
Office Hours: Tues/Thur 8:30AM by appointment

Class Days/Time: TUES/THUR 9AM-10:15AM (Section 63)

GE/SJSU Studies Category:

Area D1: Social Science, Human Behavior

Course Description

In this course we will explore how an economist looks at the world. Why do countries around the globe have varying rates of economic growth that lead to differences in standards of living? As the semester unfolds students will learn to use a var

Information

Instructor: Steve O'Brian

Office Location: Dudley Moore

Course Goals and Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

The following are specific goals for students successfully completing the course:

1. Understanding of Comparative Advantage: specialization, the gains from trade and globalization.
2. Ability to identify and study key Macroeconomic Measures: real v. nominal calculations; components and the concept of GDP; components and the concept of unemployment figures; calculation of inflation
3. Critically evaluate Macroeconomic Policy: Fiscal v. Monetary policy; and role of the banking system and financial markets
4. Supply and Demand: General understanding and apply the notion that economics is about the allocation of scarce resources, that scarcity forces choices, tradeoffs exist and that every choice has an opportunity cost

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Modern Principles: Macroeconomics, by Tyler Cowen and Alex Tabarrok, ISBN 978-0-42927840-9, Worth Publishers Fourth, Third or Second edition are okay.

This textbook is available for rental as well as purchase from many different sources. I would recommend browsing Amazon. Purchasing the textbook is a requirement for this course, and questions for quizzes and exams will include information from the readings.

Other Readings

I will post or link any additional readings on the Canvas course website.

Canvas the learning management system will be the central online communication hub for the class. Grades, additional readings and messages related to class will be posted through the Canvas system. You will access Canvas using your SJSU login and password <https://sjsu.instructure.com>

**Please be sure that your email is listed correctly or you risk missing key information communicated throughout the semester.*

Course Requirements and Assignments

This class is a four-unit class. Students should plan to spend twelve hours per week throughout the semester. These hours include reading, preparing for class, attending class, participating in course activities and completing online and in-class assignments. Please note there are only 168 total hours in a seven day week. If you subtract 10 hours per day for sleep and time, then you have 86 hours left in a week for coursework etc. Do the math and make sure you have the time to succeed in this class

Grading Policy and Missing Assignments/Exams

Information regarding the policies of the Economics Department can be found at <http://www.sjsu.edu/economics/>

ECON 1A, Fall Course Schedule

Course Schedule

**Schedule is subject to change but only with plenty of notice in class and on Canvas*

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/22	Introduction and Course Overview
2	8/27	Cowen/Tabarrok (C) Ch. 12, Economic Ideas, Trade, Comparative Advantage
2	8/29	CT Ch. 3 Supply and Demand
3	9/3	CT Ch. 3 Supply and Demand (continued)
3	9/5	CT Ch. 4 Equilibrium and Prices
4	9/10	CT. Ch. 5 Price Ceilings and Floors

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Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
12	11/7	CT Ch. 17 The Federal Budget: Taxes and Spending
13	11/12	