

General Education Course Proposal

Proposed Course: ECON 0040 PRIN MICROECON Units 3
Prefix No. Title

Department: ECONOMICS School: SOCIAL SCIENCES

GE Category (Indicate one category only):

Foundation: A1___; A2___; A3___; B4___
Breadth: B1___; B2___; C1___; C2___; D X; E___
Integration: B___; C___; D___; International/Multicultural___

Existing Course X; Revised Course ___; New Course ___

Course Included in Current GE Program Yes

New courses require the Undergraduate Course Proposal form in addition to this form.

Revised courses require the Undergraduate Course Change Request in addition to this form.

Proposed catalog description: Limit course description to 40 words using succinct phrases. Include prerequisites, limitations, lecture/lab hours. Indicate former course number, e.g., (Former Biol 105)

Introduction to microeconomic theories of demand, production and income distribution; price determination and resource allocation under alternative forms of market organization; government regulation of economic activity; applied economic analysis and policy formation in selected areas. General Education BREADTH, Area D.

Enrollment limit per section: 50

Expected number of sections per semester – Year 1 9-11; Year 3 10-12

Attachments:

1. A statement presenting the ways in which this course meets the Specifications provided in the appropriate section of the General Education Policy as well as in the Policies for Inclusion and Evaluation of General Education Courses.
2. A statement of elements common to all sections of this course, identifying content, objectives, required student activities, grading policy, representative texts, and an approximate schedule for the course. Required student activities include such things as papers, research projects, homework, laboratory and/or studio performance, recitations, participation, attendance, and exams.
3. A typical syllabus for a particular offering of the course.
4. Any special cost factors associated with this course.

Approval for Inclusion in General Education

[Signature] 3/12/98 J. Scherer 3/18/98
Department Chair Date School Curriculum Committee Date

[Signature] 3/25/98 [Signature] 12/15/98
School Dean Date General Education Subcommittee Date

[Signature] 12/22/98
Associate Provost Date

1/14/98

ATTACHMENT 2

GENERAL COURSE SYLLABUS: A Statement of Elements Common to all Sections of Course

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY FRESNO

ECONOMICS 40: PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to microeconomic theories of demand, production, and income distribution; price determination and resource allocation, under allocation, under alternative forms of market organization; government regulation of economic activity; applied economic analysis and policy formation in selected areas. General Education BREADTH, Area D.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Common Objectives

- Mastery of the economic "laws" of supply and demand with equilibrium determination.
- Introduction to major economic institutions of U.S. economy and industrial structure.
- Knowledge of microeconomic concepts including: Introduction to Consumer Theory, demand elasticity, cross elasticity and utility theory.
- Competitive firm pricing structure and cost determination with production theory and equilibrium output.
- Competitive markets with applications to specific sectors.
- Non-competitive markets, oligopoly, monopoly. Government regulation; history of, and institutions. Externalities, public goods, environmental economics. Technical change, productivity, Factor markets, labor demand, unions, collective bargaining. Capital theory and income distribution.

PREREQUISITES

None

GRADING POLICY

The Instructor will determine the relative weights of the assignments and tests, as well as the weights assigned for matters of attendance and class participation. Specific course syllabi will state these weights clearly.

All instructors will keep accurate and timely records of grades received. Grades will be based on an A-F scale, with the instructor to determine whether a curve will establish the grades, or pre-set points, or some other basis. The syllabi will reflect clearly the method by which semester grades will be determined. CR/NC grades may be administered when such a grading method has been authorized through University procedures.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance policy is to be determined by the instructor. Attendance policy and all penalties relating to missed classes will be clearly stated on specific course syllabi.

TEXTS AND READINGS

Specific texts will be determined by the course instructor. Such determination may include consultation with the Departmental Chair and/or the appropriate Departmental Committee.

Readings and assignments will be designed to commit students to no more than an average of two hours of independent preparation for each hour of formal lecture.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Representative texts are to be utilized in this course. Such texts might include, but will not be limited to:

William Baumol and Alan Blinder, Microeconomics: Principles & Policies

Thomas McEachern, Microeconomics

Paul Samuelson and William Nordhaus, Microeconomics

Bradley Shiller, The Microeconomy Today

Joseph Stiglitz, Principles of Microeconomics

Karl Case and Ray Fair, Principles of Microeconomics

Michael Parkin, Microeconomics

Campbell McConnell & Stanley Bruce, Microeconomics

SUMMARY OUTLINE OF THE COURSE

Common Content

The course may follow a schematic outline, which may include:

- I. An Introduction to the U.S. Economy
- II. Basic Quantitative Concepts
- III. Supply, Demand and Markets: An Introduction
- IV. The Basic Elements of the Economic Way of Thinking
- V. The Theory of Demand and the Analysis of Consumer Behavior
- VI. The Fundamentals of Market Supply

- VII. Demand, Supply and The Dynamics of Market Equilibrium
- VIII. Production Theory
- IX. Cost Analysis, the Production Decision and Profit Maximization
- X. Perfect Competition at the Firm and Market Level
- XI. Market Structure: Oligopoly, Monopoly, Monopolistic Competition
- XII. Government Regulation of Economic Activity
- XIII. Applications: 1. Agriculture, 2. Environmental Economics
- XIV. Factor Markets in Labor and Capital
- XV. Income Distribution

ALLOCATION OF COURSE TIME, AND EMPHASIS

Approximately 5 weeks of instruction and reading will be devoted to basic competitive market theories. Items I-X, above, will be the main focus of the course in the first 10 weeks of the semester. Items XI - XV will be the focus of the last 1/3 of the course.

In determination of the allocation of time devoted to topics, reasonable latitude, based upon professional interest, inclination, specialization and theoretical orientation, will be allowed.

COURSE CALENDAR: Exams and Assignments and Writing Requirement

The instructor will determine the frequency and nature of exams, and all other assignments. The course outline will clearly reflect the relative weights of each assignment, and the grading criteria and grading scale.

Frequency of exams, assignments

There will be a minimum of three in-class exams, including the Final exam, administered according to the Final Exam Schedule.

Writing

Exams will include in-class writing of either essay questions or short-answer questions. Such writing will constitute a significant portion of all in-class exams.

A minimum of 2,000 words of writing will be required for this course.

Quizzes, homework, etc.

Additional exams, quizzes, graded out-of-class assignments, homework, etc. may be assigned by the instructor.

Exam dates

Approximate dates for all exams and assignments will be included on the specific syllabus.

Writing assignments

A brief description of any writing assignment, paper or other such assignment will be included in the specific course syllabus.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The specific outline will clearly state policies regarding make-up exams, late papers, missed assignments, etc.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

All students with disabilities will receive every reasonable accommodation to facilitate their learning and testing evaluation. They will be instructed to discuss their needs with the instructor during the first week of class.

PLAGIARISM, CHEATING, CLASS CONDUCT

All instructors will either directly refer students to University policy in the Catalog and Schedule of Courses or state University policy regarding such matters in their course syllabus.

FEES

Normally, there will be no student fees for this course.

ATTACHMENT 3

Principles of Microeconomics Economics 40 Spring 1998

Instructor: Scott Houser

Office: Peters Building 319

Phone: 278-3045

Email: scott_houser@csufresno.edu

Office Hours: 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday and by appointment

Course Objectives: This course will introduce the analytical tools of microeconomics and provide an understanding of how they apply in "real" world situations. The broad topics include cost-benefit analysis, supply and demand, market structure (e.g., competition, monopoly), labor markets, and income distribution. Throughout the course we will study the concepts of opportunity cost, marginal analysis, and efficiency. Specific applications include crime, taxes, drug pricing, pollution, the minimum wage, and welfare reform.

Required Text: Bradley R. Schiller, The Micro Economy Today, 7th Edition
(new texts include Discover Economics software)

Recommended Reading: Ziegler and Wilson, Study Guide to Accompany Schiller: The Micro Economy Today

Grading: Grades will be based on your performance on exams, quizzes, a writing assignment, and a cumulative final. There will be three midterm exams, but the exam with the lowest score will be dropped. There will be five quizzes, but the lowest quiz score will also be dropped. The writing assignment is discussed below. Grades will be determined using the following weights and a standard 100 point scale. A: 90-100; B: 80-89; C: 70-79; D: 60-69; F: 59 and below.

Notebook (writing assignment)	15 percent
Quizzes	15 percent
Exam 1	20 percent
Exam 2	20 percent
Final Exam	30 percent

Writing Requirement: All students will be required to complete an "Economics Notebook" to fulfill the General Education Writing Requirement for this course. Your notebook should contain current articles, editorials, cartoons, or advertisements that are related to an economic concept or principle that we study during this course. Articles or other source materials must be dated during the current semester. In addition to the article, you must write a short essay that summarizes the article and indicates its relevance to microeconomics. You must submit four (4) entries to earn full credit for this assignment.

One of the notebook entries is due at the beginning of class on **Tuesday, March 24**. Completed notebooks are due at the beginning of class on **Tuesday, May 12**. Late notebooks or entries will receive a penalty of 20% per day.

Tips on the notebook: Generally, a more complete analysis will receive more points. Visual appeal of the notebook, legibility of the entries, spelling and grammar will also be part of the grade. Essays must be typed. Moreover, you should vary the concepts you

cover. **No credit will be given for macroeconomic concepts, nor for entries that illustrate the same concept more than once.** Appropriate graphs will enhance your presentation and your grade.

Extra Credit (for extra work): Students may choose to do additional work for extra credit. Students may submit up to three (3) additional articles with essays in their notebooks on **May 12**. It is possible to earn a maximum of 5 bonus points. The bonus points will be added to your total semester percentage grade.

Make-up Policy: Since the low exam and quiz score are dropped, make-ups should not be too big a deal. There will be no make-up exams or quizzes unless the student has an excused absence including illness of the student or serious illness of a member of the student's immediate family, University-sponsored trips, or major religious holidays. In each case, written verification will be required and permission to miss an exam must be secured before the scheduled exam time unless the cause of the absence is unforeseen. If the excused absence is due to the observance of a religious holiday, the student must notify me in writing prior to February 5, 1998.

Grievance Procedure: Anyone feeling that a dispute exists after the grading of any assignment or exam may submit a written grievance. The grievance should identify the item in dispute and arguments supporting the student's position. Grievances must be submitted in writing within two class periods following the return of the assignment or exam. I will return a written response to the grievance within two class periods after I receive it.

Cheating and Plagiarism: Cheating in any form is not tolerated by the University. Refer to the University's policy on cheating and plagiarism for details about sanctions.

Course Outline:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Text:</u>
Jan 27-29	Overview: Scarcity and Choice	Chapters 1-2
Feb 3-5	Production Possibilities and Trade	Chapters 1-2
Feb 10-12	The Market Economy: Supply and Demand	Chapter 3
Feb 17-19	Consumer Choice and Elasticity	Chapter 5
Feb 24	The Public Sector	Chapter 4
Exam #1, Thursday, February 26		
Mar 3-5	Firms, Production and Costs	Chapter 6
Mar 10-12	The Competitive Firm	Chapter 7
Mar 17-19	Perfect Competition	Chapter 8
Mar 24-26	Monopoly	Chapter 9
Mar 31	Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly	Chapters 10-11
Exam #2, Thursday, April 2		
Apr 14-16	Factor Markets and Wages	Chapter 15
Apr 21-22	Taxes, Poverty and Income Distribution	Chapters 18-19
Apr 28-31	Externalities and Pollution	Chapter 13
Exam #3, Thursday, May 7		
May 12	Review	
Final Exam, Thursday, May 21		

Note: The above schedule and procedures for this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.