

San José State University
Department of Economics
ECON 1B – Principles of Economics: Microeconomics - Section 04, Fall 2024

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Patralekha (Pat) Ukil
Office Location:	DMH 131
Email:	patralekha.ukil@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Tue/Thurs 1:30 – 2:30 PM or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Tue/Thurs 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM
Classroom:	Dudley Moorhead Hall 161
Prerequisites:	May be taken concurrently or prior to Econ 1A

Course Description

From the SJSU course catalog: Allocation of resources and distribution of income as affected by the workings of the price system and by government policies. This course satisfies GE Area: D: Social Sciences.

This course will provide a thorough introduction to various topics related to microeconomic analysis – the part of economics which focuses on the actions of individual decision-making units: individuals, households, and firms. We will learn important concepts such as incentives, the laws of demand and supply, opportunity cost and tradeoffs in consumption and production, and the gains from trade. We will also understand the consequences of choices made by individuals who face scarce resources and the slightly different choices made by firms in terms of determining what to produce, how to produce and how much to produce. We will introduce the different market structures such as perfect competition, monopoly, monopolistic competition and oligopoly and cover some other important topics such as asymmetric information.

Course Format

This course will follow an **in-person** format where there will be regular in-person classes held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the scheduled class time. This course will also utilize the [Canvas Learning Management System](https://sjsu.instructure.com) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. All students will require a reliable internet connection and an electronic device for access to Canvas LMS. You can borrow laptops and other equipment from the MLK library. Please visit the library or this website: <https://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services/student-computing-services>.

Lecture materials relevant to the course will also be posted on Canvas and you will also receive weekly notifications from me. ***Please make sure that you check your Canvas notifications regularly.***

Course Web Page and Canvas Messaging

All relevant course materials such as the course syllabus, lecture materials, readings, notes, assignments and instructions, etc. can be found on the [Canvas Learning Management System](http://sjsu.instructure.com) course login website at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through Canvas to learn of any course updates.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students have concrete foundation to pursue intermediate study in microeconomic theory related to three broad areas: Incentives, Opportunity Cost, and Supply and Demand.

1. Incentives Matter (law of demand; law of supply; rational decision makers weight marginal costs versus marginal benefits; the power of self-interest)
2. Opportunity Costs (sunk costs; production possibilities; the free-lunch fallacy; tradeoffs in consumption and production; gains from interpersonal & international trade; comparative advantage)
3. Supply and Demand (understanding the S&D model as a representation of individual choices in exchange based on individual preferences, knowledge and circumstances; ability to examine current events using S&D tools; movement versus shift; welfare analysis)

Required Texts

Textbook

This course will utilize *Modern Principles: Microeconomics, 6th edition; Cowen, Tyler and Alex Tabarrok*. Course lectures will be based on this textbook. All and any remaining readings and lecture materials will be posted on Canvas.

Assignments in this course will utilize the Macmillan Learning Achieve platform. This is included in the Canvas course as part of the First Day Inclusive Access Program. You will also receive access to the e-book version of the textbook via Achieve.

To enhance your learning experience and provide affordable access to the right course materials, this course is part of an inclusive access model called **First Day™**. You may easily access the materials at a discounted price and benefit from single sign-on access in Canvas. Please note, you should not be prompted to purchase the materials separately via Canvas or the publisher.

The charge for the First Day products will happen approximately October 1st. Students will see the charge on their MySJSU account and they will need to make payment to the Bursar's Office once they are billed.

Any questions regarding the materials should be directed to the Spartan Bookstore 408-924-1820 or 408-924-1831.

You have until September 18th to opt out of using the First Day materials. However, it is not recommended that you Opt-Out, as these materials are required to complete the course. You will see the course materials charge on your Bursar's student account unless you have opted out prior to the deadline.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practical. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Writing Assignments (Reflections)

As part of the Area D "Social Sciences" requirement, students must complete a writing assignment of 1,500 words over the course of the semester. In order to satisfy this requirement, students will complete approximately 8-10 Canvas reflections on assigned topics. Students will receive the prompts on Canvas and will submit the written reflections on Canvas. **Each reflection will be approximately 150-200 words.** The reflection prompts will be based on the materials covered in class and/or from the textbook. You may not use generative AI tools (such as ChapGPT) to create your submissions for these assignments.

The course grading/assessment will be based on the following:

1. Achieve assignments
2. Two midterm examinations
3. One final exam (as per the SJSU Final Exams schedule)
4. Writing assignments (reflections)
5. Participation in all class discussions, or via any questions, surveys, or discussions posted online in Canvas

The expectation from me is that you will attend classes, review the lecture materials and the readings for each week, come and talk to me if you have any issues/doubts and then complete any homework assignments and any quizzes that I might assign.

Final Examination or Evaluation

The final evaluation for this course will be a final examination taking place during the Final Examinations week as per the SJSU Fall 2024 schedule, which will be the culminating activity based on the course material covered in the semester. Details regarding the final exam will be announced ahead of time in class and on Canvas.

Grading Information

Course grades will be as follows: **(Please remember that the final score that shows on your Canvas grades section may not reflect your actual final course grade, which depends on the following information)**

Achieve assignments:	20%
Midterm Exam 1:	20%
Midterm Exam 2:	20%
Final Exam:	20%
Reflections:	15%
Class Participation:	5%

Grade	Percentage
A plus	98 to 100%
A	94 to 97%
A minus	90 to 93%
B plus	86 to 89 %
B	83 to 85%
B minus	80 to 82%
C plus	76 to 79%
C	73 to 75%
C minus	70 to 72%
D plus	66 to 69%
D	63 to 65%
D minus	60 to 62%

Office hours/emails information

I will hold weekly office hours. If you wish to set up a meeting with me outside of office hours, please send me an email. **I also welcome you to submit any questions or doubts via email if you prefer.** I generally respond to emails/messages within 24-36 hours.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>), which is hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Education. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

I will follow the [SJSU policy regarding academic integrity](#) and honesty, and will take it very seriously. Please read and understand what constitutes a violation in this respect and all instances of academic dishonesty will be reported by me.

Please come and talk to me as soon as you can if you need any course changes, adaptations, or any accommodation due to a disability. According to the [Presidential Directive 97-03](#) students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center \(AEC\)](#) at <https://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

More guidelines on grading information and class attendance can be found from the following university policies:

- [University Syllabus Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>)
- [University Attendance and Participation Policy F15-12](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf>)
- [University Grading System Policy F18-5](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F18-5.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F18-5.pdf>)

You may also find the following information useful:

- [SJSU Cares](#)
- [The SJSU Food Pantry Program](#)
- [SJSU Counseling](#)
- [SJSU Learn Anywhere](#)

ECON 1B-04 Fall 2024 Course Schedule

This is the **tentative schedule** for the course and is subject to change.

If any changes must be made to the syllabus, those changes will be communicated to all students on Canvas. Timely notice and consideration will be provided to all students if any changes need to be made.

Course Schedule

Week	Classes on	Topics	Notes
1	8/22	Introduction to the course and syllabus	Canvas course will open on Wed 8/21
2	8/27; 8/29	Chapter 1: The Big Ideas	
3	9/3; 9/5	Chapter 2: The Power of Trade and Comparative Advantage	
4	9/10; 9/12	Chapter 3: Supply and Demand	
5	9/17; 9/19	Chapter 4: Equilibrium	
6	9/24; 9/26	Chapter 5: Elasticity and Its Applications	Midterm 1 exam
7	10/1; 10/3	Chapter 6: Taxes and Subsidies	
8	10/8; 10/10	Chapter 8: Price Ceilings and Floors	
9	10/15; 10/17	Chapter 10: Externalities	
10	10/22; 10/24	Chapter 11: Costs and Profit Maximization	
11	10/29; 10/31	Chapter 13: Monopoly	
		Chapter 14: Price Discrimination	Midterm 2 exam

Week	Classes on	Topics	Notes
12	11/5; 11/7	Chapter 15: Oligopoly	
13	11/12; 11/14	Chapter 16: Networks	
14	11/19; 11/21	Chapter 17: Monopolistic Competition	
15	11/26	Chapter 19: Public Goods	Thanksgiving break
16	12/3; 12/5	Chapter 24: Asymmetric Information	

SJSU Land Acknowledgement:

San José State University and Surrounding Region Thámien Ancestral Muwekma Ohlone Territory.

The San José State University community recognizes that the present-day Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, with an enrolled Bureau of Indian Affairs documented membership of over 550, is comprised of all of the known surviving American Indian lineages aboriginal to the San Francisco Bay region who trace their ancestry through the Missions Santa Clara, San José, and Dolores, during the advent of the Hispano- European empire into Alta California; and who are the successors and living members of the sovereign, historic, previously Federally Recognized Verona Band of Alameda County.

Furthermore, the San José State University community recognizes that the university is established within the Thámien Ohlone-speaking tribal ethnohistoric territory, which based upon the unratified federal treaties of 1851-1852, includes the unceded ancestral lands of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area. Some of the enrolled Muwekma lineages are descended from direct ancestors from the Thámien Ohlone tribal territory whose ancestors had affiliation with Mission Santa Clara.

The San José State University community also recognizes the importance of this land to the indigenous Muwekma Ohlone people of this region, and consistent with our principles of community and diversity strives to be good stewards on behalf of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe whose land we occupy.