

# Econ 20A: Basic Economics I

Instructor: S. Sayantani

Summer Session I, 2022

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Office Hours: M/W 2-3 pm

Office: SSPB 3284

Class Hours: M/W/F 3-4:40pm

Class Room: SSPA 1100

[Canvas Course Page](#)

[MindTap Course URL](#)

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## Course Description

This course is an introduction to economic theory. The focus of this class is to understand fundamental microeconomic principles of how economic agents behave and how markets function. We will aim to develop a better understanding of economic issues from everyday life.

## Required Materials

- Mankiw, Gregory N., *Principles of Economics*, 9th edition (with MindTap 1-term access). ISBN: 9780357133545
- MindTap for practice and graded homework assignments.

The UCI bookstore provides a substantially discounted bundle of the textbook plus MindTap access code. Refer to the **MindTap Help** under Canvas Files tab for more details regarding registration, payment instructions and also watch a short video on how to use MindTap.

## Contacting instructor and TAs

Students can contact me and/or the TA during the office hours listed below. Note that many questions can be easily answered by reading the syllabus, coming to class regularly, and reading

the textbook. Please look for answers from these resources so that my and/or the TA's office hours can be utilized towards productive learning and personal help. Students can also email me but note that it might take 24-48 hours for me to reply to an email query.

1. TA:  
email:  
Office Hours :

## Course Structure

### Lectures and Class Notes

Please attend all lectures and take down notes. Lectures will be held three times a week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays all through Summer Session I. Slides/Notes will be uploaded under Canvas Files but no video of the lecture will be uploaded. Students will rely on the class notes, read the textbook and any relevant reference material that I might post on the website from time to time. Additionally, the Cengage account provides study materials like chapter outlines and flash cards. Please refer to Canvas Announcements for any important information or changes to the class, discussion sections and/or exams.

### Discussion Sections

Students will meet their Teaching Assistant once every week during the summer session at their discussion section. Discussions will be held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 5 pm to 5:50 pm at SST 220A. It is *mandatory* to attend the discussion sections as this will help with solving homework assignments, in-depth revision of material covered in lecture, and will help students prepare for the midterm and final exams. Grades from Discussion Attendance will constitute part of the final grade.

Discussion Sections will start from Week 1 of the summer session beginning Monday, Jun 20.

### Homework Assignments

All homework assignments will be completed online using MindTap. Students can complete their assignments immediately after they are available. The homework submission deadline has been set to **Fridays at midnight** each week. Please note that once the deadline for an assignment passes, MindTap records the score and students can no longer change their answers. Do make sure to select Pacific Time as the time zone in the MindTap account, in order for the assignment deadlines to display correctly.

Each assignment is worth the same weight, and the percentages of correct answers will be used as the score on the assignment. Students have *one free pass*, that is, their lowest assignment scores will be dropped. Students are expected to work through the assignments on their own, after studying class notes and textbook.

## Exams

There will be **one midterm and one final exam** in the course. The midterm will consist of 40-50 multiple choice questions. The final exam will consist of 60-70 multiple choice questions. Students are responsible for carrying their own Scantron (Form No. F-288-PAR-L) for all exams.

**There will be no make-up exams.** If students have an officially recognized university excuse for missing any of the exams, they must contact me regarding the issue before the deadline for dropping the course. If a student cannot make it to the exams, they will need to drop the course. A student caught copying on an exam will receive a grade of F on the course.

### Exam Dates

Exam	Date	Time & Venue
Midterm	Monday, July 11	Class Time, Class Venue
Final	Monday, July 29	3 pm - 5 pm, Class Venue

## Grading Scheme

Students' grade will be a weighted average of students' performance on MindTap homework assignments and exams. I reserve the right to curve the scale dependent on overall class scores at the end of the summer session. The respective weights are:

- ☛ **10%** : Discussion Section Attendance.
- ☛ **20%** : Homework grades.
- ☛ **30%** : Midterm Exam.
- ☛ **40%** : Final Exam.

## Grading Scale

The following scale will be used to convert percentage points to letter grades:

- A+**: 96% and above
- A**: greater than or equal to 93% and less than 96%
- A-**: greater than or equal to 90% and less than 93%
- B+**: greater than or equal to 87% and less than 90%
- B**: greater than or equal to 83% and less than 87%
- B-**: greater than or equal to 80% and less than 83%
- C+**: greater than or equal to 77% and less than 80%
- C**: greater than or equal to 73% and less than 77%

- C-: greater than or equal to 70% and less than 73%
- D+: greater than or equal to 67% and less than 70%
- D: greater than or equal to 63% and less than 67%
- D-: greater than or equal to 60% and less than 63%
- F: below 60%

## Course Policies

### During Class

Electronic recording of notes will be important for class and so computers and tablets, required to take down class notes will be allowed in class. Please refrain from using computers for anything but activities related to the class. Phones are prohibited as they are rarely useful for anything in the course.

### Copyright Policies

All course content created by the course instructor including but not limited to this document, lecture slides, homework assignments, exams, and answer keys are copyrighted by the course instructor. Please do not share or distribute course materials to any website. Violators will be reported to the university administration.

### Policies on Absence in an Exam and Late Assignments

If a student is unable to appear on the midterm or the final exam due to any urgent and/or extenuating circumstance, the instructor would have to authorize a different time/date for the exam. This sort of request can only be entertained in emergencies, in the presence of documentation/proof. Without the authorization by the instructor or department, absence in either of the exams implies that the student receives an F in the course.

Late homework assignments will be accepted for no penalty if a valid excuse is communicated to the instructor or the teaching assistant and an extension is authorized before the deadline. Unless otherwise communicated, after the deadline, assignments will be accepted for a 20% deduction to the score up to 2 days after the deadline. After this any assignments handed in will be given 0.

### Academic Integrity and Honesty

The minimum academic penalty for cheating on a homework assignment or exam is a zero grade for the assignment or exam in question and the maximum academic penalty will be a failing grade for the course. Additional administrative penalties may be imposed by the university. I will not hesitate to report suspected cheaters to the Office of Academic Integrity & Student Conduct. Review the University's policies at: [here](#).

## Accommodations for Disabilities

In case a student require special accommodation, they must submit to me documentation from the Disability Services Center within the first two weeks of the quarter, which will allow us to make arrangements for their specific needs. Information regarding the UCI Disability Services Center is available [here](#).

## Schedule and weekly learning goals

The schedule is tentative and subject to change. The learning goals below should be viewed as the key concepts their should grasp after each week, and also as a study guide before each exam, and at the end of the summer session. Each exam will test on the material that was taught up until 1 lecture prior to the exam. Homework assignments are due on a weekly basis

### Week 01, 06/20 - 06/24: Introduction to Class

- Course Orientation  
Become familiar with the course website and MindTap.
- An Economist's Perspective (Chapters 1 -2)
- Gains from Trade (Chapter 3)

### Week 02, 06/27 - 07/01: Market Equilibrium

- Market Forces of Demand and Supply (Chapter 4)

### Week 03, 07/04 - 07/08: Applications of Market Equilibrium

- *Independence Day July 4 Holiday*
- Elasticity and its Applications (Chapter 5)
- Role of Government Policies (Chapter 6)

### Week 04, 07/11 - 07/15: Market Efficiency

- Efficiency of Market Equilibrium (Chapter 7)
- **Midterm Exam**
- Deadweight Loss of Taxation (Chapter 8)

### Week 05, 07/18 - 07/22: Market Failure and Costs of Production

- Understanding Externalities (Chapter 10)
- Non-Excludable Goods (Chapter 11)
- Costs of Production (Chapter 12)

**Week 06, 07/25 - 07/29: Types of Markets**

- Perfect Competition (Chapter 13)
- Monopoly (Chapter 14)
- TBA

**Week 07, 08/01 - 08/05: Final Exam**