Econ 1: Elements of Economics – Microeconomics

Department of Economics
University of California, San Diego
Winter 2006

TIME: MWF 8:00 - 8:50 am

PLACE: CSB002

INSTRUCTOR: Yin-Feng (Tiffany) Gau (ygau@ucsd.edu)

OFFICE HOURS: Wed. 12:00 - 1:00pm in ECON 111 or by appointment

CLASS WEB PAGE: http://econ.ucsd.edu/~ygau/w06/econ1.htm

TEACHING ASSISTANTS:
Discussion Section C01 (M 4-4:50 pm): Eric Cardella (ecardell@ucsd.edu)
Discussion Section C02 (F 3-3:50 pm): Christopher Wonnell (cwonnell@ucsd.edu)

TEXTBOOK:
Frank, Robert H. and Bernanke, Ben. S. (2007), Principles of Economics, 3rd ed., McGraw Hill-Irwin.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course is the first course of the sequence of the Elements of Economics. Econ 1 introduces the foundations of microeconomics analysis. The course will focus on the study of the economic system from the micro or individual decision maker's perspective. We will discuss the analysis of demand, supply, and market equilibrium. After having done this, we will examine the allocation of resources and distribution of income in perfectly competitive markets.

REQUIREMENTS:
Grades will be based on five problem sets, two midterm exams, and a final exam. For the grade, there will be a total of 500 points distributed as follows: 100 points on each midterm exam, 200 points on the final exam, and 100 points on problem sets.

SCHEDULE OF EXAMS

Midterm 1	Wednesday, February 1	in class
Midterm 2	Monday, February 27	in class
Final	TBA	

DUE DATES OF PROBLEM SETS

Problem sets will be posted on the class web page. Problem sets have to be turned in at the beginning of class on due dates given below. NO late problem set is accepted.

Problem set # 1	Wednesday January 18
Problem set # 2	Wednesday January 25
Problem set # 3	Wednesday February 15
Problem set # 4	Monday March 6
Problem set # 5	Monday March 13

LECTURE OUTLINES:

Lectures	Topics and Readings
1	Introduction (Ch 1)
2	Opportunity Cost and Comparative Advantage (Ch 2)
3	Production Possibility Curve (Ch 2)
4-5	Demand and Supply (Ch 3)
6	Market Equilibrium (Ch 3)
7	Effects of Shifts in Demand and Supply (Ch 3)
8	Price Elasticity of Demand (Ch 4)
9	Income Elasticity and Cross-Price Elasticity of Demand (Ch 4),
10	Price Elasticity of Supply (Ch 4)
11-14	Consumers' Utility and Demand (Ch 5 and Appendix)
15	Consumer Surplus (Ch 5)
16-17	Production and Cost in the Short Run (Ch 6)
18	Economic Profit (Ch 8)
19	Profit Maximization in the Perfectly Competitive Market (Ch 6)
20-21	Production and Cost in the Long Run (Ch 8)
22	Profit Maximization in the Long Run:
	Invisible Hand Theory (Ch 8)
23-24	Cost of Preventing Price Adjustments (Ch 7)
25-26	Taxes and Efficiency (Ch 7)

Note: This is a tentative schedule of which chapters will be covered and when. It may be modified as we go along.

GRADING/REGRADING POLICIES:

- Any dispute arising in grading of homework and exams should be submitted in writing to the TA.

- All letters pertaining to disputed should clearly state the Question(s) where they are disputes and also state the reason for such a dispute.

- There is one week time limit for submission of disputes for both midterm exams and homework. The one week limit starts from the day the homeworks/exams have been handed out in discussion session. In the event of your failure to be present in the class when exams/homeworks are handed out, it is the student's responsibility to collect exams/homeworks.

- All of the homework assignments will be graded by the TA. Graded homework will usually be returned one week after the due date.

- Each homework assignment is worth 20 points.

GUIDELINES FOR EXAMS:

- The final exam is cumulative.

- No makeup exams will be scheduled except in case of emergencies. (Students can take the makeup exam only after showing proof of conflict due to other class timings.) If you miss an exam and do not have an acceptable excuse, you will receive a ZERO for that exam.

- If you use a pencil to write the midterm and final exams, you do not have the right to request a regrading of the exam.

- The exams will be closed book exams.

- You are not allowed to use the calculator in exams.