

PLEASE READ THE SYLLABUS

California State University, Sacramento (CSUS)
Department of Economics
Fall 2019

Instructor: Dr. S. Dube

Office: Tahoe Hall- 3031

Course: ECON. 1B/Principles of Microeconomics, Office Hours: TTH: 8.00-9.00 AM
& By Appointment
Advising Hours: 9.00 – 10.00 AM

Section: 04

Phone: (916) 278-7519

E-mail: dubes@csus.edu

Lecture Room: MRP -1001

Class Times: TTH: 10.30-11.45 AM

Catalog Description: The course is an introductory microeconomic analysis of the workings of supply and demand in the determination of price, resource allocation, and distribution. The analysis focuses on markets as they affect efficiency and income distribution. *There are no prerequisites for this course.* However, you should be able to do basic high school arithmetic.

Learning Objectives: Economics

- To understand the behavior of economic agents such as individuals, firms, and government agencies that compose the larger economy. Our interest is in the behavior of individual economic actors. What are their goals? How can these goals be best achieved with limited resources? How do various economic actors respond to various incentives and opportunities?
- To introduce students to economics and economic reasoning built around several principles such as opportunity cost, rationality of agents (individuals and firms), marginal analysis, prices as signals, and issues related to the role of the government in a market economy.
- To point out the power of economic analysis in policy matters and other spheres of human activity while noting its limitations as well. In the latter case, the relevant issue is whether government intervention improves economic outcomes or *worsens* them. Voters or individuals often hold a variety of opinions related to both the role of the markets and any government intervention.

- To offer a brief analysis of how business firms, individuals and government agencies must interact in a global economy.

Learning Objectives: General Education

- an understanding of the role of diversity in microeconomics as well as the differences between genders, races, and socio-economic statuses,
- An awareness and understanding of the contributions of women and ethnic minorities to the different perspectives on economics.

Writing Component in Lower Division G.E. Courses

All lower division courses listed in the G.E. Program, unless granted an exception, shall include writing which encourages students to think through concepts of the course. This may be accomplished in a variety of ways, including use of laboratory reports, essay examinations, formal writing assignments, and/or informal assignments. Writing in lower division courses need not be graded, but must, at a minimum, be evaluated for clarity and proper handling of terms, phrases, and concepts related to the course

Required Textbook: *Microeconomics in Modules, 4th Edition, Worth Publishers, by Paul Krugman & Robin Wells, 2019*

REGISTRATION DETAILS FOR SAPLINGPLUS. Please see page 8 for Registration instructions

Note: The text is organized by **SECTIONS** and within each **SECTION** there are **MODULES**. **There are NO CHAPTERS in this text. Modules are shorter and more focused than what you normally get in a standard textbook.**

You are advised to complete all Section online homework well before the Sunday night deadline at 11.59 PM. Please do not ask me to change “due dates” to accommodate your needs. I will not do so nor will I entertain requests to take exams early or late. In SAPLINGPLUS, only items indicated as **HOMEWORK** in a **SECTION** goes into the **Grade BOOK**. The other stuff is only for practice that you are strongly encouraged to complete before you attempt the homework that is graded. Remember that each graded homework will incorporate material in all Modules under that Section. The total points per section will be 10 points. With 11 Sections, the total points are 110 (= 10 x 11). For each question in online homework, you will be limited to **ONLY 2** attempts and the highest score of the two attempts will go into the **Grade Book**.

Please note all exam dates and if these conflict with your Fall 2019 non-academic plans, I would urge you to register for another section of ECON 1B. The instructor will not adjust the due dates to accommodate any individual request. See the section, **Student Registration Instructions** for **SAPLINGPLUS** above.

Method of Instruction: There will be lectures, and in-class participation by everyone. The textbook will be the main source for your readings. There will be Power Point Slides titled **KW_SECTION_XX_LECTURE** where XX = SECTION placed on my web site.

However, ***the instructor reserves the right to select no more than 20 slides to cover per SECTION (students will get the unedited long version of Power Point slides from my website).*** To access these follow the following steps. (1) Go the Department of Economics website, (2) Click my name, and while there (3) click “personal website.” You can then download all Power Point slides for ECON 1B.

Be advised that if you plan to rely solely on information contained in the slides and do not plan to buy and read the text, you are unlikely to pass the course. There is no substitute for reading the text and working out the problems therein.

Requirements, Grading, and Exams

Your final grade is a weighted average of your performance on **2** midterm exams (2 @ 100 points each), Online Homework via **SAPLINGPLUS** (110 points = 10 points per SECTION on 12 sections; Section 5 will not be included), final exam (1 @ 200 points) and 25 points for attendance (**except** on the days of midterms [Sept 26 and Oct 31] and Thanksgiving Day [November 28]). For those who choose **NOT** to attend any lecture at all, your attendance will be recorded as a zero. The Attendance points are purely for curving purposes. These will be added to the total below to determine your grade. There will be 2 midterms and a final exam. **All exams are multiple choice.** There are **535** possible semester points. Letter grades will be determined by the final distribution of total points at the end of the semester. A score of 90% (80%, 70%, 60%) is minimum for a letter grades of A* (B*, C*, D*). The Final exam will be held in the same room during the Finals Week {December 9 -13}. Check My Sac State for the date and time of the Final. The Attendance points are purely for curving purposes. These will be added to the total below to determine your grade.

SAPLINGPLUS	10 x 11 =110 points
Midterms:	2 X 100 =200 points
Final Exam:	1 X 100 =200 points
Attendance	= 25 points

The following cutoffs will determine your Course grade (**please do not ask me to “curve” each exam or midterm**):

<u>Points</u>	<u>Course Grade</u>
482– 535	A
428 – 481	B
375– 427	C
321– 374	D
268– 320	E
<268	F

Note that grades E and D are essentially “flunking” grades. Each individual must determine what they need to earn (in points) at the beginning of the semester to ensure that they avoid grades E and D! In other words, I cannot “give you” a passing grade if your work shows otherwise. The above grades are not assigned with a plus or minus (+/-).

Instructor’s Course Policy

1. There will be no make-up exams, midterms, and assignments in this class. Any person who misses an exam, a midterm or an assignment will be awarded a zero. Exceptions to this rule are limited only to the following cases:
 - a. Students who have a doctor’s note that clearly states that the named student could NOT have taken an exam, midterm or assignment on the date given. A mere note from the doctor without such a clear statement will considered insufficient (***this instructor will call the doctor for verification***);
 - b. Students on active military/police/and or jury duty. In this case, a mere letter from an appropriate official will be deemed sufficient;
 - c. Students who are in jail or similar situations. Again, evidence is required. **Note:** if you are in jail, use your one-telephone chance to call your lawyer and NOT me!
In the event that I have to give you a make-up under conditions that do not meet (a) to (c), I will do so but the exam is guaranteed to be very difficult to pass!
2. **Attendance is required.** There are serious opportunity costs to missing classes and one would like people to exercise responsibility and show up for classes without compulsion.
3. There will be no Incompletes (the “I” grade) in this class;
4. Active student participation is encouraged via questions and comments. However, this instructor has zero tolerance for the following activities that may be allowed in other classes:
 - a. Talking in class about non-class related issues when the lecture is in session.
 - b. Reading a newspaper/passing little notes/eating in class.
 - c. Habitually arriving late in class **OR** leaving class early without consent of the instructor.

- d. Failure to turn off your cellular phone, pager, beeper or any other communication device that may interfere with the class between 10.30 and 11.45 A.M.
- e. In the event that activities (a) to (d) occur in class, this instructor will immediately ask the person(s) involved to leave class and advise them of their rights. This is the **ONLY** time I will embarrass you in class.
5. No student will be allowed to do “extra work” for the purposes of improving their grade;
6. Any student who earns a D in a midterm must arrange to meet with me before the next scheduled midterm. The purpose of this provision is to help you avoid flunking the course!
7. There will be no negotiations over Course Grades. For example, statements such as, “I need an **A** in this class”, fall under the category of negotiations. I just will not do this sort of thing.
8. All midterms will be promptly and brought back to class the next period, in this, a Tuesday, following a Thursday exam. You are expected to show up and pick your exam. If you do not do so, this instructor will keep such material for only 2 weeks before throwing it out like old newspapers. The reason for this is limited office space in my office.
9. **The instructor will not curve any homework, midterm, and the Final. Your grade will solely depend on your performance in online homework, attendance, a midterm and the final.**

Policies Related To Exams

In the past few years, I have experienced an increase in cheating during exams. In order to maintain the integrity of exams in my classes, I have now included the following changes for the exam day.

1. Place your cell phone in your bag and place the bag in the front of the class. You will not be able to retrieve the phone or the bag until you turn in your exam and leave the exam room.
2. If there are any calculations to be undertaken, the instructor will allow a simple calculator that can only add, subtract, add, and divide (the only acceptable calculator is a relatively cheap one that costs about \$3-\$4). No programmable calculator or cellphone will be allowed under any circumstances.
3. In spite all these measures, anyone found cheating will be removed from the exam. The instructor will take possession of the exam and report the cheater immediately to university authorities.
4. The cheating student will not be allowed back into the class until the relevant university authorities have made some decision on the issue.

The only things that should be on a student’s desk on the exam day are (1) the exam, (2) a basic calculator (*if required*), a scantron, and (3) a pencil or pen. All these measures are intended to protect the integrity of exams in my classes.

Course Timeline by Week [the course coverage by week is only a rough guide]¹

Course Outline {KW = Krugman & Wells}

	Lecture Dates	Topics	Readings and Dates for the Exams
Week 1	Aug. 27 & 29	Basic Economic Concepts	KW_SECTION_1-LECTURE
Week 2	Sept 2 Sept.3 & 5	Labor Day [No classes] Basic Economic Concepts (cont.)	KW_SECTION_1-LECTURE
Week 3	Sept. 10 & 12	Demand, Supply and Equilibrium	KW_SECTION_2-LECTURE
Week 4	Sept. 17 & 19	Market Efficiency and Price Controls	KW_SECTION_3-LECTURE KW_SECTION_4-LECTURE
Week 5	Sept.24 & 26	Elasticity and Law of Demand	KW_SECTION_4-LECTURE
Week 6	Oct. 1 & 3	Elasticity and Law of Demand (cont) Note: Section 5 will not be covered this semester.	{skip Module 14} First Midterm: Sept 26 (Thursday)
Week 7	Oct. 8 & 10	Economics and Decision Making	KW_SECTION_6-LECTURE
Week 8	Oct. 15 & 17	Production and Costs	KW_SECTION_7-LECTURE
Week 9	Oct. 22 & 24	Market Structure and Perfect Competition	KW_SECTION_8-LECTURE
Week 10	Oct. 29 & 31	Market Structure and Perfect Competition (cont).	KW_SECTION_8-LECTURE Second Midterm: Oct 31(Thurs)

Week 11	Nov. 5 & 7	Monopoly	KW_SECTION_9-LECTURE
Week 12	Nov.11 Nov. 12 & 14	Veterans Day [No Classes] Oligopoly and Monopolistic Competition	KW_SECTION_10-LECTURE
Week 13	Nov.19 & 21 Nov.25 -29	Market Failure and the Role of Government { skip Module 35 } Thanksgiving Holiday	KW_SECTION_11-LECTURE
Week 14	Nov. 26 & 28	Factor Markets and the Distribution of Income { skip Module 38 }	KW_SECTION_12-LECTURE
Week 15	Dec 3 & 5	Factor Markets and the Distribution of Income { skip Module 38 }[cont]	KW_SECTION_12-LECTURE
	Dec. 9 - 13		Final Exam: Check My Sac State for the date

Students with Disabilities: If you need disability-related accommodation in this class, if you have emergency medical information you wish to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in the event of an emergency building evacuation, please inform me immediately. I would suggest that you see me privately after class or during office hours. For additional information, see **Services to Students with Disabilities (SSWD)** that offers a wide range of support services and accommodations to students in order to ensure equal access and opportunity to pursue their educational goals. The **SSWD office** is located in **Lassen Hall, Room 1008**. Phone: 916-278-6955/email: sswd@csus.edu. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8 am - 5 pm. Please discuss any class-related arrangements that you make with SSWD with me at least two weeks prior to each exam. Exam dates are given in the **Course Timeline above**.