

Economics 1 – Principles of Microeconomics, Fall 2008

8:00 - 8:50am, MWF Price Center Theatre

Instructor: Kate Antonovics
Office: Department of Economics, Room 327
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Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1-2:30pm
Class Web Page: Aplia.com (see below)

(Please see the class web page for the TA's office hours)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The course will begin by giving a brief overview of why individuals interact in market settings. We will then discuss demand, supply and market equilibrium. We will also examine how individuals make consumption choices, how firms behave under perfect competition and why perfectly competitive markets lead to efficient outcomes. Finally, we will discuss international trade and introduce market imperfections and monopoly.

PREREQUISITES: None.

REQUIRED READING: Principles of Microeconomics, 4th Edition, by Frank and Bernanke (ISBN#: 0073402885). This book also will be used for Econ 2 and Econ 3. A UCSD custom edition of the textbook is available at the UCSD Bookstore for \$93. The UCSD custom edition contains an important appendix to Chapter 5 that is not in the standard 4th edition. If you prefer, you can purchase the 2nd or 3rd edition of the textbook, but be warned that the order of the chapters changes from one edition to the other and earlier editions may be missing important material. Your instructors for Econ 2 and Econ 3 also may want you to have the 4th edition.

APLIA: All out-of-class assignments will be completed on Aplia.com. All other relevant course materials will also be posted Aplia. Aplia is a *required* component of the course. You should sign up for Aplia as soon as possible. The course key is: 3CM7-C6SY-QNFR. The fee for Aplia is \$35 per quarter. Even if you think you might drop the course, sign up anyway because there is a 21 day grace period before you have to pay.

On Aplia, you will find two kinds of assignments:

1. **Homework assignments:** There will be both problem sets and news analyses. Answers are submitted on-line. The due date for each assignment is clearly stated in Aplia. Most (but not all) assignments are due Mondays at 11pm. Carefully read how assignments are graded in Aplia. In calculating your final grade, I will consider the percentage of questions in each assignment you answer correctly. In order to allow flexibility for students who are sick, who have critical conflicts or who are having computer problems the night an assignment is due, the **six** homework assignments with the lowest percentage scores will be dropped.
2. **Experiments:** I will explain more about the experiments as the dates of the experiments approach. Participation in the experiments and the accompanying assignments count as homework assignments in terms of your final grade. However, extra credit points will be given to a few students who perform particularly well in the experiments.

SECTION: There are weekly discussion sections for this course. You are not required to attend sections. However, many students find the discussion sections useful since the TAs cover the kinds of problems you are likely to see on exams.

EXAMS: There will be two midterms and a cumulative final. Dates are **not** negotiable.

Midterm 1: Friday, October 17th, **7:45am-8:50am**, Price Center Theatre

Midterm 2: Friday, November 7th, **7:45am-8:50am**, Price Center Theatre

Final Exam: Monday, December 8th, 8:00am-11:00am, location TBA

GRADES: Aplia Assignments (20%), Midterm 1 (20%), Midterm 2 (20%), Final (40%). Grades for the course will be curved.

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES:

1. If you have a documented disability, please come to talk to me as soon as possible so that I can make suitable accommodations for you. If you believe that you have a disability and desire accommodation, please register with the Office for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible.
2. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will earn a failing grade for the course. In addition, the Council of Deans of Student Affairs will impose a disciplinary penalty.
3. If you need to miss a midterm for a verifiable medical/legal/sports reason, your midterm grade will be your grade on the final. Failure to notify me promptly that you must miss a midterm will result in a zero grade for that midterm. Unexcused absences will also result in a zero.
4. If you arrive late to an exam, I will allow you to take the exam in the time that remains *as long as no one has turned in his/ her exam and left the room*. Once a classmate has turned in his/her exam, you will earn a zero on the test if you arrive late.
5. UCSD now has automated waitlists. If you have any questions regarding adding the class, please refer to Triton Link or contact the undergraduate advisors in Sequoyah Hall 245. The Economics Department does not allow late adds (adds after the second week).
6. With the permission of the TA, you may attend any discussion section and go to any of the TA's office hours.

READING: Below is a list of the reading for the course. You are expected to keep up with the reading on your own. You are only responsible for sections of the textbook that we talk about in class.

Topic	Chapter
Comparative Advantage	2
Supply and Demand	3
Elasticity	4
Demand	5 (including appendix)
Perfectly Competitive Supply	6
Efficiency and Exchange	7
The Invisible Hand in Action	8
International Trade	28 (pages 809-824)
Monopoly	9 (pages 233-249)

* Chapters and page numbers refer to the 4th edition.

TIPS TO DOING WELL: The best way to do well in this class is to complete the weekly homework assignments. It is easy to lull yourself into thinking you understand the material better than you do, and completing the homework is a good reality check. Coming to class is also important, especially since we will sometimes cover topics that are not covered in the reading.