

**Instructor:** Miguel Delgado Helleseeter

**Office:** Sage Hall 2141

**Office hours:** 12:30-1:30 PM, Wednesdays, and by appointment

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**Software:** We will be using the Top Hat ([www.tophat.com](http://www.tophat.com)) classroom response system in class. You will be able to follow lectures in class using your laptop, Apple or Android smartphone or tablet. You will also be able to submit answers to in-class questions using these devices, as well as via text message (SMS). The enrollment code for Top Hat is 255488.

**Course description:** This is a principles of microeconomics course. The course will provide a general understanding of basic microeconomic concepts and will introduce students to models and theory of modern microeconomics. We will study how individuals and firms make decisions in the face of scarcity of resources, and the role of markets in allocating these resources. In addition to market equilibrium, we will study sources of market failure, and the role of government in markets.

**Credit Hour** As of July 1, 2011 federal law (Title 34, Code of Federal Regulations, sections 600.2 and 600.4) requires all accredited institutions to comply with the federal definition of the credit hour. For all CSU degree programs and courses bearing academic credit, the “credit hour” is defined as “the amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that reasonably approximates not less than:

1. One hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit, or ten to twelve weeks for one quarter hour of credit, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time; or
2. At least an equivalent amount of work as required in paragraph (1) of this definition for other academic activities as established by the institution, including laboratory work, internships, practice, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.”

**Program learning goals:**

1. Critical thinking.
2. Oral communication.
3. Written communication.
4. Collaboration.
5. Conduct (ethics).
6. Competency in discipline

**Course learning objectives:** After completion, students should have developed an understanding of microeconomic concepts. Specifically, after completion of the course, students should be able to (associated program learning goals in parentheses):

- Distinguish macroeconomic from microeconomic themes. (1, 6)
- Understand the key concepts of opportunity cost and marginal analysis. (1, 6)
- Draw supply and demand curves, and distinguish between movements along these curves and shifts of these curves. (1, 3, 6)
- Determine equilibrium prices and quantities using graphical analysis. (1, 3, 6)
- Predict the impact of policies such as taxes, price floors, and price ceilings on market equilibrium outcomes. (1, 6)
- Apply marginal analysis to solve decision-making problems. (1, 6)
- Develop own perspectives and discuss current economic events using the tools learned in the class. (1, 2, 3, 5, 6)

**Important dates:**

First lecture .....	August 27 <sup>th</sup>
First midterm exam .....	September 26 <sup>th</sup>
Second midterm exam .....	October 31 <sup>st</sup>
Final exam .....	December 10 <sup>th</sup> , 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

**Grading:** There will be regular problem sets (20%), a participation grade through Top Hat (10%), two midterm exams (40%) and one final exam (30%). While the participation grade is small, I believe that attending lectures and actively participating with both questions and contributions to discussions is beneficial for both your own understanding of the material and that of your peers.

If you miss a midterm, the weight of that exam will be put onto the final exam. **This will be done on a non-curved basis, and if the exam you missed had a curve, you will receive either that curve or the required points to give you a perfect score on the midterm being replaced, whichever is smallest.** Please note this is a risky proposition since the final will become a very large portion of your grade, not to mention that truly, the best way to prepare for the final exam, is to do all required work regularly, including taking the midterm exams.

Letter grades for this class will be determined based on the total points in all assignments/exams as follows:

- A- to A+** 90% to 100%
- B- to B+** 80% to 89.99%
- C- to C+** 70% to 79.99%
- D- to D+** 60% to 69.99%
- F** 0% to 59.99%

Exams and the whole class may be curved, at my discretion. This will be done in order to adjust for difficulty of the class.

## Tentative list of contents

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Topic

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Intro: principles of economics, thinking like economists

Trade

Supply and demand

Elasticity

Supply, demand, and government policies

Consumers, producers, and efficiency

The cost of taxation

Externalities

The costs of production

Firms in competitive markets

Monopoly

Oligopoly

Theory of consumer choice

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**Academic honesty:** By enrolling at CSU Channel Islands, students are responsible for upholding the University's policies and the Student Conduct Code. Academic integrity and scholarship are values of the institution that ensure respect for the academic reputation of the University, students, faculty, and staff. Cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration with another student, knowingly furnishing false information to the University, buying, selling or stealing any material for an examination, or substituting for another person may be considered violations of the Student Conduct Code (located at <http://www.csuci.edu/campuslife/student-conduct/academic-dishonesty.htm>). **If a student is found responsible for committing an act of academic dishonesty in this course, the student may receive academic penalties including a failing grade on an assignment or in the course, and a disciplinary referral will be made and submitted to the Student Conduct & Community Responsibility office.** For additional information, please see the faculty [Academic Senate Policy on Academic Dishonesty](#), also in the CI Catalog. Please ask about my expectations regarding academic dishonesty in this course if they are unclear.

**Disability accommodations:** If you are a student with a disability requesting reasonable accommodations in this course, please visit Disability Accommodations and Support Services (DASS) located on the second floor of Arroyo Hall, or call 805-437-3331. All requests for reasonable accommodations require registration with DASS in advance of need. You can [apply for DASS services here](#). Faculty, students and DASS will work together regarding classroom accommodations. You are encouraged to discuss approved accommodations with your faculty.

**Disclaimer:** This syllabus is subject to changes. Any changes will be made in lecture and/or Canvas with at least one week of notice, except under extraordinary circumstances.