



Econ 101

Introduction to Microeconomic Analysis

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday, 10:10-11:00am, HSS 130

Instructor: Elan Segarra
Email: esegarra@mail.sfsu.edu
Office: HSS 138
Office Hours: Mondays 11am-12pm
Phone: (415) 405-2496 (only available during office hours)

The syllabus and schedule are subject to change. If you are absent from class it is your responsibility to check ILearn and with your peers about any announcements you may have missed.

Course Description: The purpose of this class is to give you the tools and language to start thinking like an economist. Additionally, this course serves as the gateway to an entire field that is both broad and incredibly influential in our modern world. We will be looking at the branch called Microeconomics which focuses on individual consumers and firms as opposed to the economy as a whole (Macroeconomics). Our discussions will range from the foundations of supply and demand, to the effects of government policies like minimum wage laws. By the end you will have a firm grasp of the fundamentals of Microeconomics as well as an analytic tool set that can be applied both to claims made by politicians and also to everyday decisions in your own life.

Prerequisites: Though there are no formal prerequisites, you should be familiar with reading and interpreting graphs as well as basic algebra skills such as solving a system of equations.

Credit Hours: 3

Required Materials/Resources:

- The textbook is *Principles of Microeconomics* by N. Gregory Mankiw (ISBN:978-1-285-16590-5). I use the 7th edition, though the 6th and 5th editions are suitable as well.
- Homework assignments are entirely online via Sapling. Please **sign up with Sapling Learning** (\$40 at <http://www2.saplinglearning.com/>) as soon as possible.
- You will need to **either purchase an iClicker and register it online** (<http://www1.iclicker.com/register-clicker/>) **or download the iClickerGO App** onto your smart phone for classroom participation.
- 4x ZEUS Bubble sheets, for the quizzes and final exam. (Large green sheets available in campus bookstore).
- Announcements, grades, and lecture notes will all be posted on ILearn (<http://ilearn.sfsu.edu>) so I encourage you to check the course website often.

Grade Makeup**Final Letter Grades**

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|---------------|----|---------------|----|
| Homework | 35% | 100 - 92.00 | A | 76.00 - 78.99 | C+ |
| Quizzes | 35% | 89.00 - 91.99 | A- | 72.00 - 75.99 | C |
| Final Exam | 20% | 86.00 - 88.99 | B+ | 69.00 - 71.99 | C- |
| Attendance/Participation | 10% | 82.00 - 85.99 | B | 66.00 - 68.99 | D+ |
| | | 79.00 - 81.99 | B- | 62.00 - 65.99 | D |
| | | | | 0.00 - 61.99 | F |

Homework:

We will cover roughly 1 to 2 chapters every week and there will be a homework assignment (about 15 problems) on the material that will be done online via Sapling (<http://www2.saplinglearning.com/>). Directions for signing up can be found on ILearn. Note that there is a 14 day grace period before you have to pay for those that are unsure whether they are staying in the class. The homework will generally be due Tuesday evenings by midnight (please check Sapling for exact due dates and times). I strongly encourage you to start the homework as we cover the material (while it's still fresh in your mind) and not wait until 11pm on Tuesday to do it all. Please note that late homework will not be accepted, but since life happens when you least expect it the lowest 2 HW scores will be dropped at the end of the semester.

tl;dr HW every week (due Tues night), done on Sapling, no late HWs, and lowest 2 scores dropped at end.

Quizzes:

There will be 3 quizzes over the course of the semester, and they will only cover the material discussed during the previous few weeks (thus they are not cumulative). You will need to bring a "ZEUS" bubble sheet (available in SFSU bookstore) for each of these quizzes. Note that there will be no make-up quizzes for any reason (unless there is a documented medical emergency). To account for the unexpected, your lowest quiz score will be dropped. Therefore your 2 highest scores of the 3 quizzes will make up the 35% quiz factor in your grade.

tl;dr Three quizzes, non-cumulative, no make-ups, bring ZEUS sheets, lowest score dropped at end.

Final Exam:

There will be a cumulative final exam on Wednesday, December 17th (8am-10:30am) which will count for 20% of your grade. You are required to take this exam in order to pass the class, so if there is a reason you will not be able to be present on the last day, please come and talk to me as soon as possible. As with the quizzes, bring a ZEUS bubble sheet.

Participation/Attendance:

Like nearly every other class, attendance is imperative and can be profoundly useful for explaining some of the more difficult concepts we cover. Therefore participation will also be a factor in your grade (10%) and will be facilitated by the use of iClickers. Though the classroom questions will not be graded, you must respond to at least 80% of the questions over the semester to receive the full 10% in classroom participation. These iClickers also allow me to gauge how well the class as a whole is grasping the material, so I strongly encourage you to participate as much as possible.

tl;dr Use iClicker or smart phone to respond to 80% of in class questions for participation grade.

School Policies:

Statement on Cheating and Plagiarism

Please note that cheating is not tolerated. The minimum penalty will be failure on the exam or assignment. Cheating is the actual or attempted practice of fraudulent or deceptive acts for the purpose of improving one's grade or obtaining course credit; such acts also include assisting another student to do so. Typically, such acts occur in relation to examinations. However, it is the intent of this definition that the term 'cheating' not be limited to examination situations only, but that it include any and all actions by a student that are intended to gain an un-earned academic advantage by fraudulent or deceptive means. For more information on the University's policy regarding cheating and plagiarism, refer to the University Catalog ('Policies and Regulations').

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations

The University is committed to providing reasonable academic accommodations to students with disabilities. The Disability Programs and Resources Center provides university academic support services and specialized assistance to students with disabilities. Individuals with physical, perceptual, or learning disabilities as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact Services for Students with Disabilities for information regarding accommodations. Please notify your instructor so that reasonable effort can be made to accommodate you. If you expect Accommodation through the Act, you must make a formal request through Disability Programs & Resources Center in SSB 110, Telephone 338-2472.

Statement on Disruptive Classroom Behavior

The classroom is a special environment in which students and faculty come together to promote learning and growth. It is essential to this learning environment that respect for the rights of others seeking to learn, respect for the professionalism of the instructor, and the general goals of academic freedom are maintained. Differences of viewpoint or concerns should be expressed in terms which are supportive of the learning process, and to develop and understanding of the community in which they live. Student conduct which disrupts the learning process shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

Policy on Observance of Religious Holidays

The faculty of San Francisco State University shall make reasonable accommodations for students to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class activities. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays during the first two weeks of the class each semester. If such holidays occur during the first two weeks of the semester, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/ she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed.

Tentative Course Schedule :

| Wk | Days | Lecture Topics | Reading | HW Due* |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|--|----------------|----------------|
| 1 | 8/25-8/29 | Principles of Microeconomics (No Class 8/29) | Ch 1, 2 | |
| 2 | 9/1-9/5 | Supply and Demand (No Class 9/1) | Ch 4 | HW #1 |
| 3 | 9/8-9/12 | Elasticity | Ch 5 | HW #2 |
| 4 | 9/15-9/19 | Review | | HW #3 |
| 5 | 9/22-9/26 | Quiz 1 (Monday 9/22) and Welfare and Efficiency | Ch 7 | |
| 6 | 9/29-10/3 | Price Controls and Taxes | Ch 6, 8 | HW #4 |
| 7 | 10/6-10/10 | Comparative Advantage and Trade | Ch 3, 9 | HW #5 |
| 8 | 10/13-10/17 | Review | | HW #6 |
| 9 | 10/20-10/24 | Quiz 2 (Monday 10/20) and Costs of Production | Ch 13 | |
| 10 | 10/27-10/31 | Perfect Competition | Ch 14 | HW #7 |
| 11 | 11/2-11/7 | Monopoly | Ch 15 | HW #8 |
| 12 | 11/10-11/14 | Monopolistic Competition & Oligopoly | Ch 16 | HW #9 |
| 13 | 11/17-11/21 | Review and Quiz 3 (Friday 11/21) | | HW #10 |
| 14 | 11/24-11/28 | Fall Recess - No Classes | | |
| 15 | 12/1-12/5 | Externalities & Public Goods | Ch 10, 11 | |
| 16 | 12/8-12/12 | Factors of Production | Ch 18 | HW #11 |
| 17 | 12/15 | Review for Final | | HW #12 |
| Wednesday 12/17 | Final Exam (8:00-10:30am) | | | |

* Be sure to check iLearn or Sapling for the exact due date of each homework.