

# ECONOMICS 102

Fall, 2011

## Official Information and Calendar

Economics 102: Principles of Economics (Microeconomics)

Meeting Dates and Times: MoWe 14:00 to 15:15

**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.”

Instructor: Shoshana Grossbard <http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/faculty/sgs/>. I can be contacted via Email: [shosh@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:shosh@mail.sdsu.edu); or come visit me during Office hours: MoWe 11:00 to 12:45 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.

### 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:

A/ Lectures

B/ **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.

C/ **Required and Recommended Learning Resources**

C.1 Required Book:

**McConnell, Brue and Flynn (MBF) *Microeconomics*.** 19<sup>th</sup> edition. They prepared a custom edition for SDSU (loose leaf and cheaper) but it is essentially the same as the textbook. I intend to cover most chapters with you.

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 CAN PURCHASE CONNECT PLUS FOR \$76, 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. Both the online shop and the bookstores give you LEARNSMART as well, which should help you in your studies.

2/ Clicker by i>clicker (not the kind previously used at SDSU).

- Cost: \$44 at the bookstore. However, if you turn in an old CPS clicker, they get a \$10 rebate. If you purchase \$250 worth of course materials for the year (including the new i>clicker), you get another \$10 rebate. If you sell the new i>clicker back, you get \$18 for the sell-back. With all these discounts the net cost of the clicker for the year is only \$6.
- Information on how to use the clicker: <http://clicker.sdsu.edu/>. Registration of your clicker is via Blackboard. See the following instructions: [http://clicker.sdsu.edu/regclicker/register\\_clicker\\_demo/register\\_clicker\\_demo.htm](http://clicker.sdsu.edu/regclicker/register_clicker_demo/register_clicker_demo.htm)
- Clicker used for measuring attendance and to facilitate feedback from the class to the professor.

### 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 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](http://www.facebook.com/econoflove)

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

- Making the Invisible Visible: Finding Patterns and **seeing the ubiquity of markets**
- 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 the real world
- 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
- Get a better understanding of many markets, including foreign exchange markets

### **Assessment and Grading**

Three exams worth 100 points each:	300 points
‘Connect’ assignments	100 points
Class Participation	100 points
<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	<b>500 points</b>

No extra credit options available.

More about exams:

- **Exams scheduled in advance according to calendar below.** No early or make-up exams will be given. However, a fourth optional exam will be given in the last week of classes. There is no final in this class. There is nothing to lose from taking the fourth exam. Lowest grade of all 4 exams will be dropped by the instructor.
- Bring red large scantron forms to first exam; narrow red scantron forms to later exams.
- Most questions are multiple choice. Some exams will contain brief essay questions.
- You are allowed to bring a page of handwritten notes to exams (written on one side).

More about assignments:

You will be getting more than 10 assignments. Lowest grades will be dropped from the count by instructor.

More about class participation:

Class participation is based on attendance (50 points; each class is worth 2 points; if you attended 25 classes, you max out on this grade), grades on randomly assigned clicker tests (30 points; 2 to 3 points each test; 15 such tests will be administered without advance notice). The last 20 points: at the discretion of the instructor. Make sure you introduce yourself to me in the classroom or during office hours. Sit in the front whenever possible.

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

**Average Grade:** the average grade on exams 2, 3, and 4 will be C. Not so for the average grade on exam 1. **WARNING: STUDENTS TEND TO DO BETTER ON FIRST TEST, AS IT COVERS MATERIALS MANY OF THEM ALREADY STUDIED.** Be ready for more difficult materials after the first test.

**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.

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CALENDAR ECON 102 Fall 2011  
**Overview: Assigned Materials and Exam Dates**

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**Week 1**

Introduction to the course/ Chapter 1 and appendix to Chapter 1

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**Week 2**

Ch. 2: Market system and circular flow

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Ch. 3: Demand & Supply

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**Week 3**

Ch. 3 (cont.)

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Ch. 4: elasticity

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**Week 4**

Review session and **EXAM 1** about Chapters 1-4

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**Week 5**

Ch. 7: costs

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Ch. 8: pure competition in short run

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**Week 6**

Ch. 9: pure competition in long run

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Ch. 10: pure monopoly

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**Week 7**

Ch. 5: Market failures

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**Week 8**

Review session and **EXAM 2** on Chapters 5, 7, 8, 9, 10

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**Week 9**

Ch. 13: Labor economics

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Economics of Marriage

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**Week 10**

Ch. 21: Health Care

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Ch. 22: Immigration

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**Week 11**

Ch. 14: Capital markets

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Ch. 15: Resources and Energy

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**Week 12**

Ch. 23: International trade

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**Week 13**

Ch. 24: part on exchange rates only

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Week 14

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Review session and EXAM 3 on Chapters 13, 14, 15, 21, 22, 23 and 24, economics of marriage.

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Week 15

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Review sessions in preparation for EXAM 4 (during final week)