

San José State University
Department of Economics
Econ 1B - 01, Principles of Microeconomics, 8526, Fall 2024

Course and Contact Information

Instructor Ghislaine Lang
Office Location DMH 138
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Online Office Hours: Tu 9:00am - 10:00am + appointments
Days/Time: M + W 1:30pm – 2:45pm
Classroom: DMH 16

Course Description

Official catalogue description: Allocation of resources and distribution of income as affected by the workings of the price system and by government policies. GE Area: D1

Course Format in-person

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](#). You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU Spartan App Portal](#) (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor) to learn of any updates.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Master microeconomic theory related to three broad areas: Incentives, Opportunity Cost, and Supply and Demand. Specific learning objectives include:

- Incentives Matter (law of demand; law of supply; rational decision makers weight marginal costs versus marginal benefits; the power of self-interest);
- Opportunity Costs (sunk costs; production possibilities; the free-lunch fallacy; tradeoffs in consumption and production; gains from interpersonal & 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 examine current events using S&D tools; movement versus shift; welfare analysis)

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

1. Evaluate and apply the concept of opportunity cost and its impact in real world decisions for households and businesses
2. Explain and analyze how firms maximize profits
3. Analyze how prices are determined in a market economy

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Lee Coppock, Dirk Mateer, Principles of Microeconomics, 4th edition W.W. Norton.

How to register for online assignments and e book:

Required online enrollment at WWNorton on Canvas Modules → "REGISTRATION FOR DIGITAL RESOURCES", you start watching the video titled "How to Register for Digital Resources"

You register using the "How to use Inquizitive" link, Smartwork: graphing link, → click on "Purchase options" then "Ebook for Principles of Microeconomics" at \$84.95. From there follow different steps until registration is completed.

Purchasing the ebook will give you access to the ebook (!) + Inquizitive + Smartwork bundle.

What is Inquizitive?

Inquizitive adapts to your level of knowledge; it is a formative, adaptive learning tool that gives you personalized quiz questions on topics you need the most help with. You can gain or lose points on each question, depending on how confident you judge yourself to be. Questions get harder as you answer more questions correctly, however harder questions are worth more points.

To complete Inquizitive, you must answer at least 10 questions

You can gain or lose up to 100 points on each question, depending on how confident you judge yourself to be.

Each Inquizitive assignment has a Target Score and your grade will be based on how many points you earn.

Reach the Target Score (no matter how many questions it takes) and you will earn a grade of 100%.

You can leave the activity at any time, then come back later to complete it. Your progress is always automatically saved, but your grade will be modified only if you complete the assignment before the due date: you can continue to improve your score until the due date; past the due date and your grade will not change.

It will be due on the Tuesday before the class session covering the same chapter.

Canvas will drop your lowest score to calculate the Inquizitive average.

What is Smartwork?

Smartwork is a weekly quiz. You will have ONE quiz per chapter (except chapter 7 where you will have two Smartwork assignments).

Before the due date you may attempt the assignment up to 2 times and your grade on the assignment is the highest score on any attempt. No late assignments are accepted and any assignments that "progress" are auto submitted at the due date.

Canvas will drop your lowest score to calculate the Smartwork average.

Library Liaison

Christa Bailey is the Digital Initiatives Liaison Librarian of the King Library. christa.bailey@sjsu.edu

She has been appointed as the liaison librarian for the economics department and is eager to meet and work with students.

<http://libguides.sjsu.edu/c.php?g=230229>

Course Requirements and Assignments

This course requires regular textbook reading and regular homework assignments.

University policy S109 requires the following language to be included in the syllabus:

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend ~~for each~~ credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practice. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Final Examination or Evaluation

“ Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment.”

Grading Information

Determination of Grades

- Exams: There will be one midterm and one final. Exams will be monitored with LockDown Browser <https://www.sjsu.edu/ecamp/teachingtools/respondus/faq/index.html>

- Smartwork: weekly online assignments **Due every Sunday at 11:30 pm.**

- Inquizitive: weekly online adaptive assignments. **Due every Sunday 11:30pm**

- Paper/Discussion:

Please note the following instructions and format for writing the paper: points will be taken off if the following format and other requirements as mentioned below are not met. NO LATE PAPER WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Write this paper for a reader with no prior knowledge or understanding of economic concepts.

The purpose of the paper is to demonstrate that using a video clip, an article or a podcast, you can understand and explain everyday events using micro econ concepts.

You will select and share ~~think~~ of an article, or a video clip or a podcast related to economics.

Format to follow:

- Part I: Introduction

Name the author, title of article, where and when the article was published.

Identify and define the concept covered by the article using Mateer’s definition: the author of your book. Please identify the paragraph referring to your definition.

You will name and quote Mateer’s definition of the economic concept covered by the article. This is the economic concept you will analyze in your paper.

- Part II: Summarize, Analyze, Generalization

Summary: collect the important information of the article using your own words. No quotes!

Analysis: thoroughly explain the economic concept to the reader. I encourage you to verify the thoroughness of your explanation with the book’s. Then, find the commonalities between the theory and the article. Use this to show how accurately the concept explains the real life situation covered in the article.

Generalization: What the article was about and how you evaluate it.

-Part III: you will write three questions pertaining to your source and you will respond to three questions each one from a different student.

Econ 1B – 01 Principles of Microeconomics, Fall 2024, Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change with fair notice

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Aug. 21	Syllabus
2	Aug. 26 Aug. 28	Chapter 1: Five Foundations of Economics
3	Sept.2 Sept.4	Labor Day

