

Economics 1A: Introduction to Microeconomic Analysis

Spring 2001

Instructor: Jean Shelton

Office Hours: Th. 9:45-11:45

Office: Econ 110A

E-mail: jshelton@ucsd.edu

Purpose of the Course

The primary goal of this course is to introduce students to the basic economic tools employed in microeconomic analysis. A good grasp of microeconomics is vital for students interested in the economic workings of society. During this course we will discuss microeconomic tools which will help students to better understand demand and cost analysis, the implications of public policies on individual and firm behavior, and questions of market efficiency, inefficiency and government intervention.

Sections and Teaching Assistants

Each week there will be several sections. In these sections the TA's will review the study questions that will be posted on the internet the previous week. The answers to the study questions will be reviewed during the sections and will help students in preparing for the midterms and the final. The questions reviewed in sections will not be graded, however, I strongly urge students to attend sections. The answers to the study questions will not be posted on the internet. The only way to obtain the answers will be to attend sections. The sections will begin the second week of class.

The TA's will hold office hours at times and places to be announced later.

Textbooks

Principles of Microeconomics, Third Edition by Taylor (2001) - Required
Study Guide to Accompany Microeconomics, Third Edition by Papell, Solow, and Mounts (2001) - Recommended

Exams and Grading

There will be two midterms and a cumulative final. The two midterms will not be cumulative. Students are also encouraged to complete the practice problems posted on the internet and to examine the questions in the study guide. The internet practice problems will not be graded.

Description	Percentage of grade	Date
First Midterm	25%	April 25
Second Midterm	25%	May 21
Cumulative Final	50%	Consult your calendar

The Midterms and the final will not be given early or late (a make-up). If you miss a midterm due to illness, you will be excused if, and only if, you obtain a note from your doctor or the dean of your college. Exams missed due to athletic events in which you are a participant will be excused if, and only if, you obtain a note from your coach. In either case, the 25% from the missed midterm will be added to the final exam.

Readings

Unless told otherwise, students should read all appendices and last word boxes. You should also review all of the quick quizzes and study questions. I highly recommend that all students purchase the study guide. The study guides will help students review the subject matter and prepare for tests. The study guides are a good source for practice multiple choice questions, exercises, short problems

Introduction

The Central Idea	Ch. 1
Observing and Examining the Economy	Ch. 2
The Demand and Supply Model	Ch. 3
Elasticity	Ch. 4

Principles of Microeconomics

The Demand Curve, Consumer Behavior, and Utility Maximization	Ch. 5
The Supply Curve and the Behavior of Firms	Ch. 6
The Interaction of People in Markets	Ch. 7

The Economics of the Firm

Costs and the Changes at Firms over Time	Ch. 8
Monopoly	Ch. 10
Product Differentiation, Monopolistic Competition, and Oligopoly	Ch. 11