

San Jose State University
Economics 1B
Principles of Microeconomics

Section 4 (23537) Spring 2018, Jan 24-May 14

Contact Information

Instructor:	Fred Foldvary
Office Location:	219 DMH
Telephone (cell):	Cell: 510-590-2469, office TR 408-924-5407
Email:	fred.foldvary@sjsu.edu (include "econ 1b" in the subject)
Office Hours:	Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00-10:00am
Class Days/Time:	TuTh 1:30 - 2:45 pm
Classroom:	DMH 160

Web sites, emails and rules

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on my web page at

<http://www.foldvary.net/econ1b.html>.

Publisher web site: <https://www.textbookmedia.com/>

You are responsible for periodically checking your email to learn of any announcements.

Cell phones and laptops may not be used or be open in class.

Prerequisites: May be taken prior to or concurrently with Econ 1a.

The objectives of the course:

1. A lifetime intuitive understanding of the basic principles of microeconomics so that you achieve economic enlightenment and sophistication.
2. The ability to analyze economic issues and distinguish good from bad analysis.
3. The ability to apply economic concepts to your own life. Concepts you can apply include opportunity costs in making choices, comparative advantage, using marginal analysis, exchange, efficiency, the impact of taxes and regulations, and the difference between constitutional and operational choices.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook, required

Principles of Microeconomics, by Timothy Taylor, 4th Edition, Textbook Media, 2017
Looseleaf at the book store. ISBN: 978-0-9969963-2-7

Other Required Readings

The Concise Encyclopedia of Economics www.econlib.org/library/CEE.html

The Science of Economics, by Fred Foldvary <http://www.foldvary.net/economics.html>

The Green Tax Shift, by Fred F: <http://www.scu.edu/scm/summer2007/feature6.cfm>

I will post or link to additional readings on the course website.

Quizzes and written assignments will be on Canvas.

Exams and Grading

The criteria for essays:

- 1) presentation (language, legibility, organization);
- 2) how completely it covers the topics;
- 3) focus (avoiding irrelevancies and redundancies);
- 4) knowledge of the relevant theory, facts, and terms, and defining of key terms;
- 5) warranting (by clear, sound, organized reasoning) and citing of sources.

The maximum points for each category are:

Midterm exams:	500 points (250 each)
Final exam:	200 points
Written assignments and quizzes	220 points
Written project	80 points
total =	1000 points.

Exams:

There will be two midterm exams and a final examination. Each midterm exam contains 25 multiple choice questions and is worth 25 points. You need to use Scantron #882E, #2 pencil, and a plain calculator during the tests. Students are required to take examinations according to schedule. A student who misses a test will receive zero point on that test, unless a student has serious and compelling reasons, in which case a make-up examination can be arranged if the student contacts the instructor and receives the instructor's approval in advance. Be prepared to provide valid document.

Grading Policy

I grade students by their earning of points throughout the course as follows from a maximum point count of 1000 points throughout the course.

980-1000	A+	880-899	B+	780-799	C+	680-699	D+	<600	F
930-979	A	830-879	B	730-779	C	630-679	D		
900-929	A-	800-829	B-	700-729	C-	600-629	D-		

Assignments submitted one week late will have a grade deduction of 20 percent for each week late.

No credit is provided for any later submissions unless there is a documented medical reason.

All quizzes and exams are open book and open notes on paper. There must be no communication with others during an exam: no cell phones or laptop computers are allowed. Plain calculators may be used. All your homework must be your own work.

Term paper

For a GE course, there is a writing requirement. You will interview the owner, CEO, or manager of a for-profit enterprise, who can answer the questions. The paper should be typed double-spaced. Details are on the class web site.

Economics 1B is a general education course that meets the requirement for area D1 in the social science area. Students will learn to apply microeconomic theory, to evaluate social information, draw on different points of view, and formulate policy implications. Issues of diversity will receive attention in the analysis of price controls, labor markets, income distribution, and environmental issues. Students will be able to place social events in an appropriate context.

Academic Integrity Policy

Cheating on an examination will result in an automatic **“F” for the entire course**. The offense will be reported to the Office of Judicial affairs for further disciplinary action.

Note: To establish the principle that in the classroom we can all expect professional courtesy, the following rules should be followed.

1. Coming to class late is acceptable, with the following conditions:
 - (a) Enter quietly through the rear door.
 - (b) Take the first available seat at the back of the classroom.
 - (c) Do not interfere with other students.
2. Leaving class before class is dismissed is **not** acceptable, unless there is an **emergency**. Under those circumstances, please make every effort to leave quietly so that the rest of the class is not disturbed.
3. Any student with a disability requiring an accommodation should make this need known to the instructor during the first class period. Every effort will be made to accommodate your needs.

UNIVERSITY HONOR CODE

Students are expected to be familiar with the SJSU Policy on Academic Dishonesty which can be found in the University Schedule of Classes and the University Catalog. The Department of Economics Academic Fairness Standards states: “An individual instructor who discovers, or is presented with, conclusive evidence of cheating shall assign a course grade of ‘F,’ and inform the Chairman of the Department the reasons for the grade and for further disciplinary action.”

Plagiarism is defined as the act of representing the work of another as one's own (without giving appropriate credit) regardless of how that work was obtained and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements. Plagiarism at SJSU includes but is not limited to: **1.** The act of incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs or parts thereof, or the specific substance of another's work, without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as one's own work, knowingly or unknowingly or **2.** Representing another person's scholarly or artistic works as one's own.

Plagiarism is unacceptable. The instructor will discuss any instances of suspected plagiarism with the student involved and apply appropriate sanctions. Evidence of plagiarism will result in course failure and may also result in expulsion from San Jose State University. To avoid plagiarism, a good rule of thumb is to use quotes and citations if you use five words from someone else.

CAMPUS POLICY IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICAN DISABLITIES ACT

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please talk to me as soon as possible. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu> to establish a record of their disability.

Approximate Schedule

Note: additional readings on web sites will be announced prior to the week.

There will be three Economics Dept. "Provocative Lectures" for which you may obtain extra credit by attending, signing in, and writing an essay, topics to be provided. The dates will be announced as they become available.

Econ 1B, Section 4, Spring 2018 Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice via classroom announcement, Canvas, or email.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1/25	Topics, premises, factors of production.
2	1/30 2/1	Test of knowledge; bring scantron and pencil. interest, entrepreneurship Chapters 1-3: interconnected economy, choice, trade Supplemental readings: http://foldvary.net/sciecs/ch01.html http://foldvary.net/sciecs/ch02.html http://foldvary.net/sciecs/ch03.html http://foldvary.net/sciecs/ch04.html http://foldvary.net/sciecs/ch05.html http://www.foldvary.net/ec1/factors.html http://www.foldvary.net/ec1/m18irc.html

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
3	2/06 2/08	Chapter 4, supply and demand; price controls, surplus Extra credit: Watch the PBS show "The Gilded Age" and write an essay, the topic to be provided on 2/8 Supplemental readings: http://www.foldvary.net/sciecs/ch06.html http://www.foldvary.net/sciecs/ch07.html http://www.foldvary.net/ec1/ch04sd.html http://www.foldvary.net/ec1/ch04.ppt http://www.foldvary.net/ec1/m06sdg.html http://www.foldvary.net/ec1/m07surp.html http://www.foldvary.net/ec1/m08eb.html http://www.foldvary.net/ec1/m02think.html http://www.foldvary.net/sciecs/ch18.html http://www.foldvary.net/ec1/ch03exch.html http://www.foldvary.net/works/policystudy.pdf
4	2/13 2/15	Chapters 5,6: labor, financial markets, globalization http://www.foldvary.net/ec1/m18lab.html
5	2/20 2/22	Chapter 7: elasticity Chapter 8: decisions; appendix. Supplemental: http://www.foldvary.net/ec1/ch05.elct.html http://www.foldvary.net/ec1/ch21choi.html
6	2/27 3/1	2/27: First Exam Chapter 9, Costs Supplemental: http://www.foldvary.net/ec1/f13cost.html
7	3/6 3/8	Chapter 10, Firms, perfect competition; in-class quiz Chapter 11, Monopoly Supplemental: http://www.foldvary.net/ec1/firm.html http://www.foldvary.net/sciecs/ch08.html http://www.foldvary.net/ec1/f14comp4.html http://www.foldvary.net/ec1/f15mono.html
8	3/13 3/15	Chapter 12: monopolistic competition, oligopoly, game theory Supplemental: http://www.foldvary.net/ec12/ch16mc.html http://www.foldvary.net/ec12/ch17olig.html
9	3/20 3/22	Chapters 13, 14: competition policy, externalities Required: Green taxes: http://www.scu.edu/scm/summer2007/feature6.cfm Supplemental http://www.foldvary.net/sciecs/ch13.html http://www.foldvary.net/ec1/m10ext.html
Spring break	3/27 3/29	

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
10	4/3 4/5	Chapters 15, 16: public goods, poverty, inequality Supplemental http://econ1.foldvary.net/m11pg.html http://www.foldvary.net/ec1/m20inp.html https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lorenz_curve
11	4/10 4/12	Chapters 17, 18: Labor; information, risk, insurance, interest http://www.foldvary.net/ec1/m19ed.html http://www.foldvary.net/ec1/m22.html http://www.foldvary.net/economics/sciecs/ch15.html
12	4/17 4/19	Term papers due Tuesday the 17 th . Chapters 19 (& appendix), 20, Financials, public choice Supplemental http://www.foldvary.net/ec1/stocks.html http://www.foldvary.net/ec1a/democ2.ppt http://www.independent.org/lovegov/
13	4/24 4/26	4/24: Second exam. The US tax system http://www.foldvary.net/ec1/m12taxsm.html
14	5/1 5/3	Economics of real estate Ethics and economics http://www.foldvary.net/econ200/naturalaw.ppt http://www.foldvary.net/sciecs/ch19.html
15	5/8 5/10	US economic history Financial investing http://www.foldvary.net/works/seeking.html Ending exam in class.
Final Exam	5/16	Wednesday, May 18, 1215-1430 (12:15-2:30)