

San José State University
Department of Economics
ECON 1B, Principles of Economics: Microeconomics, Section 1, Spring 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-1 or something similar, together with the topic of the email)
Office Hours:	By appointment or by zoom meeting
Class Days/Time:	Monday/ 6:30 pm -9:15 pm
Classroom:	DMH 163
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

Miller, **ECONOMICS TODAY**, The Micro View, 19th edition, Pearson
ISBN-13: 978-0134479255. ISBN-10: 0134479254

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](#).*

There will be **practice problem sets and presentation of newspaper articles** involving the application of the theory discussed in class. To do well in the midterms and final, it is important that you complete the problem set questions each week.

It is expected that you will attend class once a week, participate in discussions in class, review lecture slides before class each week, work on problem set 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.

Course Assignments and Grading

Your grade will depend on the following assignments:

Quizzes	20%
Class Attendance and Participation	15%
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				

Quiz

Approximately 7 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 5 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

Attendance 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. I will take attendance in every class. You will receive three points for every class you attend on time.

Class discussion is important for both individual and collective learning. Your active participation is as critical for your learning as mere attendance is. Each of you will be randomly asked to answer a question or to solve a problem on the board based on materials covered in the previous week. You will be graded based on your effort not for answering/solving a question correctly.

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 problem set questions. The final exam will be comprehensive. All exams will be closed book and closed note. A study guide will be provided before each exam.

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

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.

Classroom Protocol

1. Please come to class prepared and on time.
2. Please respect the goals of the instructor and your classmates.
3. Turn your cell phone off during class sessions.
4. Do not engage in conversations during class sessions.
5. Do not listen to recorded music during class sessions.
6. Cheating will not be tolerated. Looking at someone else's exam, talking to anyone, copying another student's work or using an external source of information for which you were not explicitly given permission during an exam will result in disciplinary action. This disciplinary action might include anything from receiving zero points on the exam to an F in the class.

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	Jan 27	Introduction, Chapter 1-6, Problem set 1
2	Feb 03	Demand and Supply, Chapter 3, Problem set 2
3	Feb 10	Elasticity of Demand, Chapter 19, Problem set 3, Quiz 1
4	Feb 17	Application Involving SS and DD, Chapter 4 Review for Midterm 1, Quiz 2

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
5	Feb 24	Midterm 1- Monday 02/24/2020
6	Mar 02	Household Consumption Behavior and DD Theory, Chapter 20, Problem set 4
7	Mar 09	Costs of Production and Factors of Production, Chapter 21,22, Problem set 5, Quiz 3
8	Mar 16	Costs of Production and Factors of Production, Chapter 21,22, Problem set 6, Quiz 4
9	Mar 23	Market Power and Market Structure, Chapter 23-26, Problem set 7, Quiz 5,
10	Mar 30	Spring Recess -No Class
11	April 06	Market Power and Market Structure, Chapter 23-26, Review for Midterm 2
12	April 13	Midterm 2-Monday 04/13/2020
13	April 20	Effort to achieve Market Power, Chapter 26-29, Problem set 8 The power of Trade and Comparative Advantage, Chapter 2
14	April 27	Labor Markets, Chapter 28-29, Quiz 6
15	May 04	Externalities; Public Goods and the Tragedy of Commons, Chapter 31, Problem set 9
16	May 11	Role of Government: Regulation, Welfare; Economics, Ethics, and Public Policy, Chapter 5,6, 2, 31, Review for final, Problem set 10, Quiz 7
17	May 18	Final- Monday 05/18/2020 (7:45 pm to 10 pm)