

ECON 110: PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS

SPRING 2024

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Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday 1:30-2:30pm, Mondays 10:00-11:00am, and by appointment jared.barton@csuci.edu (use this; it's tied to my mobile)

805-437-1640 (this *should* forward to my mobile. Try it *during the day* and find out!)

Course Information: Section 2159—Monday/Wednesday 3:00-4:15pm Smith Center 1908

Textbook: *Modern Principles: Microeconomics*. 2nd or 3rd edition, by Tyler Cowen and Alex Tabarrok (Worth Publishers), 2015. **Note that old editions are fine!** We will also use a few chapters out of a textbook by N. Gregory Mankiw, which I have posted on CI Learn.

Course Description: This course addresses “the application of economic reasoning to the decisions of consumers and producers. Topics include opportunity cost, resource allocation, the price system, the organization of industry, market failures, distribution of income, public sector economics.”¹

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

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

Course Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, you will be able to

1. Explain the economic behavior of households and individual firms (1, 3, 6)
2. Describe and apply the scientific method to economic behavior (1, 3, 6)
3. Apply the principles of supply and demand to determine prices and identify the factors that affect supply and demand (1, 3, 6)
4. Describe and distinguish between various forms of market structures (1, 3, 6)
5. Evaluate the costs and benefits of alternative forms of public policy (1, 3, 6)

Rephrased: You can use micro to understand everything, all the time. It also regularly enters into political debates. We require a rudimentary understanding of microeconomics in order to determine whether the arguments we hear are sound or are excrement.² It is difficult to have an opinion³ on rent control (or a sales tax increase, or the creation of a new park) without supply and demand.

CI Learn: I use CI Learn to post everything. It's not perfect, but it works. Please check CI Learn at least daily. I have pre-recorded our lectures and posted them alongside transcripts of (more or less) what I said. I have also posted assignments, quizzes, and exams.

¹ California State University Channel Islands Course Catalog, <http://catalog.csuci.edu/>.

² Nine-tenths of all economic arguments made by elected officials or candidates are excrement, or at least very foul. The other tenth is a glimmer of an honest comment that a political consultant somewhere is working hard to snuff out.

³ Correction: it is very difficult to have an opinion *worth listening to*.

E-mail: Throughout the semester, I will send you email with course announcements to your CI email address. If you regularly use another address, please set up email forwarding. Do send me email to ask questions about course material.

Flipped Classroom: I have pre-recorded all the lecture content for this class and posted it in Canvas. It is your responsibility to read the book outside of class, watch these lectures (probably multiple times), take notes on them outside of class, and finish activities outside of class. In class, we will start classes with a time for questions on the lectures and reading, followed by activities.

How Class Works: There are four activities we have in class: participation, assignments, quizzes, and tests. The points assigned to each method are below, followed by some thoughts on each:

First Exam	25%
Second Exam	30%
Final Exam	35%
Quizzes	10%

Exams. Exams allow me to see your breadth and depth of knowledge all at once, and let me see it for each of you. But they take at least an hour to administer and a weekend to grade. Thus there are few exams, but they make up the bulk of your grade.

Quizzes. Quizzes happen in class, and thus you can only get points for them by being in class. Indeed, as all lectures are already posted online (more on this in a moment), quizzes (and reviewing material) are *what we do in class*. I will sometimes give other assignments for points—those points go in here, with quizzes. A note on participating: displays of chutzpah, panache, knowledge of current events, humor, and moxie always help you. Always.

Grades: I use “top 3/bottom 3” for pluses and minuses and round to the nearest percentage point on the final grade. Curves are great when driving quickly, but not in this class: no curve for you!

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. Not only do activities and exams take place during class, but I am needy and lonely and desire your company. Without getting your absence excused, you will get a zero on missed tests and activities. Excuses are valid for health, university events, work, or the death of family. I may require additional confirmation for the death of family and for work.⁴

Grade appeals: If you believe that I misgraded your work, please email me, and I’ll double check!

Office Hours: My office hours are listed at the top of the syllabus. Please visit; I get lonely! Previous students report that office hours can be very helpful. If you cannot meet during office hours, contact me to set up an appointment.

Disability Accommodations: CSU Channel Islands is committed to equal educational opportunities for qualified students with disabilities in compliance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation

⁴ Many students seem to have an unusually large number of great aunts and uncles to whom they were particularly close, and bosses who are demanding *at the precise moment* that I give exams. Weird, right?

Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. The mission of Disability Accommodation Services is to assist students with disabilities to realize their academic and personal potential. Students with physical, learning, or other disabilities are encouraged to contact the Disability Accommodation Services office at (805) 437-8510 for personal assistance and accommodations.

Academic Honesty: Nobody else is cheating; don't be my one cheater this year. Okay? The details:

1. Academic dishonesty includes such things as cheating, inventing false information or citations, plagiarism and helping someone else commit an act of academic dishonesty. It usually involves an attempt by a student to show possession of a level of knowledge or skill that he/she does not possess.
2. Course instructors have the initial responsibility for detecting and dealing with academic dishonesty. Instructors who believe that an act of academic dishonesty has occurred are obligated to discuss the matter with the student(s) involved. Instructors should possess reasonable evidence of academic dishonesty. However, if circumstances prevent consultation with student(s), instructors may take whatever action (subject to student appeal) they deem appropriate.
3. Instructors who are convinced by the evidence that a student is guilty of academic dishonesty shall assign an appropriate academic penalty. If the instructors believe that the academic dishonesty reflects on the student's academic performance or the academic integrity in a course, the student's grade should be adversely affected. Suggested guidelines for appropriate actions are: an oral reprimand in cases where there is reasonable doubt that the student knew his/her action constituted academic dishonesty; a failing grade on the particular paper, project or examination where the act of dishonesty was unpremeditated, or where there were significant mitigating circumstances; a failing grade in the course where the dishonesty was premeditated or planned. The instructors will file incident reports with the Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs and for Student Affairs or their designees. These reports shall include a description of the alleged incident of academic dishonesty, any relevant documentation, and any recommendations for action that he/she deems appropriate.
4. The Vice President for Student Affairs shall maintain an Academic Dishonesty File of all cases of academic dishonesty with the appropriate documentation.
5. Student may appeal any actions taken on charges of academic dishonesty to the "Academic Appeals Board."
6. The Academic Appeals Board shall consist of faculty and at least one student.
7. Individuals may not participate as members of the Academic Appeals Board if they are participants in an appeal.
8. The decision of the Academic Appeals Board will be forwarded to the President of CSU Channel Islands, whose decision is final.

Schedule:

<u>Week</u>	<u>Lecture (online)</u>	<u>Chapter Title</u>	<u>2nd Ed. Chapter</u>	<u>3rd Ed. Chapter</u>	<u>Quiz</u>	<u>Quiz Date</u>
1	1	The Big Ideas	1	1		
		Trade & Comparative Advantage	2	2		
2	2	Supply & Demand	3	3	Ch. 1	(01/29)
3	3	Equilibrium	4	4	Ch. 3	(02/05)
4	4	Elasticity & Its Applications	5	5	Ch. 4	(02/12)
5	5	Taxes & Subsidies	6	6	Ch. 5	(02/19)
6		Exam 1. Chapters 1-6				(02/26)
7	6	Price Ceilings and Floors	8	8		
8	7	International Trade	9	9	Ch. 8	(03/11)
9	8	Externalities	10	10	Ch. 9	(03/25)
10	9	Public Goods/Commons Tragedy	18	19	Ch. 10	(04/03) ⁵
11		Exam 2. Chapters 8-10, 18				(04/08)
12	10	Costs of Production (Mankiw)	12M	12M		
13	11	Competitive Markets (Mankiw)	13M	13M	Ch. 12	(04/22)
14	12 & 13	Monopoly (Mankiw)	14M	14M	Ch. 13	(04/29)
		Price Discrimination (in textbook)	14	14		
15	N/A	Review & Loose Ends			Ch. 14s	(05/06)
		Final Exam (Note: 1:00-3:00pm)				(05/13)

⁵ Note that we change from a Monday-based quiz to a Wednesday-based quiz here, to accommodate Chavez Day.