

San José State University
Department of Economics
ECON 1B: Principles of Microeconomics
Section 1, Fall 2023

Instructor:	Steve (James) O'Brien
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Office Hours:	Wednesday 1:30pm-2:30pm (by appointment)
Class Days/Time:	MON/WED 9AM-10:15AM
Classroom:	Dudley Moorhead Hall Room 348
Prerequisites:	May be taken concurrently or prior to Econ 1A.
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	Area D1: Social Science, Human Behavior

Course Description

Allocation of resources and distribution of income as affected by the workings of the price system and by government policies

Course Goals and Course Learning Objectives (CLO)

GE Learning Outcomes

Economics 1B is a general education course that meets the requirements for area D1 in the social science area. The GE writing requirement (1500 word minimum) will be satisfied by a two part written assignment; details will be provided as we moved forward in the semester.

Course Learning Outcomes

- **Incentives Matter** (law of demand; law of supply; rational decision makers weigh marginal costs versus marginal benefits; the power of self-interest and how it contributes to broader social interest)
- **Opportunity Costs** (production possibilities; tradeoffs in consumption and production; gains from 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)

Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

- Define economics.
- Explain the concepts of scarcity and opportunity cost and how they relate to the definition of economics.
- Distinguish between the following pairs of concepts: demand and quantity demanded, supply and quantity supplied, demand schedule and demand curve, supply schedule and supply curve, movement along and shift in a demand curve and a supply curve.
- Describe the important role that prices play in the marketplace; how they are formed and the valuable information they convey to market participants.
- Explain what it means for demand to be price inelastic, unit price elastic, and price elastic.
- Explain the concepts of increasing, diminishing, and negative marginal returns and explain the law of diminishing marginal returns.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook and Other Technology Requirements

Modern Principles: Microeconomics by Tyler Cowen and Alex Tabarrok (2nd, 3rd or 4th Edition)

This textbook is available for rental as well as purchase from many different sources. I would recommend browsing Amazon. Purchasing the textbook is a requirement for this course, and questions for quizzes and exams will include information from the readings.

Grading Information and Assignments

Your grade in this course consists of two midterms, one final exam, ten in class quizzes (out of twelve possible scores) and a writing assignment. The midterms and final exam cover material presented both in class and in the textbook. In class quizzes will cover both lecture and reading materials.

While attendance is not mandatory, in class quizzes are an important component of your grade. I will not list a schedule of quizzes, they will generally be unannounced “pop” quizzes. Twelve quizzes will be offered, of which, your ten best scores will count toward your grade. These quizzes will be excellent preparation for questions on the midterms and final exams. If you miss a quiz, I will not be passing out additional copies and there are no opportunities for makeups. I will periodically allow notes to be used for quizzes. Please come to class prepared to participate in small group and larger class discussions. I reserve the right to call on you in class at my discretion.

Your final grade will be based on the following categories and weights:

Midterm 1	20%
Midterm 2	20%
Final Exam	25%
Written Assignment	15%
Quizzes	20%

Your final numerical grade will be the weighted average of your scores in the above categories, and your corresponding letter grade will be assigned as follows:

Percent	Grade	Percent	Grade	Percent	Grade
97.5% - 100%	A+	93% - 97.49%	A	90% - 92.9%	A-
87.5% - 89.9%	B+	83% - 87.49%	B	80% - 82.9%	B-
77.5% - 79.9%	C+	73% - 77.49%	C	70% - 72.9%	C-
67.5% - 69.9%	D+	63% - 67.49%	D	60% - 62.9%	D-
0% - 59.9%	F				

To earn GE credit for this course, you must earn a C- or better.

If for whatever reason you must miss a midterm, your final exam will have the midterm's value added to it and will become 45% of your overall grade.

You will need a Scantron 882-E for Midterm and Final exams.

Final Examination

The final exam will be a cumulative assessment, meaning it will have questions on all material covered throughout the semester. It will be 100 multiple choice questions. Two thirds of the final exam will cover material from the first two midterms, and the remaining third will be material covered after the second midterm through the end of the semester. We will discuss in greater detail as we approach the final exam date in December.

Classroom Protocol

My hope is to have a fun and engaging class. We will be covering and discussing topics and concepts that may be new to some, but familiar to others. Please come to class prepared to engage in discussions with an open mind and curiosity regarding how our class can relate to the world around us. Let's be respectful of the time and effort we all put into this class. If you arrive late, please quietly find a seat. Please turn cell phone ringers off. If you need to take a call, just excuse yourself.

A simple calculator **only** will be allowed for exams and quizzes.

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 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

ECON 1B: Principles of Microeconomics, FALL 2023

The schedule is subject to change with fair notice in class and/or through Canvas.

Course Schedule

Week	Date		Topics, Readings and Due Dates
1	MON	8/21	Introductions and Course Overview
	WED	8/23	Cowen and Tabarrok (CT) Trade, Opportunity Cost and Comparative Advantage
2	MON	8/28	CT Supply/Demand
	WED	8/30	CT Supply/Demand and Equilibrium
3	WED	9/6	CT Elasticity
4	MON	9/11	CT Elasticity
	WED	9/13	CT Taxes and Subsidies
5	MON	9/18	CT Taxes and Subsidies
	WED	9/20	Catch up Review for Midterm
6	MON	9/25	Midterm #1
	WED	9/27	CT Price Ceilings and Floors
7	MON	10/2	CT International Trade
	WED	10/4	CT International Trade/CT Externalities
8	MON	10/9	CT Externalities Discuss Paper Assignment
	WED	10/11	CT Ch. 11 Costs and Profit Maximization
9	MON	10/16	CT Ch. 11 Costs and Profit Maximization
	WED	10/18	CT CH. 13 Monopoly

Week	Date		Topics, Readings and Due Dates
10	MON	10/23	Ch. 13 Monopoly
	WED	10/25	Finish Monopoly and Review
11	MON	10/30	MIDTERM #2
	WED	11/1	TOPIC AND OUTLINE DUE Oligopoly and Game Theory
12	MON	11/6	CT Ch. 18 Labor Markets
	WED	11/8	CT Ch. 18 Labor Markets
13	MON	11/13	CT Ch. 19 Public Goods
	WED	11/15	CT Ch. 20 Political Economy and Public Choice
14	MON	11/20	CT Ch. 20-21 Economics and Public Policy
	WED	11/22	THANKSGIVING BREAK
15	MON	11/27	CT Ch. 25 Consumer Choice FINAL DRAFT OF PAPER
	WED	11/29	CT Ch. 25 Consumer Choice
16	MON	12/4	CATCH UP AND REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM
	WED	12/6	CATCH UP AND REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM
FINAL EXAM			FINAL EXAM Wednesday December 13 7:15am-9:30am