

**ECONOMICS 1B – WINTER 2004**  
**ELEMENTS OF ECONOMICS**

Instructor: Genevieve Peters  
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Classroom: York 2722  
Class Time: TuTh 12:30 – 1:50 p.m.  
Class Web Page: <http://weber.ucsd.edu/~gpeters/econ1b/>

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course provides an introduction to the issues studied by macroeconomists. We will begin the course by looking at the most important economic statistics used by macroeconomists to diagnose the health of the economy. Then we will use these economic statistics to look at the different sectors of the economy, including the labor market, capital markets, financial markets, and international capital and currency markets.

### **PREREQUISITES**

The prerequisite for this course is Economics 1A.

### **TEXTS**

The required text is Principles of Economics, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, by Robert H. Frank and Ben S. Bernanke. This book is a combined microeconomics/macroeconomics text. You may alternatively purchase the macroeconomics text, Principles of Macroeconomics, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, by the same authors.

Please note that the chapter numbering is different in these versions of the text. The reading assignments listed in this syllabus are denoted with a C for the combined micro/macro text and with an M for the macroeconomics text.

### **COURSE READINGS**

The reading assignments for each lecture are outlined in the class schedule below. Lectures will focus on the more difficult material in the readings, but you will be responsible for all the material in each chapter. You will get a lot more out of this class if you read the required chapters before each lecture.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Class attendance is an individual responsibility. Although daily attendance is not recorded, the lectures will be more mathematical than the text, and I will frequently provide examples during lecture that don't appear in the textbook but are fair game for examination. Thus, frequent absences may adversely impact grades.



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### **DISCUSSION SECTIONS**

There are six discussion sections scheduled for this course.

B01	Fridays	12:00 – 12:50 p.m.	Warren Lecture Hall 2207
B02	Fridays	1:00 – 1:50 p.m.	Warren Lecture Hall 2207
B03	Mondays	12:00 – 12:50 p.m.	Warren Lecture Hall 2207
B04	Mondays	1:00 – 1:50 p.m.	Warren Lecture Hall 2207
B05	Fridays	8:00 – 8:50 a.m.	Cognitive Science Building 004
B06	Fridays	9:00 – 9:50 a.m.	Cognitive Science Building 004

The discussion sections will be devoted primarily to working on the problems listed at the end of each textbook chapter. You will also be able to ask questions about the homework assignments (bring along a copy of the question for the section leader to read).

Friday discussion sections will begin on Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup> and Monday discussion sections will begin on Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. Students registered for the Monday sections may attend one of the Friday sections during Week 1.

The Monday discussion sections (B03 and B04) will be cancelled on January 19<sup>th</sup> for the Martin Luther King holiday and February 16<sup>th</sup> for the President's Day holiday. Please feel free to attend one of the Friday discussion sections those weeks.

### **HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS**

Graded homework assignments and optional practice questions have been placed on a new website dedicated to students and professors of economics. To access the website, you need to register for an account with Aplia at <http://econ.aplia.com>. Attached to this syllabus is an instruction sheet as well as a course key so that you can register. Please register on the website within 24 hours of receiving the course key. The cost of registering for this service is \$21.

A list of the components of the ten weekly assignments, along with their due dates, is below.

The graded problem sets have a firm due date. You can change your answers as many times as you like before the due date has passed. However, once the due date has passed, the grade will be recorded by the Aplia software and it will not be possible to change your answers or complete the assignment at this point. Do them early to avoid any emergencies preventing your completion before the due date. After the due date you will be able to see the correct answers and the explanations for the graded problems.

Many assignments come in pairs of practice and graded problem sets. The practice sets give you immediate feedback about whether your answer is right or wrong and an explanation of the correct answer. The practice sets are not counted as part of your homework grade. Use them to check your understanding of the material.

Each weekly assignment will receive a normalized score out of one (equal to the number of correct points divided by the number of total points on the assignment). Your homework grade will be the average of your eight highest normalized scores (your two lowest scores will be dropped.)



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**EXAMINATIONS**

Two midterm exams and one final exam will be given in this course. The midterm exams will be given in class on **Tuesday, January 27, 2004** and **Tuesday, February 24, 2004**. The final exam will be held in York 2722 on **Friday, March 19, 2004** from **11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

No calculators, study aids, or notes will be allowed in the exams.

All three exams must be taken at the scheduled time and place; they will not be given “early”. Students who arrive late will not receive extra time to complete their exam. Once a student completes the exam and leaves the exam room, no other student will be permitted to start the exam.

Any student suspected of cheating on an exam will be brought to the attention of the Dean.

**MISSED EXAMINATIONS**

No make-up exams will be given in this class. Students who miss a midterm exam without a university accepted excuse will receive a grade of zero (0) for the exam. Students who miss a midterm with a university accepted excuse will have the weight of the final exam increased accordingly. You must take the final exam to receive a grade in this class.

Excuses for missed exams must be pre-approved by the instructor (except when this is not possible an emergency situation). Students who make initial contact after the exam will have to document why they could not make contact prior to the exam. In addition, any student who misses an exam due to illness will be required to provide documentation from a health care professional indicating why the student was unable to take the exam. All documentation and an additional signed written statement explaining the relevant circumstances of the absence must be provided to the instructor within two working days of the student's return to campus. Failure to comply with any of the above in the specified manner will result in a grade of zero (0) for the exam.

**GRADING**

**Numerical grades will be assigned as follows:**

Homework Assignments	=	15%
Midterm Exam I	=	20%
Midterm Exam II	=	25%
Final Exam	=	40%
Total	=	100%

**Letter grades will be allocated as follows:**

Letter	A	A-	B+	B	B-
Numerical Range	90% - 100%	85% - 89%	80% - 84%	75% - 79%	70% - 74%
Letter	C+	C	C-	D	F
Numerical Range	65% - 69%	60% - 64%	55% - 59%	40% - 54%	0% - 39%



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**CLASS SCHEDULE**

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>
Tuesday	January 6	Macroeconomics: The Bird's-Eye View of the Economy (C-17/M-4)
Thursday	January 8	Measuring Economic Activity: GDP and Unemployment (C-18/M-5)
Tuesday	January 13	Measuring Economic Activity: GDP and Unemployment (C-18/M-5)
Thursday	January 15	Measuring the Price Level and Inflation (C-19/M-6)
Tuesday	January 20	Measuring the Price Level and Inflation (C-19/M-6)
Thursday	January 22	Short-Term Economic Fluctuations: An Introduction (C-25/M-12)
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>January 27</b>	<b>Midterm 1 (Covers Chs. C-17 through C-19 and C-25)</b>
Thursday	January 29	Economic Growth, Productivity, and Living Standards (C-20/M-7)
Tuesday	February 3	Economic Growth, Productivity, and Living Standards (C-20/M-7) and Workers, Wages, and Unemployment in the Modern Economy (C-21/M-8)
Thursday	February 5	Workers, Wages, and Unemployment in the Modern Economy (C-21/M-8)
Tuesday	February 10	Saving and Capital Formation (C-22/M-9)
Thursday	February 12	Saving and Capital Formation (C-22/M-9)
Tuesday	February 17	Money, Prices, and the Federal Reserve (C-23/M-10)
Thursday	February 19	Money, Prices, and the Federal Reserve (C-23/M-10)
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>February 24</b>	<b>Midterm 2 (Covers Chapters C-17 through C-23 and C-25)</b>
Thursday	February 26	Financial Markets and International Capital Flows (C-24/M-11)
Tuesday	March 2	Financial Markets and International Capital Flows (C-24/M-11) and Comparative Advantage: The Basis for Exchange (C-2/M-2)
Thursday	March 4	Comparative Advantage: The Basis for Exchange (C-2/M-2) and International Trade and Trade Policy (C-16/M-16)
Tuesday	March 9	International Trade and Trade Policy (C-16/M-16) and Exchange Rates and the Open Economy (C-29/M-17)
Thursday	March 11	Exchange Rates and the Open Economy (C-29/M-17)
Friday	March 19	<b>Final Exam in York 2722 from 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.</b> <b>(Covers Chapters C-2, C-16 through C-25, and C-29)</b>



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**WEEKLY GRADED HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS**

**Week 1 – Due before 11:45 p.m. on Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>.**

1. Introductory Graded Problem Set
2. Pretest
3. Introduction to Macroeconomics II

**Week 2 – Due before 11:45 p.m. on Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>.**

1. Calculating GDP II
2. Measuring National Income II
3. GDP: Measuring Output, Mismeasuring Well Being?
4. Measuring Unemployment II

**Week 3 – Due before 11:45 p.m. on Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>.**

1. Introductory Graded Problem Set
  - Optional if you already completed this component during Week 1. If you complete this component a second time, the more recent score will be used to compute your normalized score for the Week 1 assignment.
2. Posttest
  - Optional if you took the Pretest. If you complete both the Pretest and the Posttest, the higher of the two scores will be used to compute your normalized score for the Week 1 assignment.
3. Introduction to Macroeconomics II
  - Optional if you already completed this component during Week 1. If you complete this component a second time, the more recent score will be used to compute your normalized score for the Week 1 assignment.
4. Measuring the Price Level and Inflation II
5. Short-Term Economic Fluctuations II

**Week 4 – Due before 11:45 p.m. on Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>.**

1. Introduction to Economic Growth II
2. Too Much Productivity?

**Week 5 – Due before 11:45 p.m. on Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>.**

1. Economic Growth, Productivity, and Living Standards II
2. Workers, Wages, and Unemployment II
3. Understanding the Labor Market: Personal Stories vs. Impersonal Statistics

Please note that the deadlines for these assignments are fixed. The deadlines listed above are 11:45 p.m. (which means 11:45:00) Pacific time. This means that any components of the assignment submitted at 11:45:01 p.m. Pacific time (or later) will be rejected by the computer and will not be graded.



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**WEEKLY GRADED HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS**

**Week 6 – Due before 11:45 p.m. on Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>.**

1. Saving and Capital Formation II

**Week 7 – Due before 11:45 p.m. on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

1. Money, Prices, and the Federal Reserve II
2. Transparency at the Fed

**Week 8 – Due before 11:45 p.m. on Sunday, February 29<sup>th</sup>.**

1. Introduction to Financial Markets II

**Week 9 – Due before 11:45 p.m. on Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.**

1. Production Possibilities II
2. Financial Markets and International Capital Flows II

**Week 10 – Due before 11:45 p.m. on Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.**

1. Gains from Trade II
2. Increased Fuel Economy Sought
3. Exchange Rates and the Open Economy II
4. A Falling Exchange Rate in Brazil Increases Exports of Soybeans

Please note that the deadlines for these assignments are fixed. The deadlines listed above are 11:45 p.m. (which means 11:45:00) Pacific time. This means that any components of the assignment submitted at 11:45:01 p.m. Pacific time (or later) will be rejected by the computer and will not be graded.



**Economics 1B, Winter 2004**Professor Genevieve Peters

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**Your course key is: MQMZ-BF2E-P2QF**

**Course Fee: \$21.00.**

To get started in Professor Peters' class, please do the following:

**First Time Aplia Users:**

1. Connect to <http://econ.aplia.com>.
2. Complete the Configuration Test. You **must have JavaScript and Flash 5** to use the site. If you don't, the configuration test will tell you and instructions will follow.
3. Return to the Sign In page and click "Register here."
4. You will be prompted to enter your e-mail address and select a password.
5. You will then be asked to enter your course key (above).
6. You only need to register once. After the registration process is complete, you will not need to enter the course key again.
7. Before entering your course, you will be prompted for payment. There is a 20 day grace period for this course. If your payment has not been received by 01.25.04, you will not be able to access the site until Aplia receives your payment.

**Returning Aplia Users:**

1. Connect to <http://econ.aplia.com>.
2. Sign in using your usual e-mail address and password.
3. On your home page click the button "Enroll in a New Course."
4. You will be asked to enter your course key (above).
5. Before entering your course, you will be prompted for payment. There is a 20 day grace period for this course. If your payment has not been received by 01.25.04, you will not be able to access the site until Aplia receives your payment.
6. If you want to switch between courses, use the [Switch Course] link at the top of the screen, or use the "My Account" tab, then click on "My Courses."

For technical problems or problems signing in, please contact Aplia by sending e-mail to **[support@aplia.com](mailto:support@aplia.com)**.

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