

ECON 1 – PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS

(Section B00, Spring 2010)

Class Meetings: MWF, 9:00-9:50pm, Center Hall 216

Instructor: Lili Xie

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Office Hours: MW, 11:00-12:00am

Class Webpage: Aplia.com

Course Information

- Description: This course introduces you to beginning microeconomic theory. We will first examine the behavior of consumers and firms in perfectly competitive markets and then briefly discuss monopolistic markets and international trade.

Required Book and Materials:

- Robert H. Frank and Ben S. Bernanke, *Principles of Economics*, 4th ed. (ISBN#: 0073402885). This book will be used for Econ 2 and Econ 3 as well. 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. You can also 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 it is your responsibility to make that translation.
- Aplia: As you will be asked to complete homework assignments on Aplia, you are also required to sign up at Aplia.com. The course key is: MMUT-TTQM-XGPS. 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. Besides homework assignments, I will also post course related materials such as PowerPoint slides and additional readings on Aplia.

Evaluation:

- Your grade will be determined based on: Aplia Assignments (20%), Midterm (35%), and Final (45%).
- Aplia Assignments: Homework assignments will be posted on Aplia. Please go through the first assignment “Introduction to Using Aplia Problem Sets” to get familiar with the system. Each question you answer correctly is worth one point and each assignment can have a different number of questions. For some questions, you can try the same question up to three times (each time is a different version) and your grade for that question will be the average of the three attempts. To allow for various unexpected problems, **the six homework assignments with the lowest percentage scores will be dropped at the end of the semester when your grade is calculated by the instructor.**

- Exam Dates (Please mark these in your calendar):
Midterm: 9:00-9:50am, **May 7th** (Friday)
Final Exam: 8:00pm-10:59pm, **June 9th** (Wednesday)
- Make-up Policy: There will be no make-up exam available. If you miss the midterm for a verifiable medical/legal/sports reason, final exam will account for 80% of your grade. You must contact me immediately as soon as you know that you cannot take an exam because of a verifiable medical/legal/sports reason. Failure to do so will result in a **zero grade** for that exam. Unexcused absences for an exam will also result in a **zero**.
- Regrade Request: If you would like a regrade of your midterm exam, please make a request in writing to your TA **within one week** after the exam is returned. You need to state your reason for requesting a regrade clearly. It will be at the discretion of the TAs whether your exam grade will be changed. **There will be no regrading for final.**
- Grade Distribution: Total grade will be curved. However, I will not curve individual exam grades. I will offer you some statistics to help you gauge how you are doing in class after each exam.
- Academic Dishonesty: The penalty for cheating and plagiarizing in this class is an **F** for the course.

Course Readings:

Course readings are listed below. You are expected to do the assigned readings before class.

Topic	Chapter
Thinking Like an Economist	1
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
Monopoly	9 (pages 233-249)
International Trade	28 (pages 809-824)

Discussion Sessions:

There are weekly discussion sessions led by teaching assistants starting with the second week. Although you are not required to attend these sessions, you can get additional help on class materials from them. TAs will explain problems similar to those that you will see on exams and can also answer your questions.