

ECONOMICS 102

Spring 2012

Official Information and Calendar

Economics 102: Principles of Economics (Microeconomics) course number: 20901

Meeting Dates and Times: Tu Th 11:00-12:15

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: "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. 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 \$99, 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. They cost between 106 and 110 dollars but are difficult to resell. You will need Connect to prepare your assignments. It also offers LEARNSMART assignments (LS) that will help you in your studies. Some of the LS count towards participation credit

2/ Clicker by i>clicker.

- 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 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
- Clicker used for measuring attendance, to facilitate feedback from the class to the professor, and offers opportunities to earn clicker points based on answering questions in class.

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

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
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. 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.
- **Exam questions are multiple choice.**
- You are allowed to bring a page of handwritten notes to exams (written on one side).

More about assignments: You will be getting 11 assignments. Ten of them count (100 points = 10 x 10) Lowest grades will be dropped from the count by instructor. Assignments will be posted on Connect

More about class participation:

- Class participation is based on clicker points and LS (LearnSmart) assignments prepared by McGrawHill and available on Connect.
- LS assignments are different from regular assignments. If you persevere you can get perfect grades on LS, but that is not necessarily the case on regular assignments.
- Each time you attend class you earn 2 participation points. There will also be questions that offer opportunities to accumulate clicker points. You will get a chance to accumulate at least 70 clicker points in class and at least 45 on LS assignments.

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 close to 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.**

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 Spring 2012
Overview: Assigned Materials and Exam Dates

Week 1

Introduction to the course/ Chapter 1

Week 2

Ch. 2: Market system and circular flow

Ch. 3: Demand & Supply

Week 3

Ch. 3 (cont.)

Ch. 4: elasticity

Week 4

Review session and **EXAM 1** about Chapters 1-4.
Exam will be on February 9

Week 5

Ch. 7: costs

Ch. 8: pure competition in short run

Week 6

Ch. 9: pure competition in long run

Week 7

Ch. 10: pure monopoly

Week 8

Ch. 5: Market failures

Review session

Week 9

EXAM 2 on Chapters 5, 7, 8, 9, 10. Exam 2 on March 13

Ch. 13: Labor economics

Week 10

Ch. 14: Capital markets

Ch. 15: Resources and Energy

Week 11

Ch. 21: Health Care

Ch. 22: Immigration

Week 12

Ch. 23: International trade

Week 13

Ch. 24: part on exchange rates only

Week 14

Review session and EXAM 3 on Chapters 13, 14, 15, 21, 22, 23 and 24. Exam 3 on April 26.

Week 15

Review sessions in preparation for EXAM 4 . Exam 4 covers chapters 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, and 14. Exam 4 is held during finals week at the time and day assigned for this class on the spring calendar

Week 16

Sample test on the last day of classes, May 8