**SACRAMENTO STATE UNIVERSITY**
**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS**
**FALL 2006**

**ECON 100B: INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMIC THEORY**

**Professor:** Jessica Howell  
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**Class Meetings:** Section 1 – T,R 12:00 – 1:15 pm 
**Office Hours:** M,W 9 – 10 am, T 3 – 4 pm 
**Aplia Website:** http://econ.aplia.com

**Course Description**  
An analysis of the behavior of individuals and firms that builds on the concepts introduced in ECON 1B, such as supply and demand, elasticity, resource allocation, and firm costs and revenues. Emphasis is placed on active learning through the application of theories to graphical and mathematical problems.

**Required On-line Account (Aplia)**  
All students are required to register for an Aplia account at http://econ.aplia.com using the Course Key **BV9K-77N2-SJX2**. All course materials, including textbook, announcements, practice problems, homework assignments, and homework submission will occur through this on-line account. There is a $75 fee for the semester.

**Digital Textbook (Aplia)**  
*Microeconomics: Theory and Applications* by Browning and Zupan, 9th edition. Electronic access to this textbook is included in the $75 Aplia fee.

**Paper Textbook (Optional)**  
If you have a strong preference for a hardcopy of the textbook, you may order one through Aplia for $50 or procure a used copy of the current or a previous edition through various websites. The bookstore does not carry this textbook. I’ve provided ISBN numbers below for recent editions to assist you in ordering from other vendors. Note that one of the more recent editions will suffice if you don’t mind figuring out the differences in page numbering.


Additionally, there is a copy of the 8th edition of this textbook on reserve in the CSUS Library Reserve Desk.
Grading
Homework 25%
Exam I 25%
Exam II 25%
Comprehensive Final Exam 25%

The actual letter grade you earn in this course will be based on a grading scale to be determined after
the final exam. This scale may resemble the 10-point scale that many of you are used to (e.g., 90-100% is some sort of A, 80-89% is some sort of B, etc...), but I reserve the right to curve the grading
scale based on the performance of the entire class. I will provide feedback over the semester on how to
interpret your raw homework and exam scores so that you are not totally surprised by your final grade.

Note on the Content of this Course Syllabus
I view the information on this syllabus as a contract between me and my students. I try to be very clear
about my expectations and policies so that everyone knows the basic rules and we all go home happy
every Tuesday and Thursday and, ultimately, at the end of the semester. Please read the following
carefully.

Attendance
Attendance at lecture is left up to your discretion, although I obviously believe that spending 2½ hours
with me each week will have a positive effect on how much you learn and your final grade. I will not
take roll, but that does not mean that I am without eyes and the ability to observe who is there on a
regular basis and who is not.

Homework Assignments
In order to complete many/most of the homework assignments during this course, you will be required
to access a website dedicated to students and professors of economics called Aplia. I have attached an
instruction sheet for the Aplia registration process. Please register during the first week of class.
There are already multiple assignments posted, one of which is DUE THIS WEEK. There is a
grace period regarding payment, so please register even if you are not ready to pay. If you have
questions or problems concerning Aplia, please contact me as soon as possible.

Because technical difficulties or unforeseeable circumstances may occasionally interfere with your
ability to submit homework assignments by their due date, I will drop your lowest homework grade
before calculating your total homework average. Please spend this “free pass” wisely; there are no
other get-out-of-jail-free options or guaranteed extra credit possibilities. All graded assignments are
due by 11:00 pm on the evening of the stated deadline. The Aplia system will not allow you to
submit or change graded assignments after the stated deadline and, therefore, neither will I.

Exams
The exam dates listed on the next page are carved in stone. Put them in your calendar immediately
because there are no makeup exams and very few acceptable excuses for missing one. Acceptable
excuses include a death in the family, a University-sponsored event or excursion, or a serious illness
documented by a doctor. Exams are all closed-book, closed-note, and closed-friend/neighbor. The
format of the exams will be discussed in class just prior to each exam.
Exam Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam I</th>
<th>Thursday October 12, 2006 (in class)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam II</td>
<td>Thursday November 16, 2006 (in class)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Final Exam</td>
<td>Section 1: Tuesday 12/19/06 12:45 – 2:45 pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Section 2: Thursday 12/21/06 12:45 – 2:45 pm</td>
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Additional Requests

- I know about the traffic/parking nightmares on campus and am sympathetic, but I do request that you **be on time** if you choose to attend. If you arrive late, please come in quietly, settle quickly, and at least muster an apologetic expression for me. It is your responsibility to get any material that you miss. I will not provide lecture notes under any circumstances, so I recommend that you find a study-bud or two in the class. Announcements or handouts distributed in class will also be posted on the Aplia class website, so please get in the habit of checking the website very regularly.

- Please make sure that all cell phones and pagers are shut off during lecture. At a minimum, put these devices in silent mode and refrain from answering calls/pages/text messages during class.

- If you have a physical or learning disability that requires accommodation, please let me know as soon as possible and contact Services to Students with Disabilities at (916) 278-6955 to get the proper documentation well in advance of the first exam.

- Don’t cheat. Neither of us really wants to have to deal with this situation, but my job is to teach you economics and give you a grade that reflects your knowledge of the subject. If you cheat, you force me to assume that you know zero, and that is precisely the grade you will get.

- It is useful to clarify the difference between acceptable group work and unacceptable sponging off of your unsuspecting neighbor. **I encourage you to work together on assigned practice problems and even graded homework assignments, although every student is responsible for submitting his/her own answers to each graded assignment in order to receive credit.**

- I know from experience that the material in this course can not be learned passively. **You must** work through graphical and mathematical problems to “get it.” For this reason, the amount of homework I assign will almost certainly seem excessive to you and you should expect the assignments to be both challenging and time consuming. The good news is that you will succeed on the exams if you devote sufficient time and energy to the homework assignments.

- I am interested in your feedback and would prefer **not** to rely on the seven generic and basically useless evaluation questions that I am only able to read after the semester is already over. I am happy to listen to suggestions and criticisms in person or via email, but if you feel uncomfortable telling me what you really think, I’ve set up an anonymous feedback form on my website at [www.csus.edu/indiv/h/howellj/econ100b/overview.htm](http://www.csus.edu/indiv/h/howellj/econ100b/overview.htm). Yes, it’s really anonymous.
Student Registration and Payment Instructions

**Course Name:** Intermediate Microeconomics, Fall 06, Howell  
**Start Date:** 09/05/2006  
**Professor:** Jessica S Howell  
**Course Key:** BV9K-77N2-SJX2

You can begin working on your homework as soon as you register!
- In this course, you will use a textbook and a website.
- You will save money if you buy these together.
- You have 1 purchase option.
- Don't buy anything until you understand your alternatives.

### Registration

**Registration Instructions**

2. Click the **System Configuration Test** link below the **Sign In** and **Register** sections to make sure you can access all of the features on Aplia's website. This takes just a few seconds and tells you how to update your browser settings if necessary.
   - If you have never used Aplia before, click the **New Student** button to register and follow the registration instructions.
   - If you have used Aplia before, sign in with your usual e-mail address and password. If you are not prompted for a new Course Key, click the **Enter Course Key** button to enroll in a new Aplia course.
4. During registration, enter your course key: **BV9K-77N2-SJX2**.
5. If you understand your payment options, pay now. Otherwise, postpone your purchase decision by choosing the option to pay later. Your payment grace period ends at midnight on 09/26/2006.

### Payment

**Pay Aplia Directly**

- Purchase access to your course directly from Aplia on our website for $75.00 USD. The website includes:
  - An online copy of your textbook.
  - Content that has been customized for your textbook and course.
- However, if you try using the online textbook and decide you would also like a physical textbook, you can order one from Aplia for $50.00 USD plus shipping.***

*** See first page of syllabus for cheaper ways of acquiring a paper copy of the textbook.