

ECONOMICS 489

Economics and Population

Spring 2012

Official Information and Calendar

Economics 489: Principles of Economics (Microeconomics) course number: 20919

Meeting Dates and Times: Tu Th 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: Tu 9:30 to 11:00; Th 12:30 to 13:30 at Nasatir Hall Room 329; 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.

Description from Catalog:

Relation of fertility, marriage, migration, and other dimensions of population to various economic factors affecting household behavior. Demographic measures and projections, application to product markets and to policies of developed and less developed countries.

Prerequisites: Six units of economics to include Economics 102; and completion of the General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II.B., Social and Behavioral Sciences. General Education prerequisite not required for Economics majors.

Main ways of Getting Information, besides lectures:

A/ Blackboard (Bb): you are responsible for checking your messages on Bb. Please register at <https://blackboard.sdsu.edu/>. This is also how you will find out about your grades.

B/ Required and Recommended Learning Resources

B.1 Required Book:

Populations SDSU, excerpts from John Weeks' *Population*, a custom edition for San Diego State Econ 489. ISBN 1133872506. Published by Cengage Learning. This special edition will cost you approximately 70\$, covers about 320 pages, and includes chapters 2,5,6,7,8, and 10. Don't order the full book for which they charge close to \$200!!

B.2 Recommended:

- **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 quizzes and 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

Student Learning Outcomes

- Review of major tools of micro-economic analysis as they pertain to demographic questions. This includes supply and demand analysis.

- Topics covered after Exam 1:
 - What is demography?
 - Why demography and economics?
 - Health and mortality
 - Fertility
 - Migration
 - Family and Household

Assessment and Grading

Exam 1	15 points
Exams 2 and 3	60 points (30 pts each)
Presentation	20 points
Class Participation	5 points, including attendance and participation related to student presentations

GRAND TOTAL: 100 points

No extra credit options available.

More about exams:

- Exams scheduled in advance according to calendar below.
- Bring red large scantron forms to first exam; narrow red scantron forms to later exams.
- First exam consists entirely of multiple choice (MC) questions; last two exams have both MC and essay questions. Some questions will be open-text questions.

Class participation is based both on attendance and active and informed participation in class discussions. Students are encouraged to bring supplementary materials pertaining to the materials studied.

Any request for grade change will have to be submitted to me in writing, clearly indicating the question and the rationale/argument behind your request.

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

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.

The following is a bare-bones calendar. Further details will be provided at the beginning of the semester.

CALENDAR ECON 489 Spring 2012
Dates for exams and review sessions

Week 1 Jan 19

Introduction to the course/ Chapter 1

Week 2 starts Jan 24

Week 3 starts Jan 31

Week 4 starts Feb 7

2/7: REVIEW SESSION

2/9: FIRST EXAM (MULTIPLE CHOICE; REVIEW OF ECONOMIC & STATISTICAL TOOLS)

Week 5 starts Feb 14

Week 6 starts Feb 21

Week 7 starts Feb 28

Week 8 starts March 6

Week 9 starts March 13

3/15 REVIEW SESSION

Week 10 starts March 20

3/20: EXAM 2

SPRING RECESS

Week 11 starts April 3

Week 12 starts April 10

Week 13 starts April 17

Week 14 starts April 24

Week 15 starts May 1

Week 16

5/8 Review session ; no school on 5/10

Exam 3 on 5/15 from 13:00 to 15:00