

San José State University
Department of Economics
Econ 1A—Principles of Macroeconomics
Course No. 25686, Spring 2018

Instructor:	Justin Rietz
Office Location:	DMH 134
Telephone:	(408) 924-5416
Email:	justin.rietz@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Thursdays 1:30 – 2:30 and by appt.
Class Days/Time:	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:00-1:15 PM
Classroom:	DMH 358
Prerequisites:	None

MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [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 [MySJSU](http://my.sjsu.edu) at <http://my.sjsu.edu> to learn of any updates.

Course Description

Determination of economic aggregates such as total output, total employment, the price level and the rate of economic growth.

Announcement

This is now a four-unit course. You are expected to complete an average of 12 hours of work per week inclusive of lectures, assignments, and activities. This syllabus contains learning objectives, class meeting times, and assignments commensurate with the expectation of 12 hours of work per week across 15 weeks in a semester. For reference, under a traditional three-unit course, you were expected to complete 9 hours of work per week inclusive.

Description of changes

The new, 4-unit Econ 1A has been modified to include more material. This extra material is incorporated into a written, economic analysis of a current event. The research and writing will require an estimated 40 hours of *additional* outside activity over the entire semester. This expected time is based on average reading and writing skills. This requirement means that the new 4-unit Econ 1A course now supports achievement of the Department's Program Learning Objective number 5: Communication.

Course Learning Outcomes and Program Learning Objectives

This is a course in introductory macroeconomics. Students will learn the fundamentals of the economic way of thinking and the standard supply and demand model. In addition, using models of the economy overall, the course emphasizes the interrelationships among economic variables and the impact of public policy on those variables. By the end of the course, the student should have a good grasp of fundamental economic principles and macroeconomic topics of economic growth, sustained inflation, and the business cycle. Although this course touches on the full range of Economics PLOs, it emphasizes PLO2.

PLO 2. *Macroeconomics*: Apply tools from Principles of Macroeconomics to modeling the economy overall and explaining the interrelationships among economic variables and discussing the impact of public policy on the economy.

PLO 5: *Communication*: Demonstrate efficient communication skills.

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to demonstrate the following:

CLO 1. Comparative Advantage (specialization and the gains from trade; globalization).

CLO 2. Macroeconomic Measures (real versus nominal calculations; components and concept of GDP).

CLO 3. Components and concept of unemployment figures; calculation of inflation.

CLO 4. Macroeconomic Models (growth, aggregate demand/supply, monetary).

CLO 5. The market for loanable funds & interest rate determination.

CLO 6. The demand and supply of money & price level determination.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbooks

1. [CT] Cowen and Tabarrok "Modern Principles: Macroeconomics." 3rd Edition. (Worth Publishers, December 12, 2014)). ISBN-13: 78-1429278409

Online Lectures

1. [Micro] For Economic Foundations: "Principles of Economics: Microeconomics" at <https://www.mruniversity.com/courses/principles-economics-microeconomics>.
2. [Macro] For Macroeconomics: "'Principles of Economics: Macroeconomics" at <https://www.mruniversity.com/courses/principles-economics-macroeconomics>

Class Format

This is a hybrid course. Many weeks, you will watch online video lectures in place of one class meeting (typically our Tuesday class), and the second class meeting of the week (typically the Thursday class) we will discuss the topic further and/or work on relevant homework problems. Note that this will not be the case every week – please pay attention to the syllabus and class announcements for updates.

Assignments and Grading Policy

- Five online homework assignments worth a total of 20% of your final grade. I will drop your lowest homework assignment score, but you must answer all questions on all homeworks. Late homeworks are docked 20% for each day late.
- Two midterms, each worth 15% of your final grade.
- Weekly quizzes based exclusively on assigned weekly reading and video assignments, worth 10% of your final grade. I will drop your 4 lowest scores on the quizzes. There will be no make-ups for any quizzes.
- A written assignment (draft and a final version) worth 10% of the final grade.
- The final examination (comprehensive) worth 30% of your final grade.
- Because class participation help enliven the course, it's greatly appreciated and can earn students up to one extra point toward their final grade.

Cheating on homework, quizzes or exams will result in an automatic F for the entire course.

Converting Number Grades to Letter Grades

97-100 A+	93-96 A	90-92 A-
87-89 B+	83-86 B	80-82 B-
77-79 C+	73-76 C	70-72 C-
67-69 D+	63-66 D	60-62 D-
below 60 F		

Final grades will be curved. However, the curve will never hurt your grade. I do not round up grades, e.g. an 86.9 is a B, not a B+.

Classroom Protocol

The use of laptops, tablets, or other electronic device for typing notes is prohibited in class. Studies have proven that students who take notes on these devices *significantly* impair their comprehension of the material and disturb other students. Therefore, you need to come prepared to take hand-written notes. If you are a note taker, have permission from the AEC, or have another reason you must use a computer to take notes, please see me at the beginning of the semester.

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/>

Econ 1A: Principles of Macroeconomics. Spring 2018: Course Schedule

Wk	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines	Due
	Th Jan 25	Overview of Course	
1	Tu Jan 30	Supply and Demand: In class [CT]: Chapter 3 [Micro] #2: Supply, Demand, and Equilibrium	
1	Th Feb 1	Supply and Demand: In class	
2	Tu Feb 6	Supply and Demand: In class [CT]: Chapter 4 [Micro] #3: Elasticity and its applications	
2	Th Feb 8	Supply and Demand: In class	
	Fr Feb 9		HW1
3	Tu Feb 13	Welfare Economics Part 1: Online [CT]: Chapter 5 [Micro] #4: Taxes and subsidies - #6: Price Ceilings and Price Floors	
3	Th Feb 15	Welfare Economics Part 1: In class	
4	Tu Feb 20	Welfare Economics Part 2: Online [Micro] #6: Price Ceilings and Price Floors	
4	Th Feb 22	Welfare Economics Part 2: In class	
	Fr Feb 23		HW2
5	Tu Feb 27	First Midterm Review	
5	Th Mar 1	First Midterm Exam	
6	Tu Mar 6	Unemployment: Online [CT]: Chapter 11 [Macro] #6: Unemployment and Labor Force Part.	
6	Th Mar 8	Unemployment: In class	
7	Tu Mar 13	Inflation: Online [CT]: Chapter 12 [Macro] #7: Inflation & the Quantity Theory of Money	
7	Th Mar 15	Inflation: In class	
8	Tu Mar 20	GDP: Online [CT]: Chapter 6 [Macro] #1: GDP	

Wk	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines	Due
8	Th Mar 22	GDP: In class	
9	Tu Mar 27	Spring Break	
9	Th Mar 29	Spring Break	
10	Tu April 3	Growth: Online [CT]: Chapters 7 & 8 [Macro] #3: Growth, Capital Accumulation, and the Economics of Ideas	
10	Th April 5	Growth: In class	
	Fr April 6		HW3
11	Tu April 10	Second Midterm Review	
11	Th April 12	Second Midterm	
12	Tu April 17	Business Cycles: Online [CT]: (Chapter 13, 14) [Macro] #8: Business Fluctuations	
12	Th April 19	Business Cycles: In class	
13	Tu April 24	Money and Banking: Online [CT]: (Chapter 9, 15) [Macro] #4: Savings, Investment, and the Financial System (first five videos only)	
13	Th April 26	Money and Banking: In class	
	Fr April 27		HW4
14	Tu May 1	Monetary Policy: Online [CT]: (Chapter 16) [Macro] #10: Monetary Policy and the Fed. Reserve	
14	Th May 3	Monetary Policy: In class	
15	Tu May 8	Fiscal Policy: Online [CT]: (Chapters 17,18) [Macro] #11: Fiscal Policy	
15	Th May 10	Fiscal Policy: In class	
	Fr May 11		HW5
16	Tu May 15	Review: In class	
	Tu May 22	Final Exam: 9:45am – 12:00pm	

This schedule is subject to change with advanced notification.