

San Jose State University, Spring 2008
ECON 1a, Principles of Macroeconomics
Section 5-6, classes 20555-20556, 9-10:15, DMH 358
Section 9-10, classes 20551-20552, 10:30-11:45, DMH 358



General

- ¶ Instructor: Warren Gibson
- ¶ Email: warren@gibson2.com
- ¶ Web site: <http://www.gibson2.com/econ1a>
- ¶ Office Hours: Mon 1-3PM; Wed afternoons by appointment, room TBA
- ¶ Required text: N. Gregory Mankiw, Principles of Macroeconomics, 4th ed.
Available in combination with Aplia subscription: see attachment.
- ¶ Required online subscription: <http://www.aplia.com>
- ¶ Other course materials may 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
- ¶ The effects of government on markets
- ¶ The basics of our financial system
- ¶ The basics of our monetary system
- ¶ Price inflation and its primary cause
- ¶ A little about unemployment, economic growth, and business cycles
- ¶ Six influential economists and their main ideas

Text chapters

1. Ten Principles of Economics
2. Thinking Like an Economist
3. Interdependence and the Gains from Trade
4. The Market Forces of Supply and Demand
6. Supply, Demand, and Government Policies
7. Consumers, Producers, and the Efficiency of Markets
8. The Costs of Taxation
10. Measuring a Nation's Income
11. Measuring the Cost of Living
12. Production and Growth
13. Saving, Investment, and the Financial System
14. The Basic Tools of Finance
15. Unemployment
16. The Monetary System
17. Money Growth and Inflation
18. Open-Economy Macroeconomics (time permitting)

Weekly reading assignments will be announced in class and online.

Lectures

Lecture topics will include some concepts that are not in the text or are incomplete or incorrect in the text. You are responsible for the content of all lectures in addition to the assigned reading. Suggestion: get the lecture outlines in advance from the web site and bring printed copies to class.

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 problems done online. You must purchase an account from Aplia.com – details appear on the attached sheets. I will provide guidelines on how to register during the second week of class. If you do not register with Aplia you cannot complete the course.

Videos

I expect to show videos on two or three class days. I will provide a handout for you to fill in while you watch the video.

Quizzes

I will give approximately 8 quizzes at the start of the class period on most Wednesdays. They will consist of five easy 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. Oct. 24. A comprehensive final exam will be given some time between Dec. 12 and 18. You will need Scantron forms for both 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%
Videos	2%
Mid-term exam	30%
Final exam	38%

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 at various times during the semester.

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

Getting help

If you experience any difficulty in this course please contact me right away during my office hours or by email. I am always happy to clarify hard concepts, resolve any lingering confusion, or otherwise assist you in making this course enjoyable and rewarding. Tutors will also be available, free of charge. Don't wait till the last minute to get help!