

ECONOMICS 102

Principles of Microeconomics with Professor Shoshana Grossbard

Spring 2015

Syllabus, including Calendar

Course number: 21045

Meeting Times: Th 12:30-13:45. This is a hybrid course. You must view the virtual lecture posted on Blackboard BEFORE coming to class. Try to allocate every Tuesday 12:30 to 13:45 to this course, perhaps meet with class mates during that time.

I can be contacted via Email: shosh@mail.sdsu.edu; or come visit me during Office hours: Tuesdays 10:15 to 10:50 and Thursdays 14:30 to 15:30 at Nasatir Hall Room 307. 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. My webpage: <http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/faculty/sgs/>.

Course 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 regarding consumption and home production.
- We inspect the process of allocation of resources and pricing by firms. We describe some aspects of industrial organization.
- We study how households supply labor and capital. We briefly discuss other household decisions such as marriage and investments in own health and health of loved ones.
- We investigate the US and the global economy.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Making the Invisible Visible: learn to identify patterns and to see markets around you.
- Learning 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.
- Determining how changes in supply and/or demand change market price and quantity.
- Understanding the advantages of a market system and the helpful role of prices.
- Figuring out better how government policies affect markets.
- Better understanding of foreign exchange markets.

Required Tools:

- **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 how you
 - Will get access to remote lectures which you have to follow before the next class meets
 - Will find out about your assignments and your grades.
- **Required Book and companion interactive course tool** that is tied to the textbook and that you will need to prepare your assignments and practice for tests: **McConnell, Brue and Flynn (MBF) *Microeconomics*, 20th edition, + **Connect Plus (Economics), by McGraw Hill.** Also included in CONNECT PLUS: LearnSmart, SmartBook (an adaptive textbook that creates a personalized reading and learning path for each chapter), eBook, review helps, additional assignments, and remedial learning modules for math, stats, and basic economics.
 - The custom bundle for purchase is 9781259623769 and includes a loose-leaf paper version of MBF and CONNECT PLUS. I got the price down to \$128.49 at Aztec bookstore and \$117.99 at KB bookstore. Sorry it is still expensive and has no resale value, but the full price for a new book + connect plus is \$242 on Amazon (http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=microeconomics%2020th%20edition%20with%20connect%20plus).
 - You can purchase CONNECT PLUS alone. It includes E-BOOK and SmartBook versions of MBF.
 - If you buy a used book you have to buy Connect Plus separately.**
- **Required Clicker:** i>clicker2. You are required to have an i>clicker2 for in-class participation. i>clicker2 is a response system that allows you to answer questions posed during class. Available at the bookstore. You can also purchase the app for your smartphone (about the same price). You will be graded on your feedback and/or your in-class participation. For more information on activation, see below.
- **Not required:** attendance. However, by attending you can earn clicker points.

Recommended (but not required) Learning Resources:

- Student resources under the Connect Library tab.
- **The Wall Street Journal:** printed or electronic. Great source of news about economics. Price for students:
- **Learning partners.** It makes it even more fun to study economics with study partners! 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.
- Take advantage of **tutors** in the econ department. Register at Nasatir Room 329 after I let you know that it started.
- **Social media:** facebook page www.facebook.com/basicecon (701 likes) and linked twitter account @shoshecon. I post things there specifically with my Econ 102 students in mind.

- A variety of blogs such as <http://www.freakonomics.com/blog/>, <http://www.marginalrevolution.com/>, www.facebook.com/econoflove (1015 likes) and [@econoflove](#) on twitter (2046 followers) [hint: I m econoflove!]

Assessment and Grading

Four exams worth 75 points each:	300 points
‘Connect’ assignments	100 points
Participation 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. Please send me questions 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). 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); assignment with lowest grade will be dropped from the count by instructor.
- Assignments will be posted on Connect. Students missing the first assignment due to late registration have to complete all other 8.

More about participation points:

There are two main ways to earn participation points: **clicker points and virtual lecture points**. Total participation is capped at 100 points: once you reach 100 points you have maxed out on participation.

- **More about clicker points:**
 - Activating your clicker: it needs to be registered on the SDSU Blackboard site for this course. Instructions can be found here: <http://clicker.sdsu.edu/studentFAQ.html#6>. This is the ONLY registration it needs. Don't register on the clicker website!

- No credit if you don't have your clicker or it is not working. It will only work if it is registered on your SDSU Blackboard course (not the i>clicker company site!!!).
 - Keep extra batteries available (two AA).
 - i>clicker2 will be used every class day except for exam days.
 - Clicking for other students who cannot attend class is considered cheating.”
 - Put your name on your clicker and cover the ID number with a piece of clear tape to protect it from rubbing off.
- **More about virtual lectures points:** you get points for watching the videos I post on blackboard that present materials for this class.

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 Spring 2015
Overview: Assigned Materials and Exam Dates

Week 1

Th Jan 22 Introduction to the course/ Chapter 1

Week 2

Tue Jan 27 online: production possibilities, market system

Thu Jan 29 Ch. 1 + 2: production possibilities, market system . **Assignment 1** due

Week 3

Tue Feb 3 on line Ch. 3 Demand & Supply

Th Feb 5 Demand & Supply **Assignment 2** due

Week 4

Tu Feb 10 Online more on Demand & Supply

Th Feb 12 Demand and Supply

Week 5

Tue Feb 17 Online: Review in preparation for exam

Th Feb 19 **EXAM1 ABOUT Chapters 1-3.**

Week 6

Tue Feb 24 Online: Ch. 6, Elasticity

Th Feb 26 Elasticity **Assignment 3** due

Week 7

Tue March 3 Online Ch. 9: costs

Th March 5 Ch. 9 on Costs **Assignment 4** due

Week 8

Tue March 10 Ch. 10: pure competition in SHORT run

Th March 12 Ch. 10 pure competition in SHORT run
Assignment 5 due

Week 9

Tue March 17 online review session

Th March 19 EXAM 2 ABOUT Chapters 6, 9 and 10

Week 10

Tue March 24 online Ch. 12: pure monopoly

Th March 26 Ch 12 on monopoly **Assignment 6** due

SPRING BREAK

Week 11

Tue April 7 online Chs. 4 and 5 Public goods, externalities, and government failure

Th April 9 Chs. 4 and 5 Public goods, externalities, and government failure. **Assignment 7** due

Week 12

Tue April 14 online: Chapter 15: labor markets

Th April 16, Chapter 15 labor markets **Assignment 8** due

Week 13

Tue April 21 online Review Session

Thu April 23 **EXAM 3 ABOUT Chapters 4, 5, 12 and 15**

Week 14

Tue April 28 online: Ch. 16: Capital markets

Th April 30 Ch. 16: Capital markets **Assignment 9** due

Week 15

Tue May 5 Online: Exchange rates; Ch 25
Th May 7 About part of Ch 25 on exchange rates
and review session. LAST CLASS of the semester

Week 16

May 14 ?? EXAM 4, covers chapters 16 and 25.
