

## **ECONOMICS 1: INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMICS**

This is an introductory course in economic principles. The course covers both microeconomics and macroeconomics. Primary emphasis is placed upon acquiring skills with which to analyze and understand current economic issues.

### **(A) RESOURCES**

#### **Web Site**

The course web site is on bCourses: <https://bcourses.berkeley.edu/courses/1478575>

#### **Contacts**

- Professor Enrico Moretti, 619 Evans Hall, (510) 642-6649, [moretti@econ.berkeley.edu](mailto:moretti@econ.berkeley.edu)

I am here to help. Please see me after class if you have quick clarifying questions or suggestions or concerns (for example: please let me know if I am going too fast for you, or too slow). I will do my best to accommodate your suggestions.

- Head GSI: Adam Smith, [adamsmi@berkeley.edu](mailto:adamsmi@berkeley.edu)
- Your GSI contact is posted on bCourses

#### **Office Hours**

Professor Moretti OH are Th 9 -11

All GSI's OH are posted on bCourses

#### **Piazza**

We use Piazza in lieu of emails for questions & answers. You should have received a Piazza welcome email. If you did not received one by January 17, or if you are asked for a code in order to enable sign up, email the Head GSI.

You can post your questions about class material, concepts or class logistics on Piazza. The GSI will be following Piazza every working day, and provide answers. In addition, every student also has the opportunity to answer your question. Answers can be edited, wiki fashion.

The instructors can give a ‘thumbs up’ to good student answers. Others with the same question can see the conversation and chime in.

At the end of the term, students whose questions or answers receive the largest number of “good” votes from classmates and instructors will receive a few extra credit points.

## **Tutoring and Advising**

These are useful additional resources that are available to you:

- Economics Department graduate students offer free tutoring. See this web site for more details: [www.econ.berkeley.edu/undergrad/home/tutoring](http://www.econ.berkeley.edu/undergrad/home/tutoring). Twitter @CalEconTutoring. The tutors aim to help students with specific questions on course concepts and problem sets by facilitating the learning process; they don't just give out answers to assignments.
- The Student Learning Center (SLC) offers Study Group and Drop-in Tutoring for Economics 1. See <https://slc.berkeley.edu/econ>
- A list of tutors-for-hire (about \$50/hour) is available at the Econ Dept Tutoring Center website: <https://www.econ.berkeley.edu/undergrad/home/tutoring>
- In addition, the Economic Department has helpful Undergrad Advisors: (539 Evans, [ugrad@econ.berkeley.edu](mailto:ugrad@econ.berkeley.edu)). They are there to assist you with schedule planning, declaring the major, making the most out of Berkeley resources, students experiencing academic difficulty, research and honors, and much more.

## **(B) REQUIREMENTS**

### **Staying in the Course and Adding the Course**

You must initially attend the section to which you are assigned by CalCentral. If you do not attend your assigned discussion sections and do not contact your GSI or Head GSI Adam Smith to explain your absence, you will be removed from the class.

Our class relies completely on CalCentral for enrollment purposes. To add the course, check to see which sections have space and then access CalCentral. If you are already on the waiting list but want to change your section choice, access CalCentral and look under “options.” See Econ 1 Head GSI Adam Smith or GSI Coordinator Katarina Jensen (548 Evans, [HeadGSI@econ.berkeley.edu](mailto:HeadGSI@econ.berkeley.edu)), or an Econ Undergrad Advisor (539 Evans, [ugrad@econ.berkeley.edu](mailto:ugrad@econ.berkeley.edu)) for help.

## **Materials**

1. Mankiw, Principle of Microeconomics, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition. (7<sup>th</sup> edition is OK, some earlier editions are also OK).
2. iClicker. You may buy any version: i>clicker, i>clicker2, or i>clicker+.
3. Reader articles posted on the class web site.
4. Selected chapters from the book “New Geography of Jobs” by Enrico Moretti. The chapters will be posted on the class web site.
5. Additional reading material will be posted on bCourses.

My lecture notes will NOT be posted on the class web site. My experience in previous classes suggests that posting lecture notes lowers student attention in class and ultimately results in reduced learning. I realize that in some cases a student might want to double check her notes. GSI have my lecture notes and are happy to show them to you during their office hours.

## **Problem Sets**

Each week, a Problem Set will be posted on the class web site. You are to complete the problem set and take it to the next section where your GSI will collect it for grading. The grade will reflect whether the problem set is complete. If it is complete, you will earn points. This will contribute toward your grade. Points are based on attempt, not on accuracy. Problem sets that are late don't count toward your grade. Problem Set 1 is due on your first section of the week of January 28.

## **Laptops and Cell Phones**

No laptops are allowed in lecture unless approved by the Head GSI. iPads and Tablet PCs (laid flat and being used for note-taking) are OK. Cell phones should be turned off and put away in your backpack or bag, not left out on your desk or lap.

## **(C) DISCUSSION SECTIONS**

Discussion sections are important. Lectures move quickly. We typically cover an entire chapter in one 50-minute lecture. Section with your GSI is a key part of learning the material. Your active participation in section will enhance your understanding of the course material, which will be helpful on problem sets and exams.

Section is not a mini-lecture; it is a hub of active learning. Why active learning? Because every bit of research shows that we learn best when we engage in active, not passive, learning. Sections

are where you work with the concepts. Think of section as a lab, akin to a chemistry or physics lab. You will work in small groups, with work to be completed in lab each day.

Sections are made of three parts

1. In each Section, your GSI will start by briefly reviewing the key concepts covered in the last lecture. You are welcome to ask any question about any part of the material covered in the last lecture.
2. Twice during the term, you and two partners will make an oral presentation. The first presentation will be based on an article from the reader section on Bcourses. You will briefly summarize the article and answer either the discussion question associated with the article. Time allotted: 7 minutes.

The second presentation will be based on a news article you have recently located. In your oral presentation, your group will summarize the article, state the link between the article and what we are covering in Economics 1, and lead your classmates in a brief discussion of two questions that you have written. The article needs to be pertinent to material covered within 2 weeks of your presentation. At least 48 hours before section, you must email your GSI a link to the article and two discussion questions; your GSI will forward the article and questions to your section. At least one of your questions must be an exam-like question. Time allotted for second presentation and discussion period: 10 minutes. Your presentation of the article should take no more than 5 minutes. You will be graded on your ability to engage your classmates in a discussion as well as on the connection to and relevancy of the article to concepts covered in our class.

3. In each section, you will do small-group work on problems (“the section exercises”) and/or reader questions.

### **Essay**

Toward the end of the semester, you will write an essay on a current economic issue.

### **Letter of Introduction**

For your second section meeting, please write a one-page letter of introduction of yourself to your GSI. Include your name and anything about yourself that you would like to share. Please include or embed a photo of yourself, as this will help your GSI learn your name.

### **(D) GRADES AND EXAMS**

Your course grade will be based on your performance on a comprehensive final exam, a midterm exam, completion of the problem sets, use of iClicker, section performance and a final

essay. The weights that will be used to compute your total point score (from which a letter grade will be determined) are:

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Midterm  | 22% |
| Final  | 45% |
| Section (Presentation, Participation, Final Essay, Problem Sets) | 30% |
| iClicker   | 3%  |

The part of your course grade that depends upon your performance in section reflects (i) attendance (2%); (ii) how well you do in your two presentations (9%); (iii) how actively you participate in the class discussion that follows each presentation (7%); (iv) your problem sets (5%); (v) the quality of your final essay (7%). To obtain full credit for section attendance you can miss up to two sections. Please note that no additional credit will be given for missing more than two sections.

There is no fixed curve for this course dictating what share of students will receive what letter grade. It is theoretically possible for everyone to earn an A. It is equally possible for everyone to earn a C. Even though there is no fixed curve, grade distributions are reasonably stable over time (as the Law of Large Numbers would suggest). Past performance of students in Economics 1 suggests that about 30 percent of the class will receive an A of some sort, about 40 percent will receive a B of some sort, and the remainder will receive C's or below.

This course can be taken Pass/Not Pass if you are otherwise free to do so. P/NP students are expected to do the same work as other students and will receive scores on all assignments. If the course grade is a C- or better, a P/NP student will receive a Pass. P/NP students must take the final in order to pass the course.

## Exams

Exams cover material from lecture, section, problem sets, textbook and all the assigned readings.

- The midterm will be held **on March 5** during regular lecture time. No extra time will be provided for students who arrive late.
- The final examination will be comprehensive and will cover all material presented in lecture, section, and the assigned readings. You must take the final in order to pass this course.

Exam booklets will be provided. No calculators, laptops, phones, or other electronic devices allowed during exams.

Extreme care is taken to ensure that the same quality of work will, at the end of the term, receive the same letter grade, regardless of who graded the work. Answers are graded solely upon their content and not upon their intent. This means that we don't grade what you "mean to say" but what you actually write (even if you "knew the answer but just couldn't put it into words"). This also means that answers that are illegible, rambling, or poorly organized will not receive high marks.

## **Missed Exams**

There are no scheduled early or make-up exams. Exams are held only at the times noted. If you have a known conflict with either of the midterms or the final exam, you can't take Econ 1 this term.

Students who miss an exam because of an illness must contact the Head GSI by email before 10 p.m. on the day before the exam. Excuses must be submitted in writing to the Head GSI with proper medical documentation shortly after that. Students who miss an exam because of any reason other than illness must contact the Head GSI by email at least 2 weeks before of the day of the midterm.

Those students who miss a midterm and who have contacted the head GSI in time and who have an excuse meeting University standards will be required to complete the midterm in the Head GSI office as early as possible. If the grade is above class average, the final exam will be weighted proportionately more. The weight will be  $22+45\% = 67\%$ .

Students who fail to contact the Head GSI in time, or do not have an acceptable excuse, or do not have complete documentation or do not complete the alternative assignment successfully will receive a 0 on the midterm. At the discretion of Professor Moretti and the Head GSI, any documentation submitted might be checked (for example: in some cases we might call your doctor to verify the documentation).

There is no make-up final. If you miss the final with an acceptable excuse covering an unforeseeable and unavoidable event and you have documentation and you were otherwise passing the course, then you are eligible for an incomplete in the course. You will receive credit for the work done so far, and you will have to take the Econ 1 final in the summer or next Fall. Please note that the instructor, textbook and material will likely not to be the same, so you might have to retake the class.

**If you can't take the final as scheduled, don't take this course!**

## **iClickers**

Starting on January 29, during lecture there will be some questions for you to answer with your iClicker. If you answer the questions, you earn points that count toward your grade. You earn points even if your answer is not correct, as long as you do answer.

If one day you forget your iClicker, or the batteries run out or you miss class: don't worry: You can miss up to three lectures and still get full credit.

Please register your iClicker on the class web page. Go to [bcourses.berkeley.edu](http://bcourses.berkeley.edu): the Econ 1 tab, and register your iclicker. Look for the iclicker tab on the far left once you are on the Econ 1 page. It is your responsibility to register in a timely fashion.

You may use only one i>clicker during lecture. You cannot click in for a friend. Anyone observed using two i>clickers will have both i>clickers taken away and held by Prof. Moretti or Head GSI until both owners come to retrieve them. All points for both i>clickers will be zeroed out for the term.

See iClicker FAQ at the end of this document for further information.

## **(E) LUNCH WITH PROFESSOR MORETTI**

The objective of this class is to help you think like an economist and to expose you to key economic principles. Thus, my first goal is to teach you the “grammar” of Economics -- you need this grammar to start thinking like an economist. But I hope the class can go further. My second goal is to help you see that economics is everywhere around us and that it can really help us better understand our society and make it better. Economics is important and can also be fun and incredibly interesting.

While the class is large, I hope that lectures will be lively, with many questions and comments. In addition, I would like to invite those of you who are interested to have lunch with me to discuss economics in a more intimate setting. Starting in February, every other week I will organize lunches at the Faculty Club with 8 of you. You will be my guest and we will discuss any economic topic that you are interested in: current economic events, the state of the economy, the future of jobs, economic policies of the new administration, trade, taxes, inequality, what is happening to the economy in the Bay Area, your career plans, why there are so many good jobs available to economists these days, or any other topic that you are interested in.

Note: this is completely optional and totally unrelated to your final grade in this class. It is intended for those of you who are interested in linking what we learn in class to the real economy. I will send out emails to sign up for the lunch on a first come first serve basis. I prefer to keep these lunches small in order to have a more intimate discussion. This means however that it is possible that demand will exceed supply. If you have already attended one of the lunches, please do not sign up again: this way we can give other students the opportunity to sign up.

## **(F) POLICIES AND SUGGESTIONS**

### **Suggestion on How to Approach the Material**

My suggestion is to interact with the material in the following order: 1) Textbook 2) Lecture 3) Problem Solving (Section Exercise and PS) 4) Reader Assignment 5) Review.

First exposure: the textbook readings. Make notes as you read. What is unclear and leaves you with questions? Where have you seen this concept illustrated in the real world? What real world phenomena or events might be understood with the concepts in the reading?

Second exposure: lecture. Take notes as you listen. Listen for answers to the questions you noted as you read the textbook. Ask questions. (Yes, the class is large, but I welcome questions at any time.) The concepts should be firming up in your head after this second exposure.

Third exposure: problem solving in section. This is your chance to apply the concepts to new and different (often made-up) situations. Pay attention to the concepts themselves. Are you clear on the ideas? If not, ask your group members for their insight or ask your GSI as s/he circulates around the room. And pay attention to the process you are using as you apply the concepts. What steps do you take when you need to apply economic concepts to a new situation or problem?

Fourth exposure: problem sets and reader assignment. Now you apply the concepts to a real world situation. How do the economic concepts help explain the real world situation in the article? Are there assumptions we invoked in the textbook/class that are not satisfied in the reader article? If so, what difference does that make?



Fifth exposure: review. Go back to the textbook readings. Have you cleared up any confusion? If not, get together with a study group, or go to office hours. Can you think of other real world situations in which these concepts apply . . . or don't?

### **Contacting You**

Prof. Moretti and the GSI's will use email to contact you. Be sure your email address registered with the University's CalNet directory is correct, your spam filters are not set too tight, and that your inbox is not full. Emails sent by Prof. Moretti and Head GSI are archived in the class web site.

### **Academic Honesty Policy and Honor Code**

We at UC Berkeley have adopted this Honor Code: "As a member of the UC Berkeley community, I act with honesty, integrity, and respect for others." Your Econ 1 instructors join you in pledging to adhere to this code.

In fairness to students who put in an honest effort, cheaters will be harshly treated. Cheating on a midterm or the final exam results in an "F" for the course. Moreover, Professor Moretti's policy is to report all incidences of cheating to Center for Student Conduct, which administers additional punishment.

### **Fire Alarm Policy**

A truly annoying bad habit at UCB is the pulling of fire alarms by ill-prepared and selfish students who foolishly think their entire future rests on the grade on one midterm. This is a felony crime, punishable by a fine and time in jail. In addition, anyone caught pulling the alarm will fail the course and is subject to expulsion from the University. If the alarm is pulled during an exam, the class will move outside and finish the exam in the allotted time. In this event, follow the instructions of the GSI's.

### **Special Accommodations**

If you require disability-related accommodations for exams or lecture, you need to obtain a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) from Disabled Students' Program. Request for exam accommodation must be received by Head GSI Adam Smith at least two weeks before an exam, which is DSP's own internal deadline for scheduling the proctoring of exams.

### **(G) iCLICKER FAQ**

**Q: Where do I get an iClicker+?**

At the bookstore or online. Sometimes [craigslist.org](http://craigslist.org) has them. There's nothing unique to Berkeley about the iClicker. But read the next question.

**Q: Do I need an iClicker or an iClicker2 or an iClicker+?**

You can use any of these for Econ 1. The iClicker+ is the newest model, and is the best. The iClicker2 is more expensive because it allows alpha-numeric responses. But in Econ 1 you don't need that capability; we will only use the A-B-C-D-E options that are available on all models. So iClicker, iClicker+, or iClicker2 is ok.

That said, students who bought used iClicker (first generation, no +) sometimes got frustrated because the batteries died or were corroded, and it was hard to get support for the clicker. It's probably not worth the few dollars in savings. Just buy a new or used iClicker+.

**Q: Can I use my smart phone and the Reef app?**

No. The base Prof. Moretti uses doesn't record answers from smart phones using the Reef app. More importantly, here's your first important economics lesson: Reef is a bad deal. You'll use your iClicker in many classes at Berkeley. So long as you register your iclicker through bCourses, there's no fee for using the iClicker in subsequent terms. But the Reef app costs you \$10 per semester. You can share an iClicker with a friend in a different class (no additional cost); you can't share your iPhone and your Reef app. You can resell your iClicker to a friend or back to the bookstore; you can't sell your Reef app.

**Q: I already bought an iClicker for another class this (or last) term? Do I need to buy another one?**

No need to buy another clicker, and this is what sold me (Prof. Moretti) on iClicker. Once you buy it, you use it for all classes over your years at Cal, with no additional fee per class. Economists would say "There's no marginal cost to using the iClicker in another class once you've purchased it."

**Q: How does the Professor know which iClicker is mine?**

You **must** go to [bcourses.berkeley.edu](http://bcourses.berkeley.edu), the Econ 1 tab, and register your iclicker. Look for the iclicker tab on the far left once you are on the Econ 1 page. If you registered last year, do so again. If you borrowed your friend's clicker, you register it in your name. If you just bought it, you must register it now. You'll need the iclicker ID number that is on a little bar code on the back. If you have problems registering the iClicker, please take your clicker and your laptop to ETS in 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Moffitt Library and they will help you.

**Q: When I tried to register my iClicker at [iclicker.com](http://iclicker.com), it asked me to pay. Is that right?**

This is why it's important that you register your iClicker through bCourses. If you register it through bCourses, there is no registration fee. If you register it through iclicker.com, they'll charge you \$10. Register through bCourses, Econ 1 tab.

**Q: When do I register my iClicker?**

By the end of week 6.

**Q: Will the clicks I make before I register be attributed to me?**

Yes! The base records your activity with your iClicker number. Registering allows us to link your iClicker number to you. Even if you register your iClicker in April, we will know what clicks you made.

**Q: Are we required to use the iClicker?**

You're not required to use it, but using the iClicker will help you learn. Also, you can earn points for using your iClicker and use those points to replace lost points on problem sets