

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

Econ 121 Principles of Microeconomics

Course Syllabus (16-week)

Instructor: Dr. Xiaochuan Song

Office Hours: virtual office hours by appointment only

Please use **Canvas** communication tools to contact me and I will respond to you within 24 hours. For most cases, you will get my response within a few hours.

I hear and I forget

I see and I remember

I do and I understand

—Confucius

Course Description:

An introduction to microeconomic analysis. Economic principles related to quantitative analysis of demand and supply, production technology and cost, market structures and business strategy, information economics, public goods and public choice. Applications of microeconomic theory, including its use in evaluating and forming public policy.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. Understanding Economic Thinking: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to use the framework of economic thinking to evaluate resource allocation decisions.
2. Understanding private market outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to use the framework of supply and demand to graphically analyze market system outcomes.
3. Understanding Market Structures: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to determine prices and output levels in various market structures.

Course Objectives:

- Introduce the fundamental principles of microeconomics
- Understand how a market economy works

- Apply the key principles of microeconomics in our lives and careers

Online Learning Expectations:

This course is best suited for students who have the motivation and ability to learn independently. Students should have the discipline to follow instructions and abide by the indicated deadlines. The course is not recommended for students who tend to procrastinate. Students are expected to communicate in a courteous, formal, and professional manner. Informal written communications via Canvas conversation tools are not acceptable. Students must, in all cases, communicate in English with a formal sentence structure, correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation. The course is not recommended for students who are not reasonably proficient in the use of computer software. You have the responsibility to correct technical problems before submission deadlines. It is your responsibility to check our course homepage and calendar on daily basis to be well informed of weekly coverage, announcements, especially our test and homework schedule, which might be rescheduled as class goes on.

Emergency and Technical Problem Policy:

Some of you might experience some technical problems. To my best knowledge, they are computer specific. The best advice I have for you is to bring your computer to Mesa College computer lab and ask a tech support expert there to check your computer and browser. Make sure your computer, browser, and internet access are ready for Mesa online class. You should, at least, have a second access as a back-up. **Our Tech Problem policy is that students are responsible for any technical problem.** Otherwise, our class would be chaotic, because technically, anyone can claim a tech problem. If a tech problem happens to you, which prevents you from completing an assignment or affects your quiz/test/homework performance, you may resolve it by trying the following **4 solutions**:

- Follow the instruction under [Trouble shooting guide & MyEconLab Tech Support](#) on our course homepage
- Try a different computer, browser or internet access
- Take your homework or test at a different time on a different day, such as early morning on the following day since you have at least 3 attempts for each assignment

- The last resort: Go to Mesa College LRC to complete your assignment, especially for a big test such as an exam, if you are not confident enough with your computer or internet access

Even in the worst-case scenario: the above 4 solutions cannot resolve your issue before submission deadlines; you still have an option to take a make-up assignment as long as you have not run out your minimum 3 attempts for each assignment. Therefore, we establish our strict Emergency and Technical Problem Policy for this class as follows:

***Your Grade is based on MyEconLab Record Only without any Exception
Under any Circumstances!***

The only reason you have 6 extra credit assignments worth additional 12 homework is that some emergency including tech problem could happen to you which are beyond your control. If you experience emergency or tech problem frequently, you should drop this class simply because your computer or schedule is not ready for this class. We are concerned with rigorous teaching and learning, not whose fault for missing a test or homework. Since you have **unlimited amount of time and unlimited attempts** for homework and extra credit **before and after due dates**, technical problem should not be an excuse for missing them. Sometimes, however, some *e-graphs* may not allow you to enter a required number into a given box, you should take them well before the due dates, so you will always have a plenty of chances to retake them if any thing happens to your computer or internet access.

Attendance Policy:

- *It is the student's responsibility to drop all classes in which he/she is no longer participating.*
- *It is the instructor's discretion to withdraw a student after the add/drop deadline due to excessive absences.*
- *Students, who remain enrolled in a class beyond the published withdrawal deadline, as stated in Mesa class schedule, will receive an evaluative letter grade in this class.*

Attendance is critical to teaching and learning. Statistics shows strong correlation between class attendance and performance. You will fall behind in acquiring course content and skills if you do not attend class regularly. Attendance is based on your submission of homework,

quizzes, and exams by due dates (the only acceptable proof of attendance is the submission of homework, quiz, and exam by the established deadline each week). I realize that situations may develop which are beyond your control and which may interfere with your attendance; therefore, a maximum of **two-week absence** (missing two weeks' assignments) has been established before you will be dropped from the course. This is in compliance with Mesa College policy on attendance. If your occupation or other interests require you to be absent or late frequently, you should **NOT** remain enrolled in this course. This course is intended for students who regularly attend class and possess a professional and positive attitude towards learning.

Attendance of the first week class is mandatory. You will be dropped from the class if you are absent during the first week (missing the first week quiz and homework). No add code will be given to any student who misses the first week class. It is your responsibility to add, drop, or withdraw before the deadlines stated in Mesa College class schedule. Lack of money to pay tuition and fees, waiting for financial aid or textbook, a hold on prerequisite clearance, or technical problems are not considered extenuating circumstances.

Course Requirements:

Microeconomics is a challenging class. You are expected to spend more time in this class as you would spend in a traditional three-unit class. Your mastery of microeconomics will occur through consistent completion of assigned readings, practices, and assignments. Maintaining self-disciplined consistency is particularly important for this course, as there is no scheduled face to face class meeting. Good knowledge of high school algebra and geometry will sharpen your problem-solving skills.

Required Readings:

Text: *Microeconomics: Principles, Applications, and Tools*, 10th ed.
O'Sullivan/Sheffrin/Perez, Pearson, 2020

Recommended Readings:

- [*The Wall Street Journal*](#) [*Los Angeles Times*](#) [*The New York Times*](#)
- Current news magazines, [current events on TV](#) and internet

Grading:

12 Homework	60
12 Quizzes	60
3 Exams	120
6 Extra Credits	60
Total Points	300

Letter Grade without Extra Credits

216 (90%)	A
192 (80%)	B
168 (70%)	C
144 (60%)	D
Below 144	F

Letter Grade with Extra Credits

216 (72%)
192 (64%)
168 (56%)
144 (48%)
Below 144

You need to do all the assignments (Homework, Quizzes, Exams, and Extra Credits) in your MyEconLab account. I recommend you take them by clicking on [MyLab and Mastering](#) first in your Canvas account, and then clicking on [Open MyLab and Mastering](#), and then taking them under **Assignments** in your MyEconLab account. You will have a full screen to work with instead of struggling within a truncated screen under the **Assignments** in Canvas account.

Homework:

Each week, you will complete a homework for the chapter you have just completed. You are expected to conduct economic analysis and solve some economic problems by working on *worksheets, e-graphs, tables, etc.* The homework problems are designed for detail-oriented students as a complement to quiz and exam questions. Each week's homework is available Monday morning at 8:00 am and due Sunday at 11:59 pm Pacific Time. If you miss a homework, you may take a make-up homework with 20% penalty. There is no time limit for each homework, and you have unlimited attempts before and after due date with the best score attempt accounted. When you work on a homework, you need to click on [Check Answer](#) after you complete each homework question in order to continue your homework. If you got a wrong

answer, you may redo it by clicking on [Similar Question](#), [Try Again](#), or Question Help followed by [Help Me Solve This](#), whichever is available. If you have not completed a homework before Sunday midnight, it will be considered as a make-up homework by MyEconLab, subject to 20% penalty.

Quizzes:

Each week, you will complete a quiz for the chapter you have just completed. Quizzes are similar to **Sample Tests and Quizzes** under **Take a Quiz/Test** in your MyEconLab, which I recommend you try first before you take the assigned quizzes. Each week's quiz will be available Wednesday morning at 8:00 am through Sunday at 11:59 pm Pacific Time. Every quiz has a 20-minute time limit and you will have 3 attempts with the highest score attempt accounted. If you miss a quiz, you may take a make-up quiz after the due date with 20% penalty. If you have not completed a quiz before Sunday midnight, it will be considered as a make-up quiz by MyEconLab, subject to 20% penalty. Because quizzes belong to confidential test category, you will not get detail feedbacks before due dates. You have an option to save a quiz to work on later. When you return to the quiz, you will not be able to access questions you already worked on. Be sure to complete the question before moving to the next question or clicking [Save for Later](#).

Exams:

There are 3 exams throughout the semester. Each exam has 40 questions worth 40 points. Exams are similar to **Sample Tests and Quizzes** under **Take a Quiz/Test** in your MyEconLab, which I recommend you try first before you take an assigned exam. Exams will be available Wednesday morning at 8:00 am through Sunday 11:59 pm Pacific Time of the scheduled exam weeks. The time limit for each exam is 120 minutes and you will have 3 attempts for each exam with the highest score attempt accounted. If you miss an exam, you may take a make-up exam after the due date with 20% penalty. If you have not completed an exam before Sunday midnight, it will be considered by MyEconLab as a make-up exam, which is subject to 20% penalty. Since the final submission deadline for this course is **Monday, June 1, 2020, no late submission and make-up assignment options are available for any assignments after Monday, June 1 midnight!!!** You should ***Begin*** your exam well before the due dates of the exam week, at least 2

hours before the submission deadlines because you don't want to trigger the late submission penalty or no late submission and make-up options are available for you **after Monday, June 1 midnight**. Since exams belong to confidential test category, you will not get detail feedbacks before due dates. You have an option to save an exam to work on later before the submission deadline. When you return to the exam, you will not be able to access questions you already worked on. Be sure to complete the question before moving to the next question or clicking [Save for Later](#). Please check our course Calendar for exam schedule and coverage.

Extra Credit:

Extra credits provide you with more opportunities to improve and reach your target grade. You will earn the same grade points by taking them as you take any other assignments. There are 6 assigned **Dynamic Study Modules (DSM)** extra credit exercises worth 60 points total. DSM are artificial intelligent flash cards that adapt to your specific needs and provide you with customized learning content based on your strengths and weaknesses. They are available in your MyEconLab account. You are encouraged to play those dynamic games as an effective learning tool. Every chapter has one DSM exercise and you may play the game any time even by using your mobile phone. **However, you may earn extra credit by taking the 6 assigned DSM exercises under the Assignments only by clicking on Extra Credit!** (See our course calendar for the schedule). **You can not earn any grade point by doing any DSM exercise under Dynamic Study Modules on your left-hand side course menu in your MyEconLab account!** No considerations will be given to anyone who takes the unassigned DSM exercises in this way! It might take about an hour to complete each DSM, depending on how well you are prepared for the chapter. There is no time limit for each game. You may logout and come back any time before due date. You won't lose grade points for getting wrong answers as long as you continue to play it until you complete all the items with right answers. To earn full credit, you must complete all the items before Sunday 11:59 pm Pacific Time of the scheduled week. If you miss any extra credit DSM, you may take a make-up one with 20% penalty.

This course has many built-in explicit and implicit extra credits. You may earn up to 120 points from homework and assigned extra credit. Technically, everyone can get 100% of those points since there are no time and attempt limits. With 120 points from homework and assigned extra credit being earned, you may get A by just earning 96 out of the remaining 180 points

(53.33%) from quizzes and exams; or you may easily get B by just earning 72 points out of the remaining 180 points (40%) from quizzes and exams. At least you can get C by just earning 48 points out of the remaining 180 points (26.67%) from quizzes and exams. Therefore, whatever grade you will have earned from this class is only a matter of time and efforts you are willing and able to put into this class. Our grading policy is 100% transparent and no one deserves special treatment in grade. Equal treatment of every single student is my main concern and core value.

Please do not ask me for any more extra credit under any circumstances!

Academic Integrity:

This online course will be conducted in accordance with the college student code of conduct and basic standards of academic honesty. Cheating, plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty are not acceptable and will not be tolerated. To prevent possible cheating, **MyEconLab** will not post solutions to quizzes and exams until everyone has finished them. **Students are not allowed to ask or discuss homework, quiz, and exam questions via MyEconLab and Canvas conversation tools or private email before the submission deadlines.** Violations of standards of academic honesty will, at minimum, result in a grade of zero on the assignment, and may result in failure of the course. Violations will also be reported to the Student Affairs/Discipline Dean, who will record the violation and take appropriate further actions.

Accommodation of Disability:

If you have a learning disability that may need academic accommodations, contact your instructor as soon as possible. We will coordinate with the Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS) department of Mesa College to provide appropriate accommodations for you. If you would like further information or have questions about DSPS services, click here: <http://www.sdmesa.edu/student-services/disability-services/index.shtml>.