

ECONOMICS 102

Fall 2012

Official Information and Calendar

Economics 102: Principles of Economics (Microeconomics) course number: 20950

Meeting Dates and Times: Mo We 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: Mo 13:00 to 13:50; We 15:30 to 16:15 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.

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 your messages on Bb. Please register 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 need to 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. Information on how to use the clicker: <http://clicker.sdsu.edu/>. Registration of your clicker is **via Blackboard** (don't register on their 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 102 students in mind.

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
Clicker points	100 points (max)
GRAND TOTAL:	500 points

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, unless it is a matter of religious observance.
- Bring narrow red scantron forms to exams.

- **Exam questions are multiple choice.**
- You are allowed to bring a page of handwritten notes to exams (written on one side).
- Average grade on exams will be set to equal at least 70/100 which amounts to C. This is the only curving that will be offered.

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. No points can be gained by attending class. Attendance is not required.

At the end of the semester I round grades up.

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.

CALENDAR ECON 102 Fall 2012
Overview: Assigned Materials and Exam Dates

Week 1

August 27 Introduction to the course/ Chapter 1

Aug 29 Graphs

Week 2 (Monday is Labor Day)

Sept 5 Ch. 2: Market system and circular flow /
Assignment 1 due

Week 3

Sept 10 Ch. 3 Demand & Supply

Sept 12 Ch. 3 Demand & Supply/ Assignment 2 due

Week 4

Sept 17 Ch. 4: elasticity

Sept 19 Ch. 4: elasticity/ Assignment 3 due

Week 5

Sept 24 Review session about Chapters 1-4.

Sept 26 Yom Kippur EXAM1 ABOUT Chapters 1-4.

Week 6

Oct 1 Ch. 7: costs

Oct 3 Ch. 7: costs/ Assignment 4 due

Week 7

Oct 8 Ch. 8: pure competition in SHORT run

Oct 10 Ch. 8: pure competition in SHORT run

Week 8

Oct 15 Ch. 10: pure monopoly

Oct 17 Ch. 10: pure monopoly/ Assignment 5 due

Week 9

Oct 22 Ch. 5 Public goods and externalities

Oct 24 Ch. 5 Public goods and externalities /
Assignment 6 due

Week 10

Oct 29 Review session in preparation for exam 2

Oct 31 EXAM 2 on Chapters 5, 7, 8, and 10.

Week 11

Nov 5 Chapter 13 labor markets

Nov 7 Chapter 13 labor markets/ Assignment 7 due

Week 12

Nov 12 No class; Veterans day observed

Nov 14 Ch. 14: Capital markets

Week 13

Nov 19 Ch. 14: Capital markets/ Assignment 8 due

Nov 21 Ch. 23: International trade Parts of Chapter 23

Week 14

Nov 26 International trade and exchange rates;
Chapters 23 and 24

Nov 28 Exchange rates, part of Chapter 24 /
Assignment 9 due

Week 15

Dec 3 Review session

Dec 5 LAST CLASS EXAM 3 covers chapters
13,14,23 and 24.

No exam during finals week
