

Instructor:	Matthew Holian, Ph.D.
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Office Hours:	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4-4:15p.m. & 6-6:15p.m., & by appointment
Location/ Days/Time:	CL 226 / Tuesdays and Thursdays / 4:30-5:45p.m
Prerequisite:	Econ 1B

Course Learning Management System (Canvas)

I will be using Canvas (sjsu.instructure.com) extensively please make sure you know how to access it and are receiving my announcements. If you wish to contact me, *please email me directly*.

Course Description

Covers core microeconomic theory at the intermediate level; topics include Consumer Theory (Budget, Preferences, Utility, Choice, Demand, Consumers Surplus, Market Demand), Exchange, Producer Theory (Technology, Profit Maximization, Cost Minimization, Cost Curves, Firm Supply, Industry Supply), Competitiveness of Markets (Monopoly, Oligopoly), Game Theory and Game Applications, Externalities and Public Goods.

Course and Program Learning Objectives (CLOs and PLOs)

Emphasizes *microeconomics* (ECON PLO1)

By the end of this course, students will be able to 1.) explain how economists model key microeconomic behavior related to consumers and producers operating in markets, 2.) identify precise quantitative answers to well-defined modeling problems, 3.) use mathematical models as well as diagrammatic depictions and verbal descriptions of them to analyze simple and some complex economic relationships (e.g. through a comparative static), 4.) relate theoretical constructs to real world behaviors, and 5.) explain the benefits and limits of model-based reasoning in assisting decision making in problems of every-day, practical importance, as well as in areas of policy and scholarly relevance. CLOs 1-5 and especially 2 & 3 will be assessed through in-class exams.

Required Textbooks

Varian, Hal R. 2010. *Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach*. 8th edition W.W. Norton & Company. New York, NY.

Note: The listed edition, or more recent editions are suitable. Students may find the workbook accompanying the 9th edition to be worth buying though it is not required: <http://books.wwnorton.com/books/webad.aspx?id=4294979441>

Important Note Concerning Four-Unit Classes

This is now a four-unit course and this will enable us to cover more material in greater depth than in previous semesters. Please be prepared for an appropriately faster-paced course.

Grading and Classroom Policy

The grading scale is: 60-62, D-, 62-68, D, 68-70, D+, 70-72, C-, 72-78, C, 78-80, C+, 80-82, B-, 82-88, B, 88-90, B+, 90-92, A-, 92-98, A, 98-100, A+. I generally don't allow makeup exams unless there is sufficient notice and a very well justified and documented reason. Please talk to me if you wish you use a laptop during class. Food that emit negative externalities are not allowed. During exams you may not leave the room until you submit your exam.

Assignments

There will be three midterm exams and a comprehensive final. Midterm 2 will also be comprehensive, while Midterms 1 and 3 cover the most recent material only. Weekly problem sets worth 1 point each together count for 15% of your grade. Total points sum to 100.

Assignment	Points	Due Dates
Midterm Exams (Exams 1-3)	15 each	9/11, 10/4, 10/30
Comprehensive Final Exam (Exam 4)	40	12/14
Weekly Problem Sets	15	usually weekly at 5p.m. on Fridays

Assignment Details

Midterm and Final Exams will contain questions similar to those given on Problem Sets. **Weekly Problem Sets** will contain questions that may be modified versions of the end-of-chapter questions from the textbook.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>"

Academic integrity

Please note, faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>. Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.

Tentative Course Schedule (subject to change, with advance notice; this version 8/18/18)

Date	Topic	Reading (try to complete before class)
8/21	Intro to class; Markets	1
8/23	Consumer Budgets	2
8/28	Preferences and	3
8/30	Utility	4
9/4	Choice and Demand	5, 6
9/6	Review	
9/11	Exam 1	
9/13	Market Demand and Equilibrium	15.1, 15.2, 15.10 & 16.1-16.8
9/18	Producer Technology	18
9/20	Profit Maximization	19
9/25	Cost Curves and Firm Supply	21, 22
9/27	Industry Supply	23.1-23.8
10/2	Review for Midterm 2	
10/4	Exam 2	
10/9	Monopoly	24.2, 24.4-24.7
10/11	Monopoly continued	26.3
10/16	Price Discrimination	25 (sec. 1-3, 5 & 8)
10/18	Oligopoly	27 (1, 2, 5, 6 & 9-12)
10/23	Game Theory	28 (sec. 1-2 & 5-6) & 10.9
10/25	Review / Catch Up	
10/30	Exam 3	
11/1	Insurance	12
11/6	Asymmetric Information	37
11/8	Auctions	17.1-17.2, 17.5-17.6 & 17.8
11/13	Information Technology Markets	35.1-35.7
11/15	Externalities and Public Goods	34.3, 34.5-34.7 & 36.2-3
11/20	Public Choice and Public Finance	23.9, 23.11
11/22	<i>Thanksgiving – No Class</i>	
11/27	Review Exam 1	
11/29	Review Exam 2	
12/4	Review Exam 3	
12/6	Review for Final	
12/14	Exam 4 (Comprehensive Final Exam)	Friday, December 14 2:45p.m.