

**California State University, Sacramento**  
**Department of Economics**

*Economics 204: Business Economics*  
*Winter 2007*

***Professor David Lang & Professor Kristin Van Gaasbeck***

**Course Description:** Intensive one-semester course covering both macroeconomics and microeconomics. Emphasis is on economic analysis and policy. Designed for graduate students who have not taken ECON 001A and ECON 001B or their equivalents. 3 units.

**Learning Objectives:** The main objective of this course is for you to understand the basic concepts of both microeconomics and macroeconomics as academic subjects including appropriate economic terms and methodology and to be able to discuss real world phenomena, including individual, firm, and societal decision-making like an economist.

**Required Texts:** Mankiw, N.Gregory, *Principles of Economics*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, South-Western (available in online and hard copy versions through Aplia web site)

*It is unnecessary to purchase any study guides or other materials.*

**Contact Information:**

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Office Hours:	by appointment	by appointment

**Grading:** Homework: There will be approximately 18 graded homework assignments in this Course (some of which are in multiple parts). The homework will be completed online using the Aplia system. You are *strongly* advised to check the course website frequently for due dates and other announcements. You may work together on the homework if you wish, but each individual must submit his/her answers separately through Aplia. You will receive 2 *free passes* for the homework. This means that we will throw out the lowest 2 homework grades and average the remainder.

Attendance: Attendance is not a requirement in this course. However, it is important that you understand that not attending is very likely to lower your grade and, more crucially, your understanding of the material. This will be discussed in more detail below.

*It is your responsibility to get any material that you missed and yours alone.*

Participation: We believe that participation is an essential component to the learning process. As such, participation is a significant factor in your grade. There are many ways to participate. Asking relevant questions in class shows us that you care about learning the material and helps your fellow students as well.

*Obviously, good participation in class begins with good attendance. If you are not in class, it will absolutely hurt your participation grade.*

Tests: There will be 3 exams for this course. The exams will consist of a combination of free response questions and multiple choice questions. They are not cumulative. There is no final exam for this course.

*There will be no make-up exams permitted in this class except in the most extreme of circumstances as determined by the professors. For medical situations, appropriate documentation must be provided.*

Extra Credit: Occasionally, we will provide in-class or out-of-class opportunities for extra credit. These will be the only situations where extra credit may occur.

*Begging for an extra credit assignment, while always amusing, will never be rewarded.*

There are a total of **500** points that a student can obtain in this class.

Participation	=	50
Homework	=	150
Exams	(3 exams – 3x100)	<u>= 300</u>
		<b>500</b>

The following is an *approximate* grade scale. It may be adjusted to benefit you. It will be no worse than:

Points	Grade
465 – 500	A
450 – 464	A-
435 – 449	B+
415 – 434	B
400 – 414	B-
385 – 399	C+
365 – 384	C
350 – 364	C-
335 – 349	D+
315 – 334	D
300 – 314	D-
0 – 299	F

**Additional Notes:**

1. You are expected to work hard in this class. A good rule of thumb is to make sure you put in *at least* as much time outside of the classroom as you do inside it. In other words, you should be spending a *minimum* of 7 hours a week studying, doing homework, or reading for this course in addition to your class time.
2. We expect you to know what we cover in class. There will be some material in the text that we will not go over. This material *will not* be on the exams. There may be a few points that we cover more in depth than the text does. This material *is* fair game for the exams.
3. Study groups are strongly encouraged. Many times, your classmates may be your best resource.
4. Stay on top of things early on. If you start to get lost, let us know so we can slow down or schedule a meeting with you one-on-one.
5. Cheating or related acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Please do not test us on this issue.
6. Try to have fun! Economics does not have to be torture. Just relax, and let me know if things start to go badly. Good luck and have a great semester!

**Tentative Course Timeline:**

Week 1	January	T	2	Introduction to Course & Chapter 1
		TH	4	Chapter 2 & Chapter 3
Week 2		T	9	Chapter 4
		TH	11	<b>Exam #1</b> , Chapter 23 & Chapter 24
Week 3		T	16	Chapter 25 & Chapter 26
		TH	18	Chapter 28 & Chapter 29
Week 4		T	23	Chapter 30 & Review
		TH	25	<b>Exam #2</b> & Chapters 5-7
Week 5		M	29	Chapters 13-17
		W	31	Chapters 18-21
Week 6	February	M	5	Chapters 10-12 & Review
		W	7	<b>Exam #3</b>