

SACRAMENTO STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
FALL 2010

ECON 1B: INTRODUCTION TO MICROECONOMIC ANALYSIS

PROFESSOR:	Jessica Howell	LECTURES:	TR 9:00 – 10:15am, Amador 150
OFFICE:	Tahoe 3013		
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TA:	Rachel Landsman	TA SECTION:	LS 55D, section 3
E-MAIL:	rbl34@saclink.csus.edu		TR 10:30 – 11:30am, AMD 362
TA OFFICE:	Tahoe 3025	TA OFFICE HOURS:	TR 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Course Description An introductory microeconomic analysis of the workings of supply and demand in the determination of price, resource allocation, and distribution. Markets are analyzed as they affect economic efficiency and the distribution of income. 3 units. Satisfies GE Area D1A.

Aplia Account (Required) Register for an Aplia account at <http://econ.aplia.com> using the Course Key **6BYU-WABH-A5KJ**. There is an \$80 fee for the semester that you pay directly to Aplia through their website. Registration instructions are at the end of the syllabus and you must register by Friday 9/3/2010.

eTextbook (via Aplia) *Modern Principles: Microeconomics* by Cowen & Tabarrok, 1st edition. Electronic access to this textbook is *included* in the \$80 Aplia fee.

Paper Textbook (Optional) Because this is a first edition, it will likely be very difficult to locate used copies of the text. If you prefer a hard copy, please contact me about the methods of procuring one. Additionally, a copy of the text is on reserve at the CSUS Library reserve book room.

“Clickers” (Required) All students are required to purchase and register an *eInstruction* RF Clicker (depicted at left). Clickers are available at the Hornet Bookstore and cost \$25 (new), \$19 (used), or \$11 (rented). Additionally, your clicker must be registered using the Class Key **F62899H728** and the registration fee is \$13. Registration instructions are at the end of the syllabus and you must have a registered clicker by Tuesday 9/7/2010.



Grading	Participation (Clickers)	25%
	Homework (Aplia)	25%
	Midterm Exam	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 or may not 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...) because I reserve the right to curve. I will provide feedback over the semester on how to interpret your raw homework and exam scores so that you know how you are progressing in the course.

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 class and, ultimately, at the end of the semester. Please read the following carefully.

Homework Assignments

In order to complete the homework assignments during this course, you will be required to access a website dedicated to students and professors of economics called Aplia. Registration instructions are at the end of the syllabus and you should register by Friday 9/3/2010. **There are already multiple assignments posted, one of which is DUE THIS WEEK.** There is a grace period (through 9/19/2010) during which you can use the site for free, so please register even if you are not ready to pay. If you have questions or problems concerning Aplia, please contact me immediately.

All graded Aplia assignments are due by 11:00 pm on the evening of the stated deadline (which will almost always be a Monday or Wednesday night before I see you in class the next day). The Aplia system will not allow you to submit or change graded assignments after the stated deadline and, therefore, neither will I. Because technical difficulties or unforeseeable circumstances may occasionally interfere with your ability to submit assignments by their due date, I will drop your lowest homework score before calculating your total homework average. Please spend this “**free pass**” wisely; there are no other get-out-of-jail-free options. The remaining Aplia assignments (those not dropped) will receive equal weight in your homework grade.

Class Participation & Clickers

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. It's important to note that 25 percent of your overall course grade is determined solely by engaging in in-class activities with your clicker.

Clickers are a tool for getting you actively involved in actually *doing* economics, which is the only way to really *learn and understand* economics. In a smaller class, tools like clickers and Aplia might not be necessary because we could have more face-to-face interaction in class. In a larger class, however, we're going to need some help from technology. Most typical large lecture classes allow for passive learning (at best) and research shows that people are most likely to actually understand and apply new concepts if they learn them *actively*. Additionally, clickers are fun. I know that it can be boring to sit in a 75-minute lecture with nothing but texting and Facebook to feed your technology habit. I'm hopeful that, by picking up your clicker, you'll put down your cell phone for just a little while and really get something for all that money you're spending on tuition.

Clickers will be used in every class. If you miss a class or you forget your clicker, you need not panic. There are approximately 25 days when clickers could be used and I will only count your highest 20 clicker scores, which means there is no penalty the first few times you miss class, your clicker batteries are dead, or you come in late, etc. Also, because the emphasis is on active learning (not just getting the right answer), you'll earn one point for any response and two points for a correct response on each question. The clear incentive is to show up to class and actually ENGAGE instead of just dialing it in.

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. Acceptable excuses include a death in the family, a University-sponsored event or excursion, or a serious illness documented by a doctor. You are responsible for bringing a scantron form (882-E), a pencil, and a non-cell-phone calculator to all exams. Exams are all closed-book, closed-note, and closed-friend/neighbor.

Midterm Exam	Thursday October 21, 2010 (in class)
Comprehensive Final Exam	Tuesday December 14, 2010 (8:00am – 10:00am)

TA Section

A supplemental credit / no credit one-unit course led by a Teaching Assistant (TA) is available for my sections of Econ 1B. It is **strongly recommended**, but not required, that you register for this course. The TA, an advanced undergraduate Economics major, will review and clarify concepts from class, answer questions about Aplia homework questions and in-class clicker questions, and help you prepare for exams. The TA section is not just for students who are worried about failing the class. It's for any student who wants to improve their understanding of the course material, which will likely have a positive effect on all aspects of performance in the course.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS

- If you choose to attend, I do request that you **be on time**. 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 or review what you missed in office hours, so I recommend that you find a study-buddy in the class. Any handouts will be posted on Aplia website, so check there very frequently.
- 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 then 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. Additionally, all instances of cheating and/or plagiarism will be reported to Judicial Affairs. All students are expected to adhere to the University Student Code of Conduct outlined in the *CSUS University Policy Manual*, available at www.csus.edu/admbus/umanual/UMAN00150.htm.
- It is useful to clarify the difference between acceptable group study and unacceptable sponging off of your unsuspecting neighbor. **I encourage you to work together on homework assignments, although every student is responsible for submitting his/her own answers to each assignment in order to receive credit.**

- When you begin to feel lost, **BE PROACTIVE!!** In a large class, I have very limited ability to catch your look of confusion and ask where I'm losing you. The clicker questions, which will usually be interspersed throughout each lecture, are designed to remedy some of this. Additionally, I am more than happy to entertain questions during lecture and encourage you to use email and my office hours to get your questions answered. I think I am actually quite helpful in office hours and via email, but only if you show up or contact me. I don't read minds or make house calls.
- 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 (yes, it's really anonymous) on my website at http://www.csus.edu/indiv/h/howellj/econ1b_f2010/index.htm.
- I will try to make it as easy as possible for you to successfully utilize your clickers and Aplia, but if you ever have any questions or concerns about the technology, please do not hesitate to talk to me. Email is the best way to get a hold of me (jhowell@csus.edu), but I will hold open office hours at the beginning of the semester to make sure that we all get off on the right foot. Additionally, your TA will be holding office hours in an office with a computer (Tahoe 3025), so she can also assist you with the technological components of the class.
- **GE Area: D1A.** This course meets the GE writing requirement through brief written response questions on in-class exercises and/or on examinations. You will find that economics develops your analytical skills and the resulting analyses may involve graphical solutions, mathematical solutions, written responses, or some combination of the above. Success in this course requires that you work on all of these skills.

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE TWO TECHNOLOGICAL COMPONENTS OF THIS COURSE

I. Aplia

Course Name: Principles of Microeconomics Fall 2010
 Connect to: <http://www.aplia.com>
 Course Key: **6BYU-WABH-A5KJ**



If you have never used Aplia before, click the **Create a New Account** link and choose **Student Account**. You will then enter the course key above and follow the instructions to complete your registration.

If you have used Aplia before, sign in with your usual email address and password and enter the course key above when prompted. If you are not prompted for a new course key, click the **Enroll in a New Course** button at the top of your **My Courses** page.

You will have different payment options after you register. If you choose to pay later, you may use Aplia without paying until 11:59 on 9/19/2010.

II. eInstruction Clickers and CPSOnline



Create an Account

1. Go to www.einstruction.com.
2. Click on the **Students** link under '**Quick Links**' on the right.
3. Select **California State University Sacramento** from the drop-down menu. Click **Choose Site**.
4. Click **Create A New Account**.
5. Enter your email address and serial number in the spaces provided. You can find your serial number on your LCD screen when you turn on your pad (clicker). Click **Continue**.
6. Create a CPSOnline Username and Password. Click **Submit**.
7. You've now created a CPSOnline account. You can use your CPSOnline username and password to login anytime to CPSOnline. Now you can enroll your (clicker) pad in your class.

Enroll in a Class

1. Following the creation of an account, click **Yes** to enroll immediately in your class.
 2. Enter the Class Key **F62899H728** in the space provided.
 3. Check box regarding Student Refund Policy. Click **Next**.
 4. Choose your payment option. Click **Continue**.
 5. Fill in your billing information and click **Continue**.
 6. Once you have finished enrolling, click **Log Out** so that CPSOnline properly records your information.
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