

San José State University
Department of Economics
ECON 109: Analysis of Economic Issues for Teachers
Spring 2020

Instructor:	James (Steve) O'Brien
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Email:	james.obrien@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Tues/Thur 8:30AM (By appointment)
Class Days/Times:	Tues/Thur 9am-10:15am
Classroom:	DMH 161
Prerequisites:	Upper division standing.

Notes: Not acceptable for Economics majors, except double majors; acceptable for Economics minors.

Course Description

Economic analysis of such topics as unemployment, inflation, poverty, pollution, education and international trade will be covered within the context of K-12 education.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. CLO 1 Comparative Advantage: Define and appreciate the critical role of specialization and how it contributes to gains from trade and globalization.
2. CLO 2 Supply and Demand: Apply the notion that economics is about the allocation of scarce resources, that scarcity forces choice, tradeoffs exist and that every choice has an opportunity cost.
3. CLO 3 Develop the ability to relate basic Macro Economic c

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 at <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

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>

NOTE that [University policy F69-24](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf> states that “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

Note that “All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See [University Policy F13-1](#) at

makeups. I will periodically allow notes to be used for quizzes, but not your textbook or any

University Policies

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU's policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See [University Policy S90-5](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf>. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the [SJSU catalog](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html), at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html>. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

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](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/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](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Academic integrity

Your

ECON 109, Spring Course Schedule

Course Schedule

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

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1/23	Introduction and Course Overview
2	1/28	Cowen/Tabarrok (CT) Ch. 1-2, Economic Ideas, Trade, Comparative Advantage
2	1/30	CT Ch. 3 Supply and Demand
3	2/4	CT Ch. 3 Supply and Demand (continued)
3	2/6	CT Ch. 4 Equilibrium and Prices
4	2/11	CT. Ch. 6 Taxes and Subsidies
4	2/13	CT Ch. 8 Price Ceilings and Floors (parts of Ch. 7 Price Signals)
5	2/18	CT Ch. 9 International Trade
5	2/20	CT Ch. 10 Externalities
6	2/25	Catch Up and Review
6	2/27	Midterm #1
7	3/3	
7	3/5	
8	3/10	
8	3/12	
9	3/17	
9	3/19	
10	3/24	Catch Up and Review
10	3/26	Midterm #2
11	3/31	Spring Break
11	4/2	Spring Break
12	4/7	CT Ch. 32 The Federal Reserve System
12	4/9	CT Ch. 33 Monetary Policy

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
13	4/14	CT Ch. 34 The Federal Budget: Taxes and Spending
13	4/16	CT Ch. 35 Fiscal Policy
14	4/21	CT Ch. 34-35 (Continued)
14	4/23	CT Ch. 13 Monopoly
15	4/28	CT CH. 13 Monopoly
15	4/30	CT Ch. 19 Political Economy and Public Choice
16	5/5	