

**“Economics deals with society's fundamental problems; it concerns everyone and belongs to all. It is the main and proper study of every citizen.” *Ludwig von Mises***

ECONOMICS 1B--PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS  
Tuesday 6:30PM—9:15PM  
Washington Square Hall 207

**San Jose State University  
Fall 2019**

**INSTRUCTOR:** DR. NINOS P. MALEK  
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**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesday 9:15PM—10:15PM

#### ***COURSE DESCRIPTION AND TEACHING PHILOSOPHY***

Economics can be defined as *the study of exchange given certain institutional arrangements* or it can be viewed as *the study of human action—people making choices*. This course will teach you about economic reasoning and how the social science of economics applies to the real world and to your daily life. ***This is NOT a course in business, personal finance, or and demand to public policy issues including the minimum wage, rent control, “price gouging” laws, drug prohibition, and human organ shortages; institutional differences between market and command economies; market structures and antitrust; public choice analysis, public goods theory and externalities; property rights and environmental economics.***

***My method is to teach this class from a philosophical and practical point of view. I will not focus on the mathematics or the technical aspects of the economics. I want you to have an intuitive understanding rather than a mechanical understanding. However, you will be expected to learn and apply the basic supply and demand model (graph). The goal by the end of the semester is to get you to analyze personal situations, listen to the news, discuss politics, and argue with your friends and family using the “economic way of thinking.”***

I understand that students have different learning styles. Some learn by reading (verbal), others by listening (auditory), and still others primarily by doing. I do my be

controls, labor markets, income distribution, and environmental issues. Finally, students will be able to place social events in an appropriate context. ***The GE writing requirement will be satisfied by writing FOUR 750- 1,000-word essays (approximately 3-4 pages each, double-spaced, 12-point font).*** You will apply economic theory to four topics that **I will choose**. ALL four essays will be due **on Tuesday, December** at the beginning of class. I will grade only **ONE** of the four essays **but I will not tell you which one**. **You must write all four if you want to receive credit for the one I eventually grade**. I will let you know which essay I am grading after I collect all the essays.

### ***UNIVERSITY HONOR CODE***

Students are expected to be familiar with the SJSU Policy on Academic Dishonesty which can be found in the University Schedule of Classes and the University Catalog. The Department of Economics Academic Fairness Standards states: “An individual instructor who discovers, or is presented with, conclusive evidence of cheating shall assign a course grade of ‘F,’ and inform the Chairman of the Department the reasons for the grade and for further disciplinary action.”

Plagiarism is defined as the act of representing the work of another as one’s own (without giving appropriate credit) regardless of how that work was obtained and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements. Plagiarism at SJSU includes but is not limited to: **1.** The act of incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs or parts thereof, or the specific substance of another’s work, without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as one’s own work, knowingly or unknowingly or **2.** Representing another person’s scholarly or artistic works as one’s own.

Plagiarism is unacceptable. The instructor will discuss any instances of suspected plagiarism with the student involved and apply appropriate sanctions. Evidence of plagiarism will result in course failure and may also result in expulsion from San Jose State University. To avoid plagiarism, a good rule of thumb is to use quotes and citations if you use five words from someone else.

### ***CAMPUS POLICY IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICAN DISABILITIES ACT***

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please talk to me as soon as possible. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu> to establish a record of their disability.

## *CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS*

I expect all students to behave professionally during class. This means that I will not tolerate **cell phone/Apple watch** text messaging, catching up on **Facebook** during class or looking at **irrelevant websites** on your laptop, **reading** the school newspaper or other materials, or **talking** while another student is asking a question, during a video, or when I am lecturing.

Talking is very disruptive to students who want to learn and to me as the instructor. I will also not tolerate any **sleeping** or **heads down** during class.

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**NO CELL PHONES WILL BE ALLOWED DURING CLASS. IN OTHER WORDS, NO CELL PHONES ARE TO BE ON YOUR** **DES1 88nTw 0.251 417-28 D**

IF YOU ARE TEXTING OR HAVE YOUR PHONE OUT, SITTING IN THE FRONT ROW WITH YOUR LAPTOP LOOKING AT IRRELEVANT WEBSITES, CHECKING EMAIL, OR ON FACEBOOK (AND I CAN TELL WHO IS DOING THAT), OR ARE USING A LAPTOP/IPAD WHEN NOT SITTING IN THE FRONT ROW, I WILL ASK TO YOU LEAVE MY CLASS.

**BOTTOM LINE: ONLY COME TO CLASS IF YOU ARE READY TO LEARN AND PAY ATTENTION.**

Also be **realistic** about your **personal discipline** and **commitment** to this class. If you know that you will not be focused or if your job/extracurricular activity/other commitments will make it difficult for you to attend class, pay attention, or to stay the entire time, you should reconsider taking this class at another time.

### **REQUIRED BOOKS**

1. *Microeconomics: Private and Public Choice*, 16<sup>th</sup> edition
2. *The Economics of Public Issues*, 20<sup>th</sup> edition by Miller, Benjamin, and North
3. *Economics in One Lesson*, Hazlitt

### **DROPPING AND ADDING**

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's Catalog Policies section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the Current Academic Calendar web page located at [http://www.sjsu.edu/academic\\_programs/calendars/academic\\_calendar/](http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/). The Late Drop Policy is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising>.

## **GRADES AND MAKEUP POLICY**

- ✓ Four Tests: the **highest three** will count—even if you get an “A” on the first three tests, I highly recommend that you do not slack off. The Final will cover material from all the tests and you are required to take the Final!) **100 points each**
- ✓ Essay: **100 points for the one essay topic I choose**
- ✓ Final (**comprehensive plus** any remaining material after Test 4 **plus all essays/video clips/MBN/Hazlitt chapters** that I assigned/showed in class during the semester whether on a previous test or not): **600 points**

Grades will be based on the highest three tests (300 points maximum), the one essay topic that I choose (100 points maximum), and the Final (600 points maximum). There will be a total of **1,000 points**. *Whatever percentage you earn out of 1,000 points will determine your semester grade.*

**If you are absent the night of the test, you will receive a “0”** and I will drop that test (NO MATTER WHAT THE REASON IS: PERSONAL PROBLEMS, FAMILY SITUATION, ILLNESS, WORK-RELATED, ETC.). SO, PLEASE DO NOT COME TO ME AND ASK ME IF THERE IS AN EXCEPTION.

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## ***ATTENDANCE***

It is up to you to measure the costs and benefits of your class attendance. However, I highly recommend regular attendance because the quizzes and tests will cover more than just the books and homework readings.