

San José State University
Economics 1A
Principles of Macroeconomics, Section 7/8, Spring 2018

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Steve O'Brien
Office Location:	Dudley Moorhead Hall 219
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Email:	james.obrien@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Monday and Wednesday 8:30-9AM and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	MON/WED 9AM-10:15AM (Section 7) MON/WED 10:30AM-11:45AM (Section 8)
Classroom:	Dudley Moorhead Hall 358

Course Description

In this course we will explore how an economist looks at the world. Why do countries around the globe have varying rates of economic growth that often lead to differences in standards of living? As the semester unfolds students will learn to use a variety of macroeconomic tools helpful in identifying problems such as stagnant growth, rising unemployment and inflation. We will spend time evaluating the manner in which government institutions attempt to address economic concerns, the options available to them and the consequences of the choices that are made. Understanding these tools and challenges will allow students to develop an ability to offer their own potential policy solutions; and evaluate the proposals we read and hear about every day.

This course may be taken concurrently with or prior to ECON 1B.

Course Goals and Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

The following are specific goals for students successfully completing the course:

1. Understanding of Comparative Advantage: specialization, the gains from trade and globalization.

2. Ability to identify and study key Macroeconomic Measures including: real v. nominal calculations; components and the concept of GDP; components and the concept of unemployment figures; calculation of inflation.
3. Critically evaluate Macroeconomic Policy: Fiscal v. Monetary policy; and role of the banking system and financial markets.
4. Supply and Demand: Generally understand and apply the notion that economics is about the allocation of scarce resources, that scarcity forces choice, tradeoffs exist and that every choice has an opportunity cost.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Modern Principles: Macroeconomics, by Tyler Cowen and Alex Tabarrok, ISBN 978-1429278409, Worth Publishers. Third or Second edition are okay.

<http://www.macmillanlearning.com/catalog/page/bookseller>.

Other Readings

I will post or link any additional readings on the Canvas course website.

Other technology requirements and material

Sapling Software: Sapling is a required online accompaniment to the text book. All homework will be conducted using the Sapling software. Sapling can be bought on a stand-alone basis for \$40 or in combination with an e-book version of the 3rd edition textbook for a total of \$90.

Instructions for Sapling Registration:

Course Page:

<http://www.saplinglearning.com/ibiscms/course/view.php?id=76489>

If you are in Section 07, type '7'.

If you are in Section 08, type '8'

STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

- Follow the Sapling Learning link from your instructor's course page.
- For initial registration, your Sapling Learning homework must be accessed through that link. After logging in once using this link, you can log in to subsequent sessions from your instructor's course page or from the Sapling home page.
- If you already have a Sapling account, enter your username and password in the login box. If the login box is disabled, scroll down to the Create an Account portion of the page, fill in the missing info and click Create My Account.

- You've been automatically enrolled into the appropriate homework course on Sapling Learning and will be directed to your course page.
- Enter the key code: [7] OR [8]
- Review the [system requirements](#) and confirm that Flash is updated and enabled in your browser.
- The following link includes more detailed instructions on how to register for your course:
<https://community.macmillan.com/docs/DOC-6225-sapling-learning-student-single-sign-on>.

**This will be covered in greater detail at the first class meeting, including how to purchase and download.*

Canvas: the learning management system will be the central online communication hub for the class. Grades, additional readings and messages related to class will be posted through the Canvas system. You will access Canvas using your SJSU login and password at <https://sjsu.instructure.com>.

**Please insure that your email is listed correctly or you risk missing key information communicated throughout the semester.*

Course Requirements and Assignments

This class is a four-unit class. Students should plan to spend twelve hours per week throughout the semester. These hours include reading, preparing for class, attending class, participating in course activities and completing online and in-class assignments. Please note there are only 168 total hours in a seven day week. If you subtract 10 hours per day for sleep and eating, then you have 86 hours left in a week for coursework etc. Do the math and make sure you have the time to succeed in this class.

The course consists of two midterms, one final exam, quizzes and weekly online homework assignments (Sapling). The midterms, final exam and quizzes cover material presented both in class and in the textbook. Online assignments reinforce the key course concepts.

Grading Policy and Missing Assignments/Exams

Sapling HW	15%
Quizzes	15%
Mid-term 1	20%
Mid-term 2	20%
Final Exam	30%

12 Quizzes and 12 Sapling Homework assignments will be taken over the course of the semester, I will drop your two lowest scores in each category. This means you may miss or skip two assignments if you choose (although not recommended). You must have 10 scores, any additional missing assignments will be counted as zeroes.

I do not recommend missing assignments as they will cover important material that will be on midterm and final exams. However, things come up in life so I offer the dropped score option for unanticipated disruptions to your schedule. Having said this, because you have the opportunity to drop two scores, I will not accept any late submissions or retakes. There will be firm deadlines for all assignments and late assignments will be recorded as a zero.

*If a personal emergency comes up causing you to miss a midterm, the final exam will then take on the weight of the final plus the missed midterm (15+30=45%). If a similar situation takes place around the final exam, contact me and we will reschedule your final exam.

Grading Scale: Percentages.....letter grade

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-
 0-59.....F

Classroom Protocol

Please come to class prepared to participate; having completed scheduled readings and assignments. Cell phone calls and texts should be conducted outside the classroom. Please quietly excuse yourself from class to handle calls. Cell phones and all other electronic devices are prohibited from use during exams.

University and Department Policies

Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs maintains university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc.

You may find all syllabus related University Policies and resources information listed on GUP's [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>

Information regarding the policies of the Economics Department can be found at <http://www.sjsu.edu/economics/>

ECON 1A, Spring Section 13/14 Course Schedule

Course Schedule

**Schedule is subject to change but only with plenty of notice in class and on Canvas*

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1/24	Introduction and Course Overview
2	1/29	Cowen/Tabarrok (CT) Ch. 1-2, Economic Ideas, Trade, Comparative Advantage
2	1/31	CT Ch. 3 Supply and Demand
3	2/5	CT Ch. 3 Supply and Demand (continued)
3	2/7	CT Ch. 4 Equilibrium and Prices (Sapling Assignment #1 Due)

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
4	2/12	CT. Ch. 5 Price Ceilings and Floors
4	2/14	CT Ch. 6-7 GDP and Economic Growth (S.A. #2 Due)
5	2/19	CT Ch. 6-7 GDP and Economic Growth
5	2/21	Review for Midterm (S.A. #3 Due)
6	2/26	MIDTERM #1
6	2/28	CT Ch. 9-10 Saving, Investment and the Financial System; Stock Markets
7	3/5	CT Ch. 9-10 (Continued) (S.A. #4 Due)
7	3/7	CT Ch. 9-10 (Continued)
8	3/12	CT Ch. 11 Unemployment and Labor Force Participation (S.A. #5 Due)
8	3/14	CT Ch. 11 (Continued)
9	3/19	CT Ch. 12 Inflation and the Quantity Theory of Money (S.A. #6 Due)
9	3/21	CT Ch. 12 (Continued)
	<u>3/26-3/30</u>	<u>Spring Recess No Class</u>
10	4/2	CT Ch. 13 (S.A. #7 Due)
11	4/4	Review for Midterm
11	4/9	Midterm #2
12	4/11	CT Ch. 15 The Federal Reserve System (S.A. #8 Due)
12	4/16	CT Ch. 16 Monetary Policy
13	4/18	CT Ch. 17 The Federal Budget: Taxes and Spending (S.A. #9 Due)
13	4/23	CT Ch. 18 Fiscal Policy
14	4/25	CT Ch. 17-18 (Continued)
14	4/30	CT Ch. 19 International Trade (S.A. #10 Due)
15	5/2	CT. Ch. 19 (parts of Ch. 20 International Finance)
15	5/7	Ch. 21 Political Economy and Public Choice (S.A. #11 Due)
16	5/9	Ch. 21 (Continued)
16	5/14	Review for Final Exam (S.A. #12 Due)
Final Exam	5/21 5/22	Final Exam 9:45AM-12:00PM Final Exam 7:15AM-9:30AM Venue TBA