

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) REQUIREMENTS

Materials

1. Mankiw, Principle of Microeconomics, 8th Edition. (7th edition is fine too. Some earlier editions are also OK).
An electronic version of the text will be available for free via the Hathitrust digital library (provided by the UC Berkeley library) which allows you to check out and read the book for a limited time, similar to print course reserves.
2. Reader articles posted on the class web site.
3. Selected chapters from the book “New Geography of Jobs” by Enrico Moretti. The chapters will be posted on the class web site.
4. 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 upload it on Gradescope for grading. Problem sets that are late don't count toward your grade.

Enrollment questions

Our class relies 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.”

For all enrollment questions and concerns, please contact the GSI Coordinator John Wieselthier (548 Evans, HeadGSI@econ.berkeley.edu).

(B) RESOURCES

Web Site

The course web site is on bCourses: <https://bcourses.berkeley.edu/courses/1502047>

Contacts

- Professor Enrico Moretti, 619 Evans Hall, (510) 642-6649, 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: Juan Diego Havraneg <jdhavraneg@berkeley.edu>
- Your GSI contact is posted on bCourses.

Office Hours

- Professor Moretti OH are Th 11 -1. Please send me an email to schedule your slot.
- 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 receive one by January 26, 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.

Tutoring and Advising

These are useful additional resources that are available to you:

- The Student Learning Center (SLC) offers Study Group and Drop-in Tutoring for Economics 1. See <https://slc.berkeley.edu/econ>
- Economics Department graduate students offer free tutoring. See this web site for more details: 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.

- 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). 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.

(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.

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, completion of the problem sets, section performance and two essays. The weights that will be used to compute your total point score (from which a letter grade will be determined) are:

Final	45%
Section (Presentation, Participation, Essays, Problem Sets)	55%

The part of your course grade that depends upon your performance in section reflects (i) attendance (5%); (ii) how well you do in your two presentations (10%); (iii) how actively you participate in the class discussion that follows each presentation (5%); (iv) your problem sets (15%); (v) the quality of your 2 essays (20%). 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.

Exam

The final exam covers all the material from lecture, section, problem sets, textbook and all the assigned readings.

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.

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!

(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.

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.