

SACRAMENTO STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS  
SPRING 2008

**ECON 100B: INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMIC THEORY**

<b>Professor:</b>	Jessica Howell	<b>Class Meetings:</b>	T,R 10:30 – 11:45 am, AMD 217
<b>Office:</b>	Tahoe 3013	<b>Office Hours:</b>	T,R 1:00 – 2:00 pm and by appt.
<b>Phone:</b>	(916) 278-5588	<b>Course Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.csus.edu/indiv/h/howellj">www.csus.edu/indiv/h/howellj</a>
<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:jhowell@csus.edu">jhowell@csus.edu</a>	<b>MyEconLab Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.myeconlab.com">www.myeconlab.com</a>

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**Course Description** An analysis of household and firm behavior as the foundation of supply and demand. *Prerequisite:* Econ 1B. *Units:* 3.0

**Course Objectives** The analysis in this course builds on concepts introduced in Econ 1B, such as supply and demand, elasticity, resource allocation, and firm revenues and costs. Emphasis is placed on active learning through the application of theories to graphical and mathematical problems with the goal of developing tools and skills that are useful in upper-division Economics elective courses.

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**Textbook** *Microeconomics* by Jeffrey Perloff, 4<sup>th</sup> edition.

**MyEconLab** Online companion to your textbook used for homework and quizzes.

**Options for making sure that you have what is required:**

1. All *new* copies of the textbook that are sold at the Hornet Bookstore come with a Student Access Kit that contains a code for registering for MyEconLab. The price for this option is \$170, which includes full access to MyEconLab at no additional charge. The bookstore also has *used* copies of the text for \$125, but these do *not* come with access to MyEconLab.
2. Purchase access to MyEconLab and a complete, searchable electronic copy of the textbook at [www.myeconlab.com](http://www.myeconlab.com). The price for this option is \$60.
3. Purchase access to MyEconLab and partial electronic textbook access that links you to only specific pages of the text that relate to the topics appearing in the homework questions. This option can also be purchased directly through [www.myeconlab.com](http://www.myeconlab.com). The price for this option is \$30. This option can be upgraded to option #2 at any point during the semester.

**Note regarding hard copies of the textbook:**

Students choosing either option #2 or #3 may still wish to acquire a hard copy of the textbook. I would encourage you to seek out a used copy of the 4<sup>th</sup> edition (ISBN: 0321414527), the paperback version of the 4<sup>th</sup> edition (ISBN: 0321374568), or a used copy of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (ISBN: 0321200535). Additionally, there is a copy of the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the textbook on reserve at the CSUS Library Reserve Desk.

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<b>Grading</b>	Homework	10%
	Quizzes	25%
	Exam I	20%
	Exam II	20%
	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 scores so that you are not totally surprised by your final grade.

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### **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. As additional incentive to attend, 25% of your overall course grade is earned through in-class quizzes.

### **Homework Assignments**

In order to complete the homework assignments in this course, you will be required to utilize MyEconLab, an online companion to the Perloff textbook. I have attached an instruction sheet for the MyEconLab registration process, but I would also encourage you to look at a brief set of PowerPoint slides (<http://www.firstdaysofclass.com/documents/MyEconLab%20Features%20FDOC.ppt>) that describe the power of MyEconLab and the process of getting started. Please register during the first week of class. **There are already multiple assignments posted, one of which is DUE NEXT WEEK.** If you have questions or problems concerning MyEconLab, please contact me or MyEconLab support ([http://www.myeconlab.com/support/contactus\\_stu.shtml](http://www.myeconlab.com/support/contactus_stu.shtml)) 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.** MyEconLab will not allow you to submit or change graded assignments after the stated deadline and, therefore, neither will I.

Note: The low weight on homework in this course (only 10% of your overall grade) was chosen so that you are not overly penalized for utilizing the homework assignments as an additional learning tool.

## Quizzes

One reward for completing the homework and learning from the mistakes you make on those assignments is that you improve your ability to perform well on weekly quizzes. **“Every week?!”** Yes, we’ll have a short quiz nearly every week. All quizzes will be announced in class and consist of two questions: (1) one question directly from the most recent homework assignment, and (2) a second question that is very similar to something from the homework or the lecture material.

Quizzes are only offered in class. There are no makeup quizzes unless a student has an acceptable excuse, such as a death in the family, a University-sponsored event or excursion, or a serious illness documented by a doctor. Because unforeseeable circumstances may occasionally interfere with your ability to attend class, I will drop your lowest quiz grade before calculating your total quiz average.

Note: The quizzes are worth as much as the final exam and *more than* the midterm exams. Given the predictable nature of the quiz questions, I **strongly** encourage you to view the quizzes as an easy way to boost your final grade while staying up-to-speed with the course material.

## Exams

The exam dates listed below are carved in stone. Put them in your calendar immediately because there are no makeup exams and very few acceptable excuses for missing one. As with quizzes, acceptable excuses for missing an exam 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.

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## Exam Schedule

<b>Exam I</b>	<b>Thursday February 28, 2008</b>	<b>(in class)</b>
<b>Exam II</b>	<b>Thursday March 27, 2008</b>	<b>(in class)</b>
<b>Comprehensive Final Exam</b>	<b>Thursday May 22, 2008</b>	<b>10:15am – 12:15pm</b>

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## Additional Requests

- I 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.
- 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 everything except quizzes and exams. Specifically, working together on graded homework assignments is absolutely fine, although every student is responsible for submitting his/her own answers to each graded assignment in order to receive credit.**
- Using MyEconLab requires the installation of the MyEconLab Player. This will happen automatically the first time that you use it. Some public computers, like those in CSUS computer labs, will not permit this player to be installed. In the event that you plan to rely on a campus computer to use MyEconLab, please use the computer lab in Amador 220, which has the MyEconLab player already installed on the machines. This lab is often utilized by classes, but open-access hours are typically posted on the door.
- I know from experience that the material in this course can not be learned passively nor can it be learned in the two days preceding an exam. It always seems easy when you are watching me do problems and graphs on the board. You *must* work through graphical and mathematical problems when they are assigned because the material builds on itself. I design the lecture material, the homework assignments, and the quizzes to maximize your learning and build your confidence, not to waste your time. If you keep up with these things, you will find the exams very doable. If you don't keep up with these things, you will find the exams very difficult. The choice is yours.
- 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.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF COURSE TOPICS			
WEEK 1	Jan. 28 - Feb. 1	Introduction, Supply & Demand	CH 1 & 2
WEEK 2	Feb. 4 - Feb. 8	Elasticity, Taxes	CH 3
WEEK 3	Feb. 11 - Feb. 15	The Theory of the Consumer	CH 4
WEEK 4	Feb. 18 - Feb. 22	Applications of Consumer Theory	CH 5
WEEK 5	Feb. 25 - Feb. 29	EXAM 1 (THURS. FEB. 28TH)	
WEEK 6	Mar. 3 - Mar. 7	Firm Production and Costs	CH 6 & 7
WEEK 7	Mar. 10 - Mar. 14	Profit Maximization in Perfectly Competitive Markets	CH 8
WEEK 8	Mar. 17 - Mar. 21	Using the Competitive Model	CH 9
WEEK 9	Mar. 24 - Mar. 28	EXAM 2 (THURS. MAR. 27TH)	
WEEK 10	Mar. 31 - Apr. 4	SPRING BREAK!	
WEEK 11	Apr. 7 - Apr. 11	Review Exam 2 & Catch Up	
WEEK 12	Apr. 14 - Apr. 18	Profit Maximization in Monopolistic Markets	CH 11
WEEK 13	Apr. 21 - Apr. 25	Price Discrimination	CH 12
WEEK 14	Apr. 28 - May 2	Monopolistic Competition & Oligopoly, Game Theory	CH 13
WEEK 15	May 5 - May 9	Applications	TBA
WEEK 16	May 12 - May 16	Applications	TBA
FINAL	May 22	FINAL EXAM, (THURS.) 10:15AM - 12:15PM	



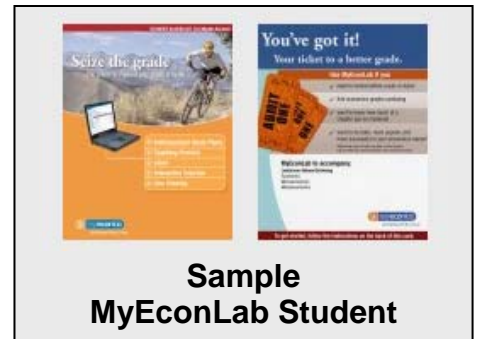
## Registering for MyEconLab

### Dear Student:

Your instructor is requiring MyEconLab, an online companion to your textbook, for this course. To access MyEconLab, you will need to complete a one-time registration process, after which you'll be able to access the site for the rest of the semester.

If you purchased a new textbook, it may have come with a Student Access Kit that contains a code you can use to register. If you do not have a Student Access Kit, you can purchase access online with a major credit card. To register for your instructor's course, you will need to have the following information on hand:

- ✓ **The author and title of your textbook**  
(*Microeconomics by Jeffrey Perloff*)
- ✓ **A MyEconLab Student Access Kit** if you have one
- ✓ **A valid email address**
- ✓ **Your school's Zip Code: 95819**



### To register and enroll:

- Go to [http://www.myeconlab.com/student\\_wizard.php](http://www.myeconlab.com/student_wizard.php).
- Follow the simple online instructions—you'll either register with the code in your Student Access Kit or purchase access with a major credit card.
- After you have registered, you will be ready to log in to MyEconLab.

### To log in and begin using MyEconLab:

- Go to <http://www.myeconlab.com> and click the **MyEconLab** button in the **Log In** box.
- Enter the **login name** and **password** you created during registration.
- The first time you log in to MyEconLab, you will have the option of either enrolling in your instructor's online course or studying on your own. Your instructor has set up a course, so select "Enroll in my instructor's course" and choose your school, instructor, and course name from the drop-down menus.

### System requirements:

- Operating systems: Windows 2000, XP or Vista
- Browsers: Internet Explorer 6.0 or later, Netscape Navigator 7.1 or 7.2

### For help with registration:

If you have trouble registering or logging in, you can contact Pearson Education Customer Technical Support.

- Web site: <http://247.support.pearsoned.com/>
- Email: <http://247xl.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/247xl.cfg/php/enduser/ask.php>
- Telephone: 1-800-677-6337  
(Monday–Friday 8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. ET; Sundays 5:00 p.m.–12:00 a.m. ET)