

Economics 1 – Principles of Microeconomics, Fall 2009

8:00 – 9:20am, TTh Price Center Theatre

Instructor: Kate Antonovics
Office: Department of Economics, Room 327
Email: kantonov@ucsd.edu
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 2:00-3:00pm
Class Web Page: Aplia.com (see below)
(Please see the class web page for the TA's office hours, contact information, etc.)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course begins by giving a brief overview of why individuals interact in market settings. We then discuss demand, supply and market equilibrium. We also examine how individuals make consumption choices, how firms behave under perfect competition and why perfectly competitive markets lead to efficient outcomes. Finally, we discuss international trade and introduce market imperfections and monopoly. There are no prerequisites for the course.

REQUIRED READING: Principles of Microeconomics, 4th Edition, by Frank and Bernanke (ISBN-13 9780073402888). 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 \$80. 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 older editions 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. If you purchase an earlier edition, it is your responsibility to make sure you are adequately keeping up with the class. An additional consideration is that your instructors for Econ 2 and Econ 3 may want you to have the 4th edition.

APLIA: All out-of-class assignments will be completed using an online homework program called Aplia. In addition, all course materials will be posted on Aplia's web page. Aplia is a required component of the course. Aplia requires a separate registration process. Please follow the steps provided in Aplia's Student Registration and Payment Instructions, located at the end of this syllabus, to sign up for Aplia. If you need help, please contact Aplia's Support Team by clicking the "Help" button in the upper right after logging in to Aplia, or e-mailing support@aplia.com directly.

Student benefits: By completing regular work in association with the lectures, you will better prepare yourself for the lectures and exams in the course, and you will have an overall better understanding of the course material. Cramming is not an effective method of learning. Think of the regular assignments on Aplia as a weekly workout. Practicing and applying what you are learning from Aplia and lectures will better prepare you for class.

Aplia assignments: On Aplia, you will find three kinds of assignments:

1. **Problem Sets:** The graded problem sets in Aplia have a firm due date, but you can submit your answers to be graded anytime before that date to get your grade. If you want to improve your score, you first read through the explanations provided by Aplia, and then click on the "Try Another Version" button, at which point another variation of the question will be presented to you. You will have up to three attempts to work on each Aplia question, and Aplia's systems will average the scores on subsequent attempts of questions if the scores are the same as or greater than the previous score(s).
2. **News Analyses:** Same as the problem sets except that there is no "Try Another Version" option.

3. **Experiments:** During the quarter, there will be two on-line experiments in which you are required to participate. Each experiment lasts about 30 minutes and is accompanied by two problem sets (a preparatory assignment and a follow-up assignment). Participation in the experiment counts as 100% on an assignment (and failure to participate counts as 0%), and the two accompanying problem sets are graded like standard problem sets except that there is no 'Try Another Version' option.

In calculating your final grade, I will consider the percentage of questions in each assignment (problem set, news analysis and experiment) 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** assignments with the lowest percentage scores will be dropped.

You may talk to other students about the assignments, but you must work through the problems yourself and submit your own answers. Having another student complete an assignment for you is considered academic dishonesty.

Please note that most (but not all) assignments are due Mondays at 11pm. Once an assignment's due date has passed, your grade will be recorded, and it will not be possible to change your answers or work on the assignment. In other words, **Aplia assignments must be completed by the due date**. Therefore, please give yourself plenty of time to complete each assignment before its due date passes. Assignments are posted well in advance. Do them early to avoid any emergencies or unexpected delays preventing your completion before the due date. After the due date has passed, you will be able to see the correct answers and explanations for graded assignments.

Aplia logistics: Each student is responsible for signing up and paying for Aplia. Aplia offers a variety of payment options; please refer to Aplia's Student Registration and Payment Instructions for more information. Please note that you can register and use Aplia for 21 days before having to pay for it. If you are thinking about dropping this course during the drop/add period, do not make a payment until you are sure that you will be completing the course. You will need to pay the full amount before the end of Aplia's grace period to continue using the site. You may pay online with a credit card or personal check, or you can mail a check or money order to the address provided on the Aplia site. Please contact Aplia's Support Team (support@aplia.com) if you have any questions or concerns.

LECTURES: A rough sketch of my lecture notes will be available on Aplia by 5pm the night before lecture (email me if you don't see them). I will annotate the notes in lecture. The annotated notes are not available outside of class. If you miss class and want the lecture notes, ask a fellow classmate or your TA for a copy of the notes.

SECTION: There are weekly discussion sections for this course. You are not required to attend section, but in section the TAs will cover the kinds of problems you are likely to see on exams. Each week, the problems your TAs will cover will be posted on Aplia, and you are encouraged to try these problems on your own before coming to section. Answers to the problems will not be posted until shortly before each examination.

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

Midterm 1: Thursday, October 15th, 8-9:20am, Price Center Theatre

Midterm 2: Tuesday, November 10th, 8-9:20am, Price Center Theatre

Final Exam: Tuesday, December 8th, 8-11:00am, 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.
2. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students are expected to do their own work, as outlined in the UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship: <http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/Appendices/app2.htm>. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Academic Integrity Coordinator. Students found guilty of academic dishonesty will earn a failing grade for the course. In addition, the Council of Deans 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.
7. Midterms and exams that you do pick up will be kept for one quarter following the end of the course and then thrown away (at which point your scores cannot be disputed).

READING: Below is a list of the reading for the course. You are only responsible for sections of the textbook that we cover in class. Chapters and page numbers refer to the UCSD custom edition of the textbook. You are expected to keep up with the reading on your own.

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)

TIPS TO DOING WELL: The best way to do well in this class is to complete the weekly Aplia assignments and section questions. It is easy to lull yourself into thinking you understand the material better than you do, and completing practice problems 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.

NOTE: There will be no class on Tuesday, October 13th.



Student Registration and Payment Instructions

Course Name: Econ 1, Fall 2009, Antonovics

Start Date: 09/22/2009

Instructor: Kate Antonovics

Course Key: VPUJ-ATZQ-M7ST

You can begin working on your homework as soon as you register!

- In this course, you will use a textbook and Aplia's website.
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Registration

If you have never used Aplia before...

1. Connect to <http://www.aplia.com>.
2. Click the New Student link and enter your Course Key: **VPUJ-ATZQ-M7ST**. Continue following the instructions to complete your registration.

If you have used Aplia before...

1. Connect to <http://www.aplia.com>.
2. Sign in with your usual e-mail address and password and enter your Course Key when prompted: **VPUJ-ATZQ-M7ST**. If you are not prompted for a new Course Key, click the Enter Course Key button to enroll in a new Aplia course. Enter your Course Key when you are prompted.

** You will have different payment options after you register for your course. If you choose to pay later, you can use Aplia without paying until 11:59 PM on 10/12/2009.*

Payment

Option 1: Aplia Access

- **From Aplia:** Purchase access to your course from Aplia's website for \$28.00 USD.
- **From Bookstore:** You may be able to purchase an Aplia Access Card from your campus bookstore.

Option 2: Physical Textbook with Aplia Access

- **From Bookstore:** You may be able to purchase an Aplia Access Card and a physical book together as a bundle from your campus bookstore.

** If you purchased an Aplia Access Card from a bookstore, enter the Access Card's payment code on Aplia's website as payment for your Aplia course.*