

Econ 1- Elements of Economics, Winter 2007

11-11:50 a.m., MWF, Center 115

Instructor: Andra Ghent, e-mail: aghent@ucsd.edu

Teaching Assistants:

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Office Hours:

Andra	Wed.	12:30 - 1:30	SH237
Aren	Fri.	3:00 - 3:50	SH205
Nathan	TBA	TBA	SH244
Noel	TBA	TBA	SH244

Course Description: This course covers the principles of microeconomic analysis. Economics is the study of the allocation of scarce resources. Microeconomics is the study of how self-interested, rational individuals make decisions when faced with scarcity. We will examine how these individuals interact in a market economy through trade and how individuals' decisions generate demand and supply for goods. A key principle in our analysis will be the idea of *efficient* allocations of resources, i.e., allocations in which it is not possible to make one person better off without making another person worse off. Towards the end of the course, we will look at some situations in which free markets do not efficiently allocate resources.

Required Course Materials: The textbook is *Principles of Economics*, 3rd ed., by Robert Frank and Ben Bernanke. This is also the textbook Econ 2 and Econ 3 use. In addition to the textbook, this course requires Aplia access. You may purchase both Aplia access and the textbook from Aplia's website (www.aplia.com) or through the bookstore. Please see the attached instruction sheet on how to sign up for Aplia and sign up as soon as possible. The course key is 768K-PTSP-DV5Z.

Class Web Page: Hosted by Aplia.

Grading: There will be weekly assignments, two midterm exams, and a final. They will count toward the grade as follows:

Assignments	20%
Midterm 1	20%
Midterm 2	20%
Final	40%.

Exams: The midterm exams will be in class on *Friday, February 2nd* and *Friday, March 2nd*. The final exam is on *Monday, March 19th*, 11:30-2:30. Midterm 1 will cover the material in chapters 1-3 including the appendix of chapter 3. Midterm 2 will cover the material in chapters 4 through 6 including the appendix of chapter 5. The final will be cumulative. There will be no makeup midterm exams. If you miss a midterm for a legitimate, verifiable

reason (e.g., medical), your grade for that midterm will be your grade on the final. If you miss a midterm for some other reason, your grade for that midterm will be zero.

Graphing calculators are not allowed during exams. You may use basic scientific calculators. Cell phones and PDAs must be turned off during exams. Any student caught cheating during an exam will receive a grade of zero for that exam and will be reported to the UCSD Academic Integrity Coordinator for further disciplinary action. Please familiarize yourself with UCSD's academic integrity policy:

<http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm>.

Regrades: We will make every effort to ensure that grading is fair and consistent across students. However, if you believe an error was made in grading your exam, you may ask for a regrade provided you wrote the exam in pen. *No exams written in pencil are eligible for a regrade.* The procedure to follow to ask for a regrade is: 1) Prepare a written petition in which you state the grading error you believe was made. 2) Attach a hard copy of this petition to your exam and give the exam back to Nathan or Noel. 3) Send a soft copy of this request to Nathan and Noel by email. You must complete all of these steps *within one week of getting your exam back*. Please be aware that if you ask for a regrade, Nathan and Noel reserve the right to regrade the entire exam and, as such, your total score may fall if errors in your favor were made in grading some parts of the test.

Homework: The key to mastering the material in this course is doing problems. At a minimum, the course requires you to complete and submit weekly homework assignments through Aplia. Each week's assignment is due at *11 p.m. on Sunday night* and will include a problem set and, occasionally, some questions based on a short newspaper article. The first assignment is due Sunday, January 14th. *You are responsible for remembering to turn these assignments in. Aplia will not accept late problem sets.* Ungraded practice problem sets will also be available online.

I am also assigning questions from the "problems" sections of the textbook (see below). These questions will not be graded but Aren will review the answers during your tutorial section. Finally, I highly recommend you complete the "in-chapter" and "in-appendix" exercises in the textbook as you are reading the chapters.

Tutorials: You are not required to attend section. However, attendance will likely improve your understanding of the material. The tutorials will be most useful for you if you try to complete the problems on your own beforehand. Aren will review the following material during the tutorials:

Wk. of Jan.15	Ch.1 problems 8 and 10; Ch.2 problems 1 and 2
Wk. of Jan. 22	Ch.2 problems 5, 6, 9, and 10
Wk. of Jan. 29	Ch.3 problems 4, 5, 13, 14, and 15
Wk. of Feb. 5	Ch.4 problems 2,6, and 9
Wk. of Feb. 12	Solution to Midterm 1
Wk. of Feb. 19	Ch.5 problems 8 and 9; Ch.5 Appendix problems 1 and 2
Wk. of Feb. 26	Ch.6 problems 6-10
Wk. of Mar. 5	Ch.7 problems 4, 6, and 8
Wk. of Mar. 12	Solution to Midterm 2

Tentative Class Schedule:

Mon., Jan. 8th	Introductions / Administrative Details (Aren)
Wed., Jan. 10th	Ch.1 - Thinking Like an Economist
Fri., Jan. 12th	Ch.2 - Comparative Advantage: The Basis for Trade
Mon., Jan. 15th	No class - Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday
Wed., Jan. 17th	Ch.2 continued
Fri., Jan. 19th	Ch.3 - Supply and Demand: An Introduction
Mon., Jan. 22nd	Ch.3 continued
Wed., Jan. 24th	Ch.3 continued
Fri., Jan. 26th	Ch.3 continued
Mon., Jan. 29th	Ch.4 - Elasticity
Wed., Jan. 31st	Ch.4 continued
Fri., Feb. 2nd	Midterm 1 (covers chs. 1, 2, and 3 + appendix)
Mon., Feb. 5th	Ch.4 continued
Wed., Feb. 7th	Ch.5 - Demand: The Benefit Side of the Market
Fri., Feb. 9th	Ch.5 continued
Mon., Feb. 12th	Ch.5 continued
Wed., Feb. 14th	Ch.5 continued
Fri., Feb. 16th	Ch.6 - Perfectly Competitive Supply: The Cost Side of the Market
Mon., Feb. 19th	No class - Presidents' Day
Wed., Feb. 21st	Ch.6 continued
Fri., Feb. 23rd	Ch.6 continued
Mon., Feb. 26th	Ch.7 - Efficiency and Exchange
Wed., Feb. 28th	Ch.7 continued
Fri., Mar. 2nd	Midterm 2 (covers chs. 4, 5 + appendix, and 6)
Mon. Mar. 5th	Ch.7 continued
Wed., Mar. 7th	Ch.8 - The Quest for Profit and the Invisible Hand
Fri., Mar. 9th	Ch.8 continued
Mon., Mar. 12th	Ch.8 continued
Wed., Mar. 14th	Ch.16 - Public Goods and Tax Policy
Fri. Mar. 16th	Ch.16 continued