

Course Syllabus

Economics 110: Principles of Microeconomics, Fall 2022

California State University, Channel Islands

Instructor: Professor Zhong John Lu, PhD

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Class number: 1817/1818
 Class time: M/W 12:00 – 1:15 pm (Session 1/1817)
 M/W 3:00 – 4:15 pm (Session 2/1818)
 Office hours: M/W 10:30-11:30 am
 and by appointment
 Class location: 1817: Bell Tower 1302; 1818: Aliso Hall 150
 Course website: <http://blackboard.csuci.edu>

Exam 1: Thursday, Sept 17, in-class
 Exam 2: Thursday, Oct 15, in-class
 Exam 3: Tuesday, Nov 3, in-class
 Final exam: Session 1/2240: Tuesday, Dec 8, 8:00 – 10:00 am
 Session 2/2241: Tuesday, Dec 8, 10:30-12:30 am

Required text: N. Gregory Mankiw, “**Principles of Microeconomics**” (6th Ed.) (South-Western Cengage Learning) – used copies can be purchased online for \$25 or so.

Table 1 Schedule, Content, and Weight of Exams

Exam No	Chapters Covered	No Lectures	Date	Weight (%)
1	4 Chapters Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 9 (pp. 180-186)	5	9/7 Wed (45 mins)	15
2	3 Chapters Chapters 4, 5 and 6	6	9/28 Wed (50 minutes)	20
3	2 Chapters Chapters 7, 8	4	10/12 Wed (45 minutes)	15
4	2 Chapters Chapters 10, 11	4	10/26 Wed (45 minutes)	15
5	2 Chapters Chapters 13, 14	4	11/9 Wed (45 minutes)	15
6	4 Chapters Chapters 15-18	6	Session 1: 12/5, Mon, 10:30-12:30 Session 2: 12/5, Mon, 1:00-3:00	25
Total	17 Chapters	29		95

Attendance counts for the remaining 5% of your grade. There will be 5 randomly scheduled attendance takers during the semester, with each “presence” counting as 1%.

The following is a general guideline for determining the final course grade, based on the *sum* of the weighted percentage from each of the items above:

If total weighted sum is	Likely final grade is
< 58%	F
58% to < 68%	D
68% to < 79%	C
79% to < 89%	B
89% and above	A

Note that +/- grades are allowed in this course.

Course overview

Microeconomics is the study of how individual consumers and producers make “rational” decisions and how they interact in markets. This course introduces you to the fundamentals of microeconomic principles; examines their applications to the decisions of both consumers and producers; and evaluates the consequences of those decisions for society as a whole. Additionally, it discusses the role of government and the potential impact of public policies on the behavior of consumers and producers. One point worth noting here: Because economics studies human behavior which is inherently multi-dimensional, the concepts and tools employed by economists should be evaluated as a component (but NOT the component) of the total understanding of how people make decisions.

This course will cover the following five main topics:

- Introduction to economics, principles and fundamental axioms in economics
- How markets work: supply, demand, elasticity and government policies
- Efficiency of Markets and Welfare: theory and application
- Theory of Externalities and Public Goods: role of government
- Introduction to industrial organization: costs of production, competitive firms, monopoly

Program Learning Goals: These are the skills we try to help all students build in all MVS courses.

1. Critical Thinking
2. Oral Communication
3. Written Communication
4. Collaboration
5. Conduct (Ethics)
6. Competency in Discipline

Course Learning Outcomes: It is expected that you will complete this course understanding how and why economics is important, useful and relevant to everyday decisions in a wide variety of situations. Specifically, it is hoped that you will be able to

- Identify and distinguish positive and normative methods of economic analysis. (*Corresponding to program learning goals 1, 4, 6*)
- Apply the concept of marginal analysis in optimization decisions faced by economic participants. (firms, consumers, workers, etc.) (1-3, 6)
- Employ economic tools to real-world situations, and generate logically consistent arguments regarding efficiency, welfare, and the impact of key public policies. (1, 3, 6)
- Distinguish various concepts of economic costs and their relevance to a firm's decision making. (1-3, 6)
- Identify circumstances where markets may fail and anticipate likely outcomes of such failures, and evaluate government solutions to market failures. (1 – 3, 5, 6)
- Extend learned economic reasoning to other (seemingly non-economic) issues. (1-4, 6)

Exams

There are 5 in-semester exams and a final exam in this course (Table 1). They are scheduled 2-3 weeks apart. Each in-semester exam will take up the 2nd half of the lecture on the scheduled date for about 40-50 minutes. The final will be 2 hours.

All in-semester exams in this course are in multiple choice format (scantrons should be purchased by students), but the final exam has 1/3 points coming in essay form.

*Mark the exam dates down on your calendar – make arrangement at work, home, or anywhere else so you will be able to make to all the exams. **There will be NO make-up exams, except if the absence is due to an act of God (e.g., flood or fire), medical emergency (proof required), or is caused by the instructor or the school (e.g., field trip required by another class).***

- You will be at an increased risk for failing the class if you miss more than 1 exam without an approved, valid excuse, and almost certainly if you miss two or more.
- Significant medical reason(s) for missing exam(s) would require *a signed physician note with a phone number for me to follow up.*
 - Simply being under the weather is not a valid excuse.
- Work related travel, or family vacation, is not a valid excuse, as I give you plenty of heads up time.
- Car trouble on the day of exam is generally not a valid excuse. If you have an unreliable car, please try to arrange ride share on the day of exam.
- In rare occasions, students with valid reason(s) for missing an exam without a make-up will see the weight double for the next exam increase. For example, if you miss Exam #2, your weight for Exam #3 will be 35% (20% from Exam #2 + 15% from Exam #3). I highly recommend you take all exams as scheduled.
- Please contact me ASAP if you require disability accommodation for exams.

Each exam will cover materials instructed between the last exam and the last lecture before the said exam (unless otherwise announced), so it is not cumulative.

Homework assignments

There will be a total of six (6) homework sets corresponding to contents covered in each exam, but they will NOT be collected or graded. I will provide each HW solution to the embedded tutor after the work is assigned, and expect you to go to the tutor first with your questions. Of course, you are welcome to also discuss HW questions with me during office hours. The official solution will be posted on course website before each exam. I may also go over some homework questions in class leading up to each exam, time permitting.

Tutoring Services

Free tutoring services for economics courses are available. There is also an embedded tutor in the class.

Cheating

Don't cheat. If I catch you cheating during an exam, you will receive an F for the exam. Any case of cheating will be referred to Academic Affairs. Working with fellow students on homework assignments, however, is not cheating and is encouraged.

Advice on studying

- *Budget Enough Time for this Course:* In addition to lecture time, you are expected to spend 5-7 hours per week on this course in reading the book, notes and doing HW.
- *Read the Book:* For this course, the text will be the most valuable source of information and clarification. Ideally, read it before lecture and read it again afterwards. You will learn faster and deeper this way.
- *Attend the Lectures:* Although lecture notes (PowerPoint slides) will be posted online, they can never take the place of active, in-classroom learning. Missing class means missing valuable discussion, clarification, solving example questions, and information regarding assignments.
- *Do the Work:* Like anything else in life, *Practice Makes Perfect*. "Practice" means reading the assigned chapters completely, working out the assigned questions diligently, and seeking timely help from the instructor, the tutors or classmates.
- *Observe the Real World:* Read the business sections of the *Los Angeles Times*, the *New York Times*, or other leading national newspapers. Want more challenging readings? Read the *Wall Street Journal*. All are available at the library.
- *Note:* While I will keep the use of mathematical equations and models to a manageable level, the ability to manipulate algebraic equations and a good knowledge of basic geometry is essential for the successful completion of this course. I strongly advise you to polish up your algebra and basic geometry for this course.