

ECONOMICS 102

Fall 2013

Official Information and Calendar

Economics 102: Principles of Economics (Microeconomics) course number: [21022](#)

Meeting Dates and Times: T 14:00-15:15

Instructor: Shoshana Grossbard <http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/faculty/sgs/>. I can be contacted via Email: shosh@mail.sdsu.edu; or come visit me during Office hours: Tuesdays 15:30 to 17:00 at Adams Humanities Room 4200. You can call me during my office hours at 619 594 5468. Let us talk about you, economics, or... in English, French, Dutch, Hebrew, or Spanish. You can also request a meeting at another time.

This is a hybrid course. We meet in class on Tuesdays. Then you must view the lecture I post on Blackboard BEFORE coming to class on the next Tuesday.

Description from Catalog: “Principles of economic analysis, economic institutions, and issues of public policy. Emphasis on [direction of] production, allocation of resources, and distribution of income, through the price system (microanalysis); and international economics.”

Expanded Course Description:

- We look at the hidden roles that pricing systems play in shaping the world around us and our behavior as human beings. We try to get underneath common sense notions (which are often wrong).
- We try to figure out how people use money and time, and make decisions about their lives. We use examples from the U.S. and abroad.
- We inspect the process of allocation of resources and pricing by firms. We describe some aspects of industrial organization.
- We study households: how they supply labor and capital, their investments in health, and their decisions to immigrate. We also study household formation (marriage).
- We investigate the global economy.

Main ways of Getting Information, besides lectures:

Blackboard (Bb): you are responsible for checking info (new content and announcements) about this class on Bb a few times a week. Please access at <https://blackboard.sdsu.edu/>. This is also how you will find out about your grades.

Required and Recommended Learning Resources

C.1 Required Book:

McConnell, Brue and Flynn (MBF) *Microeconomics*. 19th edition. They prepared a custom edition for SDSU (loose leaf and cheaper) but it is essentially the same as the textbook. A list of the chapters that we cover is found in the calendar below.

C.2 Required Learning Devices:

1/Connect Plus (Economics), by McGraw Hill , an interactive course tool that is tied to the textbook and that you will be using to turn in assignments and practice for tests. You must PURCHASE CONNECT PLUS, WHICH INCLUDES AN E-BOOK VERSION OF MBF. Loose-leaf paper versions of MBF are available at Aztec Shops and KB books and they include CONNECT PLUS. You will need

Connect to prepare your assignments. It also offers LEARNSMART assignments (LS) that will help you in your studies. Warning: LS assignments take a long time and questions tend to be more straightforward than on tests.

2/ Clicker by i>clicker.

- Clickers are used to facilitate feedback from the class to the professor. They offer opportunities to earn clicker points based on answering questions in class.
- Available at the bookstore. See if you can get a rebate. In addition to other information, the SDSU clicker site <http://clicker.sdsu.edu/> instructs you on how to register your clicker **via Blackboard** (don't register on the iclicker website).

C.3 Recommended:

- Student resources under the Connect Library tab.
- **The Wall Street Journal:** printed or electronic. Great source of news about economics.
- **Get one or more learning partners.** It makes it a lot more fun to study economics! Another advantage of partnership is that if you are absent, a partner can update you on what you missed. Class consultations with fellow students are forbidden during exams, but they are allowed when clicker questions are asked on a non-exam day.
- A variety of blogs such as <http://www.freakonomics.com/blog/>, <http://www.marginalrevolution.com/>, and www.facebook.com/econoflove
- My facebook page www.facebook.com/basicecon. I post things there specifically with my Econ 102 students in mind.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Making the Invisible Visible: learn to identify patterns and to see markets everywhere.
- Major tools of micro-economic analysis, what they can reveal, and how you can use economics to make better decisions.
- Thinking sensibly about how people behave in market economies and societies.
- Determine how changes in supply and/or demand change market price and quantity
- Understand the efficiency advantages of a market system and the role of prices in achieving efficiency
- Figure out some of the ways that government policies may affect markets
- Demonstrate your understanding of many markets, including foreign exchange markets

Assessment and Grading

Three exams worth 100 points each:	300 points
'Connect' assignments	100 points
Clicker points	100 points (max)
GRAND TOTAL:	500 points

No extra credit options available.

More about exams:

- Four required exams, the last during finals week. Exams scheduled in advance according to calendar below. No early or make-up exams will be given.
- Review sessions will be held during long-distance lectures. **IT IS VERE IMPORTANT THAT YOU SEND ME QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW** so that review sessions are better calibrated to your needs.
- Bring narrow red scantron forms to exams.
- You are allowed to bring a page of handwritten notes to exams (written on one side).
- Average grade on each exam will be set to equal at least 70/100 which amounts to C (see grading criteria below). This is the only curving that will be offered. Total scores rounded at end of semester.
- **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities who need support services are encouraged to notify the instructor as soon as possible. This can be done confidentially via email or by phone (see instructor contact information).
- **Cheating:** SDSU has an office in charge of handling cheating cases. I hate dealing with that office. Please do your part so we can avoid them.

More about assignments: You will be getting 9 assignments. 8 of them count (100 points = 8 x 12.5 points per assignment) Lowest grades will be dropped from the count by instructor. Assignments will be posted on Connect

More about clicker points:

- Clicker questions will be asked in class. To obtain those points you need to use your clicker. During the semester there will be an opportunity to earn more than 100 clicker points but once you reach 100 clicker points you are maxed out on this.
- If you don't have your clicker or it is not working I will not be giving you points.

Grading criteria:

90	A
87	A-
84	B+
81	B
78	B-
74	C+
70	C
66	C-
60	D+
55	D
50	D-
0	F

CALENDAR ECON 102 Fall 2013
Overview: Assigned Materials and Exam Dates

Week 1

August 27 Introduction to the course/ Chapter 1

Aug 29 online: production possibilities, market system

Week 2

Sept 3 Ch. 1 + 2: production possibilities, market system

Assignment 1 due

Sept 5 on line Ch. 3 Demand & Supply

Week 3

Sept 10 Demand & Supply Assignment 2 due

Sept 12 Online more on Demand & Supply

Week 4

Sept 17 Demand and Supply

Sept 19 Online: Review in preparation for exam

Week 5

Sept 24 EXAM1 ABOUT Chapters 1-3.

Sept 26 Online: Ch. 4, Elasticity

Week 6

Oct 1 Elasticity Assignment 3 due

Oct 3 Online Ch. 7: costs

Week 7

Oct 8 Ch. 7 on Costs

Assignment 4 due

Oct 10 Ch. 8: pure competition in SHORT run

Week 8

Oct 15 Ch. 8 pure competition in SHORT run

Assignment 5 due

Oct 17 online review session

Week 9

Oct 22 EXAM 2 ABOUT Chapters 4, 7 and 8

Oct 24 online Ch. 10: pure monopoly

Week 10

Oct 29 Ch 10 on monopoly Assignment 6 due

Oct 31 online Ch. 5 Public goods and externalities

Week 11

Nov 5 Ch. 5 Public goods and externalities
Assignment 7 due

Nov 7 online: Chapter 13 labor markets

Week 12

Nov 12 Chapter 13 labor markets
Assignment 8 due

Nov 14 online Review Session

Week 13

Nov 19 EXAM 3 ABOUT Chapters 5, 10 and 13

Nov 21 online: Ch. 14: Capital markets

Week 14

Nov 26 Ch. 14: Capital markets Assignment 9 due

Nov 28 Thanksgiving Recess

Week 15

Dec 3 Introduction to International trade and exchange
rates; Ch 23

Dec 5 online about part of Ch 24 on exchange rates

Week 16

Dec 10 Last class, Review session with focus on
Chapters 23 and 24

Dec 12 no class; finals week starts

Dec 17 at 1 PM EXAM 4 covers chapters 14, 23 and 24.
