

ECN 1A: Principles of Microeconomics

Summer Session II, 2023
University of California, Davis

Course Information

Welcome to ECN 1A! This is usually the first course students take in economics and we will learn about basic economic concepts and use them to solve economic problems. In my experience teaching this course, anyone can succeed as long as they make the effort. We will work together to make sure you have a positive and fruitful learning experience!

Instructor: Christina Sun (she/they)

- Student Hours: Wednesdays 2-3 PM or by appointment
- Email: ucsun@ucdavis.edu

Student hours are times dedicated to you - whether to ask questions, seek advice, or just to chat about academics or life. I invite you to come chat if you need support with anything or just want a friendly conversation!

Teaching Assistant: Seungjin Baek (he/him)

- Student Hours: Thursdays 1-3 PM, SSH 118
- Email: sjsbaek@ucdavis.edu

Seunjing is an amazing TA and he is great at making difficult things easy to understand. I highly encourage you to go to his student hours!

Class Meetings:

Class	Time	Days	Location
Lecture	10:00 AM - 11:40 AM	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday	Olson Hall 250
Section A01	10:00 AM - 11:40 AM	Thursday	Young Hall 192
Section A02	4:10 PM - 5:50 PM	Thursday	Wellman Hall 201

The lecture and all sections of the class will meet in person with the exception of unforeseen circumstances.

Course Material:

- Textbook: *Microeconomics*, Michael Parkin, 13th edition. Older versions and PDFs are also fine.
- MobLab: We will participate in classroom games on MobLab. Instructions on how to join our class on MobLab is on Canvas. There is an associated fee of \$25. You will need an internet enabled smart device (e.g. smartphone, laptop, tablet).
- Canvas: All other material for the class will be posted on Canvas.

Lecture Capture:

Lecture capture videos will be available on Canvas, however, **they are not meant to substitute attending lectures**. Further, technological failures could result in a loss of lecture videos. They are a good option for reviewing the class.

Course Principles

1. We treat each other with respect
2. We promote an atmosphere for learning
3. We take care of ourselves
4. We speak our truths
5. We actively listen
6. We are present

Course Overview:

Economics is typically defined as the study of resource allocation under scarcity. In this course,

we will provide an overview on the decision-making of consumers and firms, and consider when and how the government can implement public policies to improve social well-being. Through this course, I will help you learn to use basic economic principles to analyze problems, and understand the economic way of thinking.

Course learning outcomes:

- Understand the criteria by which consumers and producers make economic decisions, the different types of markets, why markets work and when they fail, and what actions the government can take to deal with market failures.
- Demonstrate understanding of course knowledge by analyzing simplified economic scenarios and solve problems graphically and numerically.
- Apply economic principles from learned in the course to analyze real world economic issues, propose solutions, explain their merits and costs, and demonstrate your economic knowledge by presenting your arguments in written form.

Assignments

Textbook Readings

Reading the textbook is a great way to study for the class. The textbook presents information in more comprehensive detail and provides a lot of supplemental information that will help with understanding. You should skim the corresponding chapters before lecture so you are familiar with the material, and read in depth after lecture to reinforce understanding.

Problem Sets

There will be 5 problem sets. They will be graded on effort. Please submit your assignments on Canvas as PDF documents.

Lowest score will be dropped.

Econ IRL Project

This is an overarching project designed to connect our course knowledge to the real world. It includes 2 parts: one smaller written assignment to help you practice economic analysis on real issues, and a policy analysis report at the end of the course where you will play the role of a policy maker. Detailed instructions will be uploaded on Canvas in the second week of class.

Due dates for assignments can be found in the Course Schedule below.

Exams

There will be two in-class exams: one midterm exam and one final exam. The final exam is cumulative. Dates for the exams are indicated in the Course Schedule below.

Both exams will include multiple choice questions and short answer questions. You will need to bring scantrons, #2 pencils, and erasers. Scratch paper and calculators will be provided.

Class Participation

Actively participating in this class and engaging with classroom activities/your peers is one of the most effective ways of learning in this class. And when you engage, it helps other people in class too! Participation will be graded on the following:

- Participation in check-in quizzes
- Participation in classroom games
- Participation in collaborative discussions in class

Each week has a participation score, and participating in one or more of the above will earn you full participation credit for that week. However, I still expect you to engage with **all** of the activities, because they facilitate your own learning and also help with creating an engaging classroom for everyone. The lowest participation score will be dropped.

Grading Policy

Final Grade Calculation:

Item	Percent
Problem Sets	20%
Econ IRL Project	20%
Participation	10%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

Final grades will be curved in accordance with Economics department policy after all course requirements have been completed.

Problem Sets Grading Policy

Problem sets will be graded entirely based on effort. Therefore, **even if you get full credit on a problem set, it doesn't mean you got everything right!** Please make sure to review the solutions to check your understanding.

Econ IRL Project Grading Policy

Please see instructions on Canvas for details.

Exam Regrade Policy

If you believe that either

1. There is an adding error in your grade, or
2. You answered a question correctly but did not receive credit

Please submit your exam to myself or the TA within one week of the grade being posted. The entire exam will be regraded, which may result in a lower grade.

There will be no regrades for the final exam in accordance with UC Davis policy.

Make-Up Exam Policy

Excused absences from exams are granted at on a case-to-case basis. I need to be notified prior to the exam. There are no make-up exams in general. In case of an excused absence, the weight of the excused exam will be shifted to the other exam. Unexcused absence from the final exam will result in a failing grade.

Late Assignment Policy

In general, late assignments will not receive credit. If you need to turn in assignments late due to extenuating circumstances, please let me know beforehand and I will try my best to be flexible.

Academic Accommodations

If you require accommodations related to a special need, please contact the [Student Disability](#)

[Center](#) (SDC) as soon as possible. Please also see me to discuss your needs during the first week of classes. I will work with you and the SDC to provide the necessary resources to help you succeed in the course.

Code of Academic Conduct

You are expected to follow the principles of academic and intellectual honesty, and strictly adhere to the [UC Davis Code of Academic Conduct](#). Any violations of the Code of Academic Conduct will be referred to [Student Judicial Affairs](#) and may result in failing of the course.

Resources

Nothing is more important than your physical and mental well-being. Please do what is necessary to take good care of yourself. If you are in crisis, the [Aggie Compass Basic Needs Center](#) offers a variety of short- and long-term support options. If you need mental health support, [here](#) is a list of resources for you. Finally, do not hesitate to reach out to me if you are struggling. I will do my best to connect you with the right resources and give you the support you need.

Course Schedule

Date	Day	Topic	Reading	Written Assignments
Week 1 Aug 7	Monday	What is Economics?	Chapter 1	
Aug 8	Tuesday	Opportunity Cost and Gains from Trade	Chapter 2	
Aug 9	Wednesday	Supply and Demand <i>Class Activity: Competitive Markets</i>	Chapter 3	
Week 2 Aug	Monday	Elasticity	Chapter 4	PSet 1 Due 9 PM

14				
Aug 15	Tuesday	Efficiency and Equity	Chapter 5	
Aug 16	Wednesday	Government Actions in Markets <i>Class Activity: Taxes and Price Controls</i>	Chapter 6	
Week 3 Aug 21	Monday	Midterm Exam in Class		PSet 2 Due 9 PM
Aug 22	Tuesday	Organizing Production, Output and Costs	Chapter 10, 11	
Aug 23	Wednesday	Output and Costs	Chapter 11	
Week 4 Aug 28	Monday	Perfect Competition	Chapter 12	PSet 3 Econ IRL Part 1 Due 9 PM
Aug 29	Tuesday	Perfect Competition, Monopoly	Chapter 12, 13	
Aug 30	Wednesday	Monopoly, Monopolistic Competition <i>Class Activity: Entry and Exit</i>	Chapter 13, 14	
Week 5 Sep 4	Monday	<i>Labor Day Holiday</i>		PSet 4 Due 9 PM
Sep 5	Tuesday	Public Goods <i>Class Activity: Public Goods</i>	Chapter 16	
Sep 6	Wednesday	Public Goods, Externalities <i>Class Activity: Tragedy of</i>	Chapter 16, 17	

		<i>the Commons</i>		
Week 6 Sep 11	Monday	Externalities	Chapter 17	PSet 5 Due 9 PM
Sep 12	Tuesday	Catching Up		
Sep 12	Wednesday	Final Exam in Class		Econ IRL Part 2 Due 9 PM

Please see the [Summer Session 2023 Master Academic Calendar](#) for important administrative dates.

The course schedule is subject to change and I will inform you before any change is made. If there is any new material that is not included in the course schedule published on the first day of class, you will not be responsible for them in exams.

Thank you to Dr. Kem Saichaie for inspiring some elements of this syllabus.