

University of California, San Diego
Graduate School of International Relations & Pacific Studies
Econ Prep
Summer 2013

Lecture Time: Tuesday/Thursday 11:00AM - 1:00PM

TA Session: Monday 10:00AM - 12:00PM

Location: Robinson Auditorium

Instructor: Junjie Zhang, office 1303, (858) 822-5733, junjiezhang@ucsd.edu

TA: Yihua Shi (yis028@ucsd.edu) and Jingyuan Zhu (jiz102@ucsd.edu)

Office Hours: Wednesday 3:00PM-4:00PM or by appointment

Homework: Due before each lecture on class

Course Description: This course prepares first-year master students for the core economics and management courses at IR/PS. We will primarily focus on consumer theory, producer theory, and market structure. Its content is between introductory and intermediate level. This course is self contained so prior knowledge of economics is not required. However, basic calculus is expected for a better understanding of the economic tools.

Readings: The following book is required for this course:

Samuelson, W.F. and S.G. Marks. 2011. *Managerial Economics* (7th Edition). Wiley.

The same book will be used in your Managerial Economics course. Please see the schedule of suggested readings in the following section.

Course format: The course will be run as lectures by the instructor. Thus, attendance at class meetings is required. Two teaching assistants will hold two-hour review sessions that are also mandatory.

Grading: Homework assignment 30% and final exam 70%. You must receive a minimum letter grade of C in order to successfully complete the Econ Prep component.

Online Resources: I will post practice problems and other course materials in the Econ Prep Conference in the FirstClass. The FirstClass is the primary form of electronic communication at IR/PS. Please use the Econ Prep conference for any questions you may have for the instructor, TAs, and each other.

Academic Integrity: Student conduct related to this course is governed by the UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship: "Students are expected to complete the course in compliance with the instructor's standards. No student shall engage in any activity that involves attempting to receive a grade by means other than honest effort."

Course Outline and Reading List

Lecture 1: Overview (PS 1 distributed)

ME Chapter 1

Lecture 2: Consumer Theory

ME Chapter 2 and 3

Lecture 3: Production (PS 1 due, PS 2 distributed)

ME Chapter 5

Lecture 4: Cost

ME Chapter 6

Lecture 5: Perfect Competition (PS 2 due, PS 3 distributed)

ME Chapter 7

Lecture 6: Imperfect Competition

ME Chapter 8 and 9

Lecture 7: Additional Microeconomics Topics (PS 3 due, PS 4 distributed)

Market failure, government policy, cost-benefit analysis, and decision under uncertainty

Lecture 8: Economic Growth (PS 4 due, PS 5 practice questions distributed)

Two-sector model, division of labor, and trade