

**“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 1A--PRINCIPLES OF MACROECONOMICS  
SECTION 60

**Tuesday  
6:30PM—9:15PM  
Washington Square Hall 207  
San Jose State University  
SPRING 2020**

**INSTRUCTOR:** DR. NINOS P. MALEK  
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**OFFICE:** WSH 207  
**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 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 investing.***

My goal is to teach you how economic analysis can be used to evaluate actions taken by individuals and the government. Topics to be discussed include fundamental concepts of economics such as scarcity and opportunity cost; individual and international trade; the role of prices in allocating goods and services; applications of supply and demand to

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 best to address all styles of learning by incorporating lectures, class discussion, group problem-solving exercises, simulations, and videos throughout the quarter.

I will assign numerous short readings and show videos and video clips on various policy topics. **The goal of these readings and videos/video clips is to make you think critically and to look at issues from a perspective you probably have not considered before this class.**

### ***COURSE GOALS AND STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES***

My primary goal in a “principles” class is to teach you to think like an economist. This skill can take you very far in the business, government and nonprofit sectors alike as well as in your personal life.

Specific SLO’s that the Economics Department emphasizes in this class include:

- **Incentives Matter** (law of demand; law of supply; rational decision makers weigh marginal costs versus marginal benefits; the power of self-interest)
- **Opportunity Cost** (sunk costs; production possibilities; the free-lunch fallacy; tradeoffs in consumption and production; gains from interpersonal and international trade; comparative advantage.)
- **Supply and Demand** (understanding the S&D model as a representation of individual choices in exchange based on individual preferences, knowledge and circumstances; ability to exam

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



*There is a maximum of 1,000 points in the class. Whatever percentage you get out of 1,000 points will determine your semester grade.*

***GRADING SCALE***

**A+: 96.5—100**

**D: 59.5—69.4**

**A: 92.5—96.4**

**F: 59.4—BELOW**

**A-: 89.5—92.4**

**B+: 86.5—89.4**

**B: 82.5—86.4**

**B-: 79.5—82.4**

**C+: 76.5—79.4**

**C: 72.5—76.4**

**C-: 69.5—72.4**

***WARNING!!!!***



## *ATTENDANCE*

It is up to you to measure the costs and benefits of your class attendance. However, I highly recommend regular attendance because the tests will cover more than just the readings. So, there is a cost to missing class.

If I were you, I would exchange phone numbers/email addresses with other members of the class. It is **your responsibility** to find out what you missed if you are absent or late or if you leave early.

***Do not assume anything regarding the schedule. I reserve the right to change my schedule and the topics that I will cover.*** I will always give you notice if there are any changes, but if you are absent the next class meeting or if you come in late or leave early, there could be another change to the schedule while you are gone.

**Bottom line:** if you come in late and I am already talking, assume I made an important announcement and ask me during the break or after class if indeed I did make any announcements. If you have to leave early, send an email to me or someone you trust to make sure that I did not change my mind about the schedule or make any further announcements. It is always a good idea to send an email to me or someone you trust to confirm what we covered if you are absent for the entire class.

**Final is on Tuesday, May 19 at 7:45PM**

**NO EXCEPTIONS OR CHANGES!**

## *SCHEDULE AND AGENDA*

See my website for the “Topics” file which lists what will be covered for each of the four tests (book chapters, lecture notes, readings, and videos). I will give you a tentative date for the first test and then I will give you updates for the remaining four test dates. For example, after you take test 1, I will give you the tentative date for test 2 and I will repeat this for test 3, test 4, and test 5 as well.