

# ECONOMICS 1: Principles of Microeconomics

Fall 2010

Lectures: T, Th 3:30 – 4:50pm: Centr 101

Discussion Sessions: Details on official schedule of classes

Prof: Herb Newhouse

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Office: Econ 108

Office Hours: Wed 10 – 11:30am

Course webpage: <https://webctweb.ucsd.edu/>

TAs: The TAs, email addresses and office hours will be posted on WebCT.

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.

## Lectures and Discussion Sessions:

You are responsible for all the material in the lectures and problem sets. Partial notes will be available on the class webpage before each lecture. I recommend that you print these out beforehand and fill in the missing information. I'll do my best to avoid typos but you're responsible for the correct material. I want you to understand the material instead of simply memorizing it. If you miss a lecture, borrow someone's notes. Discussion Sessions are optional but strongly recommended.

## Problem Sets:

Problem sets will be available online. We will go over these questions in the discussion sections and during office hours. Your best practice for the exams is to try these questions yourself first. It's important that you understand the logic of the problems. Memorizing the answers will probably not be very helpful during the exams.

## Exams:

Your grade will be determined on the basis of two Midterm Exams (25% each) and the Final Exam (50%). Alternatively your lower midterm will count for 15%; your higher midterm will count for 25% and your final will count for 60%. If you miss a midterm for a documented, university approved reason (ie., illness, official university trip) the weight for that exam will be placed on the final. If you miss a midterm for another reason (ie., oversleep) you will receive a zero for that exam. No one will be allowed to start an exam after the first person leaves it.

Midterm 1 will be held in class on Thursday, October 14th. Midterm 2 will be held in class on Tuesday, November 9th. The final exam will be held on Monday, December 6th from 3:00pm – 6:00pm. If you know in advance that you cannot make an exam, please let me know as soon as possible.

You are only permitted to use pens, pencils and a straight edge during the exams.

## Academic dishonesty:

I take academic dishonesty seriously. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will earn a failing grade for the course. In addition to this sanction, the Council of Deans of Student Affairs will also impose a disciplinary penalty. For a review of UCSD policy, please see <http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm>.

Regrade requests:

Regrade requests must be made through a written statement **before the start of class** one week after the exam was first passed back. The deadline is firm! Extensions will only be permitted if you have a documented, university approved reason for missing the entire week after the exam was first passed back. If you request a regrade I may regrade your entire exam and your score could go up, down or stay the same.

Text:

Principles of Economics, 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.

Preliminary Course Outline:

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 UCSD custom edition. Very roughly I'm hoping to spend one week per topic. All of this is subject to change.

Further Administrative Issues:

- If you have a documented disability, please talk to me as soon as possible so that we can make suitable accommodations. If you believe that you have a disability and desire accommodation, please register with the Office for Students with Disabilities.
- UCSD 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).
- With the permission of the TA, you may attend any discussion section (space permitting) and go to any of the TA's office hours.
- 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).

Note: Thursday, November 11 is Veteran's Day. We will not have class that day.