

ECON 1 -- SYLLABUS (FALL 2010)

Foster, UCSD, November 1, 2010

Teaching Staff and Consultation Hours			
Name/Position	Times	Room	Contact Info
Carroll B. Foster (PhD/Lecturer)	MWF 10-11 am	Price Center East	cfoster@ucsd.edu
Ariel Marek (u50)	A01	CENTER 222	amarek@ucsd.edu
Danielle Russo (u50)	A02	PETER 102	drusso@ucsd.edu
Oana Hirakawa (g25)	A03	PETER 103	otocoian@ucsd.edu

Course Information

- Course Title: PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS
 - Lecture A00 – MWF, 9-10 am, CENTER 119 [n=200]
 - Section A01 (690972) – M 4-5 pm CENTER 222
 - Section A02 (690973) – T 8-9 am PETERSON 102
 - Section A03 (690974) – W 3-4 pm PETERSON 103
- Description: Beginning microeconomic theory, covering supply and demand, consumer theory, theory of the firm, and perfectly competitive output market structures.
- Prerequisite: None
- Course webpage: <http://webct.ucsd.edu>

Books and Materials

- Frank & Bernanke, *Principles of Economics* (plus Study Guide) 4th edition [Required¹]

Calendar

- Change grade option or drop w/o “W” thru F, 22 OCT; drop w/o “F” thru M, 29 NOV
- Holidays: Thursday, 11 NOV (Veterans); Th-F, 25-26 NOV (Thanksgiving)
- Midterms:
 - 1st – Wednesday, 20 OCT, in class
 - 2nd – Wednesday, 17 NOV, in class
- Final: Wednesday, 8 DEC, 8-11 am, in CENTER 119

Examinations and Grading

- Midterms = 100 points each; cumulative (COMPREHENSIVE) final = 300. Grades will be curved.
- Exams are closed book and notes. A calculator is required. No bathroom breaks during midterms. If you arrive late, I will allow you to take the exam in the time that remains *as long as no one has turned in an exam and left the room*. Once a classmate has turned in an exam, you will earn a zero on the test if you arrive late.
- Regrade period for midterm exams is 1 week after papers first returned in class.
- No rescheduled or make-up exams. You MUST take the final with the rest of the class on schedule during finals week. (Make your travel and wedding plans accordingly, and if you are going to have too many finals on one day, drop one of the courses.) If you miss a midterm for a verifiable medical, legal or sports reason, your midterm grade will be your grade on the final. You must notify me promptly that you will miss the midterm or I will give you a zero. Unexcused absences also result in a zero.

¹ You don't need the “Connect +” add-in for my course.

Course Outline/Reading List			
Topic and Title		F & B 4 th	Testing
Top 1	Intro to Economics	Ch. 1 – 2	
Top 2	Supply, Demand & Elasticity	Ch. 3 – 4	
Top 3	Applications & Trade ²	Ch. 7, 28 (to p. 824)	Midterm #1
Top 4	Utility & Value	Ch. 5	
Top 5	Production, Cost & Profit	Ch. 6	Midterm #2
Top 6	Perfect Competition	Ch. 8	
Top 7	Monopoly (Part I)	Ch. 9 (to p. 249)	

Tentative Discussion Schedule					
Wk	Subject	Reading	Wk	Subject	Reading
1	n/a	none	6	Price Controls	Top 3 + Ch. 7
2	Intro	Top 1 + Ch. 2	7	Taxes	Top 3 + Ch. 7
3	Supply & Demand	Top 2 + Ch. 3	8	Subsidies	Top 3 + Ch. 7
4	Elasticity	Top 2 + Ch. 4	9	Production-Cost	Top 5 + Ch. 6
5	Efficiency & Equity	Ch. 5	10	Competition	Top 6 + Ch. 6, 8

Study Tips

- Come to class and take notes. Do all of the practice problems at the end of my lecture outlines. The answers are provided. If you can't solve a problem, we will show you how in office hours.
- Consult the file of old exam questions at WebCT. I will not discuss these old exams for a variety of reasons, but they are still helpful in cluing you in on things you might not understand as well as you thought. Don't panic if you can't do every question, because the course has changed over the years. Some of the questions are not relevant for this course this term.
- There are usually a lot of problems at the ends of chapters of textbooks. Often, the answers are provided for the even-numbered or odd-numbered problems.
- Unless I specifically tell you otherwise, READ THE BOOK! It was written for you by a teacher who wants to help you learn this subject.

My Pet Peeves

- If you don't plan on coming to the lectures, please drop the course.
- My view of grades is that they certify attainment of a certain level of competence and expertise in a subject or technique. They are NOT a reward for effort, but rather for achievement. I am horribly offended when students beg me to raise their grade because they "need" a better mark. I do not honor such requests. Would you like to go under the anesthetic in the operating room knowing that your surgeon got thru medical school by begging for passing grades?
- I give multiple versions of tests several times each year. What would you do with a student who had the right answers for the OTHER version of the test?
- A lot of cheating takes place during the last few minutes of an exam, when papers are being handed in. In Spring 2010, 4 students handed in their midterms after I declared "pencils down," and 3 of them subsequently got caught cheating on the final. So I know what I am talking about. If you don't hand your exam in when I call "Time," I will cut your exam score in half.

² You will not be tested on this material until the final exam.