

Principles of Economics
Economics 1
UCLA Summer 2020

Syllabus

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Time and Location

Morning: Mon, Tue, Wed, & Thur 8:30AM-9:30AM Q&A Zoom Meeting
Afternoon: Mon, Tue, Wed, & Thur 5:00PM-6:00PM Q&A Zoom Meeting

Course Description

Introduction to principles of economic analysis, economic institutions, and issues of economic policy. Emphasis on allocation of resources and distribution of income through price system.

Class Website

<https://moodle2.sscnet.ucla.edu/course/view/201A-ECON1-3>

Textbook:

Principles of Economics. N. Gregory Mankiw, 8th Edition with MindTap Printed Access Code. E-book with Cengage Learning. . Access code provided at program orientation.

MindTap Tutorials: <https://www.cengage.com/services/product/mindtap/general/student>

MindTap Tech Support Phone/Web Site:

1-800-990-8211 (Direct Line)
<https://cengage.force.com/s/contact-us>

Computation of Course Grade

The course grade will be based one midterm exam, and a cumulative final exam.

- 35% Midterm Exam 1 (Chapters: 1 - 4, July 27th)
- 10% Research Presentations (Due on July 28th and August 4th)
- 10% Class Participation
- 45% Final Exam (Cumulative, August 6th)

Academic Dishonesty Any cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Office of the Dean of Students. For more details please refer to the Office of the Dean of Students website at <http://www.studentgroups.ucla.edu/dos/>

Course Enforced Policies

- There are no make-up exams. Exam dates are indicated on the syllabus.
- There are no extra credit assignments available.
- Scientific/graphing calculators are allowed and recommended during exams.
- All grades are final when filed by the instructor on the Final Grade Report.

Email Policy

Students should email me only for personal matters. When you have a question about the course content, you are strongly encouraged to:

- attend the undergraduate Peer Learning Facilitator (PLF, tutor) sessions
- go to the office hours of your respective PLF and/or mine
- use the class 'Discussion forum' (via the course website on CCLE) or email your PLF

Disabled Students and the Center for Accessible Education (CAE)

Any student with a preexisting illness or condition who requests special arrangements must (a) qualify under CAE rules for such special arrangements and (b) must take the exam with CAE. Any such arrangements with CAE must be made the first week of classes. The instructor must be informed of any such arrangement in the first week of classes. For additional information and the qualification conditions of the Center for Accessible Education, please visit their website at <http://www.cae.ucla.edu/>. All other students must take the exam at the scheduled time under the same time constraints. It is the responsibility of all students who request special arrangements with CAE to be familiar with all of their rules as well as the rules of this class.

Tentative Course Schedule

Week	Lecture Topics	Chapters
1 (July 20 - 24)	Ten Principles of Economics	1
	Thinking Like an Economist	2
	Interdependence and the Gains from Trade	3
	Supply & Demand	4
2 (June 27 - 31)	Elasticity and Its Applications	5
	Supply, Demand, and Government Policies	6
	Consumers, Producers, and the Efficiency of Markets	7
	Application: The Costs of Taxation	8
	Midterm I Exam (July 27)	
	Research Presentation I (July 28)	
3 (August 3 - 7)	Externalities	10
	Public Goods and Common Resources	11
	The Costs of Production	13
	Firms in Competitive Markets (tentative)	14
	Research Presentation II (August 4)	
	Final Exam (August 6)	

Research Presentation Guideline

The purpose of your research presentations is to identify economic issues that interest you (from the list below), discuss your thoughts on them, and provide a respective viable solution supported by the concepts learned in class. You will work in groups of 4 students for each project, and your deliverable will be a 10 minute presentation (for each one) following the outline given below.

Project 1 Topics

Apply Microeconomics concepts to analyze basic factors that affect the supply & demand for specific products due to COVID-19. Here are a couple of topics to choose from:

- Entertainment: Nintendo switches, board games, mobile games
- Hygiene: toilet paper, bidets, hand sanitizers, diapers
- Fitness: free weights, yoga mats, stationary bikes, treadmills
- Working from home: desks & office chairs, monitors, webcams, laptops
- Subscription streaming services: Netflix, Hulu, Disney+

Project 2 Topics

Apply Microeconomics concepts to understand the economic responses of a local business to COVID-19.

- Restaurant partnerships with delivery services such as UberEats and DoorDash.
- In more general terms, you may also consider discussing the tradeoff we face as a society between opening business early to avoid an economic crisis, at the expense of a health crisis, or a prolonged shutdown of nonessential businesses in order to mitigate the health crisis. If you choose this topic, make sure to also look a global data to better understand the response from other countries.

Presentation Outline

1. Introduction

- Students will come up with a research question for each one of the two topics and provide some background on the respective issue.

2. Data

- Where will you find the information (data) to address the research question? Discuss the source(s) of your data.
- What variables will you collect and why?
- Statistical summaries of your data.

3. Methodology and Results

- Provide details of the analysis you performed
- Include graphs and charts and formulas used

4. Conclusion

- Discuss your findings, conclusion and future work

5. References

- Include all references used