

San José State University
Department of Economics
ECON 1A: Principles of Macroeconomics
Section 05, Spring 2018

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Brian Hurst
Office Location:	DMH 214
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Email:	professorbhurst@gmail.com
Office Hours:	T/R 12:00PM – 1:00PM (or by appointment)
Class Days/Time:	Section 05/06: T/R 10:30AM – 11:45AM
Classroom:	Section 05/06: ENG401
Prerequisites:	May be taken concurrently with, or prior to, Econ 1B.
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	Area D1: Social Science, Human Behavior

Course Format

Canvas

Course materials such as the syllabus, handouts, grades, and more can be found on Canvas Learning Management System. The login website is <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for checking Canvas regularly. I recommend downloading the app, or bookmarking the page in your browser.

Course Description

Macro 1A Catalog Description: Determination of economic aggregates such as total output, total employment, the price level and the rate of economic growth.

Note: This class is a four-unit class. Students should plan to spend twelve hours per week throughout the semester (3 hours per week per unit). Roughly 3 of these hours will be spent in class for lecture. This leaves 9 hours available for readings, homework, studying, etc.

Course Goals

This course aims to teach students basic macroeconomics principles that can be applied in their own lives. Applications of economic thinking range from understanding political implications, to interpreting events, to better decision making skills in every day life.

GE Learning Outcomes

Economics 1A is a general education course that meets the requirements for area D1 in the social science area. Students learn to apply macroeconomic theory, including opportunity cost, comparative advantage, specialization and gains from trade, and supply and demand analysis to macroeconomic phenomena. Finally, students are able to place social events in an appropriate context.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

- **Opportunity Costs** - There is no free lunch. Why do economists like to say this?
- **Supply and Demand** - What determines price and quantity in a market? What forces can change them?
- **Marginal Thinking** - What is marginal thinking, and why is it so important?
- **Scarcity** - What is scarcity? Why does it matter in economics?
- **Benefits from Trade** - Why trade at all? Should we limit trade? Who does trading benefit?
- **The Market & The Government** - How do these powers organize, work, and how can they fail?
- **Incentives Matter** - What impacts can incentives have when making a decision? What about a lack of incentives?

Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

- Define economics.
- Recognize marginal benefits and costs
- Explain the concepts of scarcity and opportunity cost and how they are vital to economics.
- Explain how a supply and demand curve determine price and quantity (among other things).
- Define elasticity. Explain various types of elasticity, and their implications.
- Interpret news in a new way, and make more informed decisions in life, at work, and in politics.
- Distinguish between:
 - normative and positive statements
 - demand and quantity demanded
 - supply and quantity supplied
 - demand schedule and demand curve
 - supply schedule and supply curve
 - movement along vs a shift in a demand or supply curve.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Principles of Macroeconomics, 8th Ed or previous (2016) by N. Gregory Mankiw

This textbook is available for rent or purchase (including in ebook form) from many sources. Older editions are suitable, although you should not find the need to look back further than the 5th edition. Having this textbook is a requirement for the course, and questions for quizzes and exams will include information from the readings.

Other technology requirements

Students will complete homework assignments online, which will require internet access as well as a computer, tablet, etc.

Library Liaison

The librarian for the Economics Department is Christa Bailey. She can be reached at Christa.Bailey@sjsu.edu or (408) 808-2422.

Course Requirements and Assignments

This course will include 2 Midterms and a final. There will also be online quizzes.

Grading Information

There will be one homework assignment per chapter, online. Late assignments will not be accepted. Your lowest 3 scores will be dropped.

Exams will be in person during class hours, and may consist of multiple choice, short answer, graphical, and essay questions. Exams might draw from either material covered in class, or from the readings. The Final Exam will be comprehensive, with approximately 60% covering material from Midterms 1 & 2.

Your numerical grade will be based on the following categories and weights:

HW/Quizzes (1 assignment per chapter)	20%
Midterm 1	20%
Midterm 2	20%
Final Exam	30%
Study Groups (in class assignments)	10%

I **do not** use a grading curve. Your final numerical grade will be the weighted average of your scores in the above categories, and your corresponding letter grade will be assigned as follows:

Percent	Grade	Percent	Grade	Percent	Grade
98-100%	A+	93-97%	A	90-92%	A-
88-89%	B+	83-87%	B	80-82%	B-
78-79%	C+	73-77%	C	70-72%	C-
68-69%	D+	63-67%	D	60-62%	D-
0-59%	F				

If for any reason you must miss Midterm 1 or 2, your Final Exam will have that midterm's value added to it, and will become 50% of your overall grade.

You will need a Scantron 882-E for exams.

Classroom Protocol

I will begin class at the scheduled start time. Coming to class late will result in missed material. Although the textbook will cover many similar topics, the lectures will not be identical. For exams and homework, I will use questions about material covered in class as well as in the book. In addition, points for study groups will be earned in class. Therefore, I highly suggest being diligent in your attendance. If you must come to class late (or need to leave early), please sit at the back of the class to avoid disrupting your fellow students.

If you wish to use an audio recorder, please feel free to do so. *Laptops and tablets are not allowed during class for taking notes.* The use of headphones in class is also not allowed.

For exams, no graphing calculators will be allowed (scientific calculators are okay). Students may not use cell phones or other devices as a calculator, and calculators may not be shared.

The classroom should have an environment for group learning. Please, respect your classmates by not interrupting, and silencing all electronic devices.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

ECON 1A: Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice through Canvas, and announcement in class.

Week	Date		Topics	Due Dates
			*read chapters prior to each lecture	
1		1/25	Syllabus and Introduction Chapter 1	
2	1/30		Chapter 2	HW Due: Ch 1
		2/1	Chapter 3	HW Due: Ch 2
3	2/6		Chapter 4	HW Due: Ch 3 2/5 is the last day to drop with no record
		2/8	Chapter 4 Chapter 5	
4	2/13		Chapter 5	HW Due: Ch 4 2/12 Last day to add courses
		2/15	Chapter 6	HW Due: Ch 5
5	2/20		Midterm 1 Review	HW Due: Ch 6
		2/22	Midterm 1	
6	2/27		Midterm 1 returned Chapter 7	
		3/1	Chapter 7 Chapter 8	
7	3/6		Chapter 8	HW Due: Ch 7
		3/8	Chapter 9	HW Due: Ch 8
8	3/13		Chapter 9 Chapter 10	
		3/15	Chapter 10	HW Due: Ch 9
9	3/20		Chapter 11	HW Due: Ch 10
		3/22	Chapter 11 Chapter 12	HW Due by Saturday: Ch 11

Week	Date		Topics *read chapters prior to each lecture	Due Dates
10	3/27		Spring Break	-
		3/29	Spring Break	-
11	4/3		Chapter 12	
		4/5	Midterm 2 Review	HW Due: Ch 12
12	4/10		Midterm 2	
		4/12	Midterm 2 Returned Chapter	
13	4/17		Chapter 13	
		4/19	Chapter 13 Chapter 14	
14	4/24		Chapter 14	HW Due: Ch 13 (4/26) Last day to withdraw
		4/26	Chapter 15	HW Due: Ch 14
15	5/1		Chapter 15 Chapter 16	
		5/3	Chapter 16	HW Due: Ch 15
16	5/8		Chapter 17	HW Due: Ch 16
		5/10	Final Review	HW Due: Ch 17
17	5/15		<i>no class</i>	
Final Exam			Tuesday, May 22 9:45a-12p	