartwork5 Quiz	20%
Mid-term 1	20%
Mid-term 2	20%
Final Exam	20%
Term Paper	5%

Converting number grades to letter grades:

97-100	A plus	93-96	A	90-92	A minus
87-89	B plus	83-86	B	80-82	B minus
77-79	C plus	73-76	C	70-72	C minus
67-69	D plus	63-66	D	60-62	D minus
<60	F				

InQuizitive Assignment

These are pre-lecture assignment. Approximately 17 InQuizitive will be given throughout the semester. To understand the class lectures better, I recommend that you finish each chapter's InQuizitive before attending the zoom class meeting each week.

SmartWork5 Homework

Approximately 13 homework will be given during the semester. If you prefer, you can work in groups on homework assignments.

SmartWork5 Quiz

Approximately 10 quizzes will be given during the semester to reinforce the key course concepts. The quizzes will build on the material discussed in the class. I will drop your two lowest quiz scores. This means you may miss or skip two quizzes if you choose. You must have 8 quiz scores; any additional missing quizzes will be counted as zeroes. I do not recommend missing quizzes, as they will cover important material that will be on midterm and final exams.

Class Attendance and Participation

Your attendance during synchronous instruction and active participation in class are expected and required. Learning material is directly correlated with attending class. Also, the more you attend, the better you will perform on tests.

Class discussion is important for both individual and collective learning. Your active participation is as critical for your learning as mere attendance is.

Online Midterm and Final

The course consists of two midterms and one final exam. Midterm and final exam will cover material presented in class and will be similar to the homework and quiz questions. The final exam will be comprehensive. All exams will be closed book and closed note.

Proctoring Software and Exams

Exams will be proctored in this course through Respondus Monitor and LockDown Browser. 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. Note that the proctoring software does not determine whether academic misconduct occurred, but does determine whether something irregular occurred that may require further investigation. Students are encouraged to contact the instructor if unexpected interruptions (from a parent or roommate, for example) occur during an exam.

Online Exams Testing Environment: Setup

- No earbuds, headphones, or headsets visible.
- The environment is free of other people besides the student taking the test.
- If students need scratch paper for the test, they should present the front and back of a blank scratch paper to the camera before the test.
- No other browser or windows besides Canvas opened.
- A workplace that is clear of clutter (i.e., reference materials, notes, textbooks, cellphone, tablets, smart watches, monitors, keyboards, gaming consoles, etc.)
- Well-lit environment. Can see the students' eyes and their whole face. Avoid having backlight from a window or other light source opposite the camera.
- Personal calculators - indicate if permitted.

Testing Environment: Scan

Before students can access the test questions, they are expected to conduct a scan around their testing environment to verify that there are no materials that would give the student an unfair advantage during the test. The scan will include:

- the desk/work-space
- a complete view of the computer including USB ports and power cord connections
- a 360-degree view of the complete room

Students must:

- Remain in the testing environment throughout the duration of the test.
- Keep full face, hands, workspace including desk, keyboard, monitor, and scratch paper, in full view of the webcam.

Technical difficulties

Internet connection issues:

Canvas autosaves responses a few times per minute as long as there is an internet connection. If your internet connection is lost, Canvas will warn you but allow you to continue working on your exam. A brief loss of internet connection is unlikely to cause you to lose your work. However, a longer loss of connectivity or weak/unstable connection may jeopardize your exam.

Other technical difficulties:

Immediately email the instructor a current copy of the state of your exam and explain the problem you are facing. Your instructor may not be able to respond immediately or provide technical support. However, the copy of your exam and email will provide a record of the situation. Contact the SJSU technical support for Canvas:

Technical Support for Canvas

Email: ecampus@sjsu.edu

Phone: (408) 924-2337

<https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/support/>

If possible, complete your exam in the remaining allotted time, offline if necessary. Email your exam to your instructor within the allotted time or soon after.

Term Paper

Each student will choose a topic upon instructor's approval to write a term paper with a maximum of 10 pages of text, double spaced. The purpose of this paper is to get each of you to engage with microeconomic issue by using online economics resources. More detail information will be provided and be available on canvas.

Late Policy

Late homework and quiz will be accepted up to 2 weeks with a 5% penalty per day.

In case you miss the deadline of an assignment or exam, please contact me as soon as possible and we will work out something. To receive an extension, you are responsible for notifying me of your situation prior to a due date and receiving an email from me with an agreed upon extension.

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.

Academic Dishonesty

Students who are suspected of cheating during an exam will be referred to the Student Conduct and Ethical Development office and depending on the severity of the conduct, will receive a zero on the assignment or a grade of F in the course. Grade Forgiveness does not apply to courses for which the original grade was the result of a finding of academic dishonesty.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](#), relevant information to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. is available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](#).

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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	Aug 20	Introduction, Chapter 1
2	Aug 25	Introduction continued, Chapter 1, InQuizitive 1, Homework 1, Quiz 1
2	Aug 27	The Power of Trade and Comparative Advantage, Chapter 2, InQuizitive 2, Homework 2
3	Sep 01	Demand and Supply, Chapter 3, Quiz 2
3	Sep 03	Demand and Supply continued, Chapter 3 InQuizitive 3, Homework 3
4	Sep 08	Elasticity of Demand, Chapter 4, Quiz 3
4	Sep 10	Elasticity of Demand continued, Chapter 4, InQuizitive 4, Homework 4
5	Sep 15	Market Outcomes and Tax Incidence, Chapter 5, InQuizitive 5, Quiz 4
5	Sep 17	Price Ceilings and Floors, Chapter 6, InQuizitive 6, Homework 5
6	Sep 22	Review for Midterm 1
6	Sep 24	Midterm 1- Thursday 09/24/2020
7	Sep 29	Consumer Choice, Chapter 16, InQuizitive 7, Homework 6
7	Oct 01	Costs of Production and Factors of Production, Chapter 8, Quiz 5, DISCUSSION ON THE TERM PAPER
8	Oct 06	Costs of Production and Factors of Production Cont., Chapter 8, InQuizitive 8, Homework 7
8	Oct 08	Cost and Profit Maximization under Perfect Competition, Chapter 9, Quiz 6
9	Oct 13	Cost and Profit Maximization under Perfect Competition continued, Chapter 9, InQuizitive 9, Homework 8
9	Oct 15	Monopoly, Chapter 10, InQuizitive 10, Quiz 7
10	Oct 20	Price Discrimination and Pricing Strategy, Chapter 11, InQuizitive 11, Homework 9
10	Oct 22	Review for Midterm 2

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
11	Oct 27	Midterm 2, Tuesday 10/27/2020
11	Oct 29	Monopolistic Competition and Advertising, Chapter 12, InQuizitive 12
12	Nov 03	Oligopoly and Strategic Behavior, Chapter 13, InQuizitive 13, Homework 10
12	Nov 05	Effort to Achieve Market Power, Quiz 8, SUBMIT 1ST DRAFT OF THE TERM PAPER
13	Nov 10	Labor Markets, Chapter 14
13	Nov 12	Labor Markets Continued, Chapter 14, InQuizitive 14, Homework 11
14	Nov 17	Income, Inequality, and Poverty Chapter 15, InQuizitive 15
14	Nov 19	Externalities, Chapter 7, Quiz 9
15	Nov 24	Public Goods and the Tragedy of Commons, Chapter 7, InQuizitive 16, Homework 12
16	Dec 01	Economics of Health and Healthcare, Chapter 18, InQuizitive 17, Quiz 10, SUBMIT FINAL DRAFT OF THE TERM PAPER
16	Dec 03	Review for Final
17	Dec 10	Final Exam, Thursday 12/10/2020, 09:45 pm-12:00 pm (Section 67) Final Exam, Wednesday 12/09/2020, 12:15 pm- 2:30 pm (Section 68)