Economics 321: Intermediate Microeconomics

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Lectures: TTh 11:00 – 12:15pm  
Office Hours: TTh 12:30 – 2:00pm  
W 1:00 – 2:15pm

San Diego State University  
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Course Description:
Economics is the study of how individuals and societies choose to use scarce resources to satisfy unlimited human wants. In this course, you will learn intermediate microeconomic theory dealing with the behavior of individuals and how they interact. Topics covered include the choices made by individuals as buyers of goods and services and as suppliers of productive resources. We also examine the choices made by firms as producers and sellers of goods and services, including decisions on level of output, pricing, and use of resources. The course extensively uses graphs, formulas, and algebra. You will be given problem sets that will be instrumental in your preparation for exams.

Prerequisites:
Econ 102 and either Math 120 or 121 or 150. If you have not satisfied this prerequisite with a grade of C or better at an accredited college, you should not enroll in this course.

Required Materials:
The structure of the course follows Microeconomics (8th Edition) by Robert Pindyck and Daniel Rubinfeld. Students have the option of using the e-textbook that comes with the purchase of MyEconLab access (required) or purchasing the traditional printed textbook in addition to MyEconLab access. MyEconLab is an online homework assessment program that students will use to complete and submit problem sets.

Web Resources:
The class website will be available through the Blackboard server at http://blackboard.sdsu.edu/ along with MyEconLab at www.myeconlab.com. When you enroll in this class, you are automatically enrolled in the class Blackboard website but not in MyEconLab. Announcements, class slides, and your exam grades will be posted in the Blackboard. Homework assignments will be posted through MyEconLab with specific deadlines throughout the semester. Since MyEconLab automatically grades assignments and records your scores, you need to submit your answer on time. MyEconLab requires a separate registration process. Here are the two steps:

Step 1: Register for MyEconLab Course
Connect to www.myeconlab.com and select Student button under Register section and enter your Course ID:

morales31061

• If you have never used MyLab before, follow the instructions to create a Pearson Account.
• If you have used MyLab before, sign in with your Pearson Account Username and Password.
• If you understand your payment options, you can pay now using a credit card or PayPal. Otherwise, you can get 14 days of Temporary access.

Step 2: Choose Your Payment Option
Option A: Pay MyLab Directly
• Purchase access to your course directly from Pearsonmylab website. The website includes:
  o Access to an online copy of your textbook.
  o Content that has been customized for your textbook and course.
Option B: Purchase at Bookstore

- Purchase a bundle from the bookstore, which includes:
  - An Access Card containing a Payment Code that you can enter on Pearson’s website as payment for your MyLab course.
  - A physical textbook.

MyEconLab assignments:
The graded problem sets have a firm due date. You can change your answers as many times as you like before the due date passes. Once the due date passes, MyEconLab records your grade and you can no longer change your answers or complete the assignment. In other words, assignments must be done by the due date. The software does not understand excuses. Do your homework early to keep last minute emergencies from getting in your way. After the due date, MyEconLab displays the correct answers and explanations for graded problems and you are no longer able to submit your answers to receive grades.

Student benefits of MyEconLab:
MyEconLab lets you learn by doing - you can apply what you hear and see in the classroom and what you read in the text. Think of the regular assignments as a weekly Economics workout. Regular work in MyEconLab will better prepare you for lectures and exams. The StudyPlan option available via MyEconLab provides a great study tool with more questions to practice to better understand the materials presented in the class.

Disclaimer: I receive no monetary benefit from requiring MyEconLab assignments.

Course Requirements, Due Dates, and Grading:
Course grades are based on three midterms, problem sets, class participation, and an optional cumulative final exam.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>% of Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>September 26th</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>October 31st</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>December 5th</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Problem Sets</td>
<td>Throughout the semester</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>Throughout the semester</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>December 17th 10:30am-12:30pm</td>
<td>optional*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
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Exams:
Each midterm exam corresponds to a specific section of the course. Each is individually worth 25% of your course grade—making exams worth a total of 75% of your course grade. Midterm exams cover specific material from the course schedule: the second midterm only tests material covered after the first midterm, the third only material covered after the second. The final exam is similar in style and content to the midterms, but the final exam is cumulative (covers all of the material from the semester). The final is optional, see next page for more details.

Note the final exam date **Tuesday, December 17th (10:30-12:30pm)**, and make any end-of-semester travel plans accordingly.

Problem Sets:
All problem sets must be submitted by 11:59pm on the due date—no exceptions. See the schedule for due dates. Problem sets have hard non-negotiable, system-enforced deadlines.
Random Attendance Checks:
Students are expected to attend class at scheduled times in order to get a good grasp of the material. With this in mind, throughout the course, a list of randomly chosen student names will be projected onto the screen. The listed students are to confirm attendance for that day by showing his/her ID to the professor at the end of lecture. Expect to have to confirm attendance multiple times throughout the semester. Your attendance will account for 5% of your overall course grade.

Make-ups & Re-grading:
No early or make-up exams will be given. If a midterm exam is missed for any reason, the cumulative final exam is no longer optional and is, therefore, worth 25% of the course grade. Since this applies no matter what the reason, there is no need to inform me that you will miss a midterm exam. The cumulative final is optional for students who have taken all three midterm exams and can be taken to drop the lowest midterm exam grade. A second missed exam is scored as a zero.

Problem sets and attendance cannot be made up either.

Requests for reconsideration of scores assigned on exams should be submitted IN WRITING—no “oral arguments” will be considered. Attach the original graded exam to a typed letter explaining why you think the assigned score is incorrect (e.g. points were added incorrectly), and hand it to the instructor or leave it in her department mailbox.

Other issues:
Academic dishonesty includes cheating—your work must be your own! During an exam, looking at someone else’s paper or talking with a peer is considered cheating. Anyone caught cheating will be penalized severely.

Please turn off your cell phones before class begins. Arriving late, leaving early, and talking during class can be disruptive to the instructor and to other students and should be minimized.

No form of electronic devices (except basic calculators) will be permitted during an exam. This includes electronic translators. A traditional paper-based translator is permitted.

Students with disabilities who are requesting any type of accommodation should contact Student Disability Services and notify the instructor. SDS is located on the third floor of the Calpulli Center, suite 3101, and can be reached by phone at (619) 594-6473.

Student Learning Outcomes:
At the end of the semester, students are expected to be able to:

• Explain how buyers form their preferences and make their optimal buying decisions.
• Explain how sellers make their optimal production decisions.
• Describe how demand and supply sides together determine market outcomes in different types of markets by applying the concept of equilibrium.
• Analyze how different types of markets operate.
• Explain the application of “economic way of thinking” in their daily life.

How to do well in this course:

• Attend class regularly
• Take the problem sets seriously and use them to identify weaknesses in your understanding
• Participate in class activities and discussion—this includes asking questions during lecture!
• Prepare for class by completing assigned readings beforehand
• Get help when you don’t understand something—office hours (or by appt), text’s free online help, email, ask questions in class, find classmates to study with
• Don’t wait until the night before an exam to start studying!!!