

San Jose State University, Spring 2010  
ECON 1a, Principles of Macroeconomics  
Section 3-4, classes 40470-40471, 9-10:15, DMH 160  
Section 5-6, classes 40472-40473, 10:30-11:45, DMH 160



## General

- Instructor: Warren Gibson
- Email: [warren@gibson2.com](mailto:warren@gibson2.com)
- Web site: <http://www.gibson2.com/econ1a>
- Office Hours: Mon. 12:30-2:30PM at Cafe Pomegranate, across the street from the DMH building. Also Wed. afternoon by appointment.
- Required text: Heyne, Boettke & Prychitko, "The Economic Way of Thinking," 12th ed., Prentice Hall, ISBN 978-0-13-603985-3
- Required online subscription: <http://www.aplia.com>
- Other course materials will be posted on the class web site from time to time.

## Course objective

I expect that after finishing this course you will understand something about:

- How economists think
- The spontaneous coordination of a market economy
- How supply and demand jointly determine prices and quantities
- Elasticity of demand and supply
- The effects of government on markets
- The basics of our monetary and financial systems
- Unemployment
- Economic growth
- Price inflation and its primary cause

## Reading assignments

Week of	Reading to do <i>before</i> class
Jan. 25	Chapter 1, The Economic Way of Thinking
Feb. 1	Chapter 2, Efficiency, Exchange and Competitive Advantage
Feb. 8	Chapter 3, Substitutes Everywhere: the Concept of Demand
Feb. 15	Chapter 4, Cost and Choice: the Concept of Supply
Feb. 22	Chapter 5, Supply and Demand: a Process of Coordination
Mar. 1	Chapter 6: Unintended Consequences: More Applications of Supply and Demand
Mar. 8	Chapter 7: Profit and Loss
Mar. 15	Chapter 9: Competition and Government Policy
Mar. 22	Chapter 12: Measuring the Overall Performance of Economic Systems
Apr. 5	Supplement: The Consumer Price Index: calculating real prices
Apr. 12	Chapter 13: The Wealth of Nations: Globalization and Economic Growth
Apr. 19:	Chapter 14: Money
Apr. 26:	Supplement: Banking and the Fed
May 3:	Supplement: Investments
May 10	Chapter 15: Economic Performance and Real-World Politics
May 17	Review

*Subject to modification as we go.*

## Class web site

The class web site, [www.gibson2.com/econ1a](http://www.gibson2.com/econ1a), will show assignments, supplementary readings, and other information. I will generally update it at the end of each week, so check it each weekend.

## Aplia homework

This course appears as two separate class numbers in the Schedule of Classes (Lecture and Activity). However, it is really a single four-unit course and the two parts are inseparable. The “Activity” for this course consists of homework questions done online. You must register with Aplia.com using the code for this course which is DBGP-7DQ8-H8X9 and pay a \$35 fee directly to them. You can delay payment until as late as Feb. 16 if necessary.

Aplia homework will generally be due on Mondays at 11:30 PM so you can work on it over the weekend and ask questions in class on Monday.

## Quizzes

I will give approximately 8 quizzes in class, generally on Wednesdays. They will consist of five questions relating to preceding lectures and/or text reading, mostly multiple choice or true/false. No make-ups are given, but I will drop the lowest two of your quiz scores to accommodate absences or “bad days.”

## Exams

A mid-term exam will be given in class on Wed. Mar. 24. A comprehensive final exam will be given on May 21 (9AM class) or May 24 (10:30 class). You will need Scantron 882-E forms for the midterm and final exams.

## Grading

You will receive a single grade for the 4-unit course. Final grades will be based on the following:

Grade components <i>Subject to minor adjustments</i>	
Quizzes	15%
Aplia homework	15%
Mid-term exam	30%
Final exam	40%

Cutoff scores for letter grades					
97	A+	93	A	90	A-
87	B+	83	B	80	B-
77	C+	73	C	70	C-
67	D+	63	D	60	D-

Extra credit opportunities will be announced in class. I will award extra credit amounting to 0.5% of your grade for attending certain “Provocative Lectures” that are given on campus on various dates during the semester, usually at 5:15 PM. I will provide alternate extra credit opportunities for those who cannot get to these lectures.

## Academic integrity

Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University, and the University’s Academic Integrity Policy require you to be honest in all your academic coursework. Faculty are required to report all infractions to the Office of Judicial Affairs. The policy on academic integrity can be found on the University web site.

## Disabilities

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please tell me as soon as possible. If you have a disability you must register with DRC.

## How to do well in this course

Almost always, the students who do well in my classes are those who

- Attend all classes and read all assignments
- Do Aplia assignments on time, trying all questions
- Take notes in class
- Ask questions