

Official Information and Calendar

Economics 102: Principles of Economics (Microeconomics)

Meeting Dates and Times: TuTh 14:00 to 15:15

Schedule Number: 21058

Description from Catalog: “Principles of economic analysis, economic institutions, and issues of public policy. Emphasis on [direction of] production, allocation of resources, and distribution of income, through the price system (microanalysis); and international economics.”

Contact with Instructor: via Email: shosh@mail.sdsu.edu; Office hours: Tu Th 9:00 to 9:30 and 10:45 to 12:15 at Nasatir Hall Room 329; You can call me during my office hours at 619 594 5468. At other times it is best to email me. I do my best to speak clearly, to compensate for my slight accent. On the plus side, I know a few languages other than English. Come visit and help me practice my French, Dutch, Hebrew, and Spanish!! I am also learning German and Italian. More about me at <http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/faculty/sgs/>

Expanded Course Description:

- We look at the hidden roles that pricing systems play in shaping the world around us and our behavior as human beings. We try to get underneath common sense notions (which are often wrong).
- We try to figure out how people use money and time, and make decisions about their lives. We use examples from the U.S. and abroad.
- We inspect the process of allocation of resources and pricing by firms. We describe some aspects of industrial organization.

Main ways of Getting Information:

A/ Lectures (schedule of lectures will be distributed)

B/ Blackboard (Bb): you are responsible for checking your messages on Bb. Please register at <https://blackboard.sdsu.edu/>. This is also how you will find out about your grades.

C/ Required and Recommended Learning Resources: books and devices

C.1 Required Books:

GOTTHEIL, Fred. *Principles of Microeconomics*. 5th edition. Make sure you get the book that ONLY has MICROeconomics!

C.2 Required Learning Devices:

1/Aplia, an interactive course tool that you will be using to turn in 10 assignments; access to aplia is included with a new textbook; [if you use an old edition of the book, you need to purchase aplia separately. In that case, follow the instructions at the end of this syllabus. Aplia also offers plenty of practice questions that will help you prepare for tests and assignments. In addition, in Aplia you will find news analyses, tutorials and experiments.) **Please register** with aplia at <http://www.aplia.com/> (see instructions below).

2/ Clicker. Can be purchased or rented. The bookstore carries them. These will be used as a means for you to answer exams. In addition, I will occasionally take attendance based on clicker usage on non-exam days. Please register your clicker via blackboard. Instructions can be downloaded at http://clicker.sdsu.edu/student_enrollthroughbb.pdf . More information on clickers is available at http://clicker.sdsu.edu/student_start.html . If you have problems first

address them to the einstructions support staff via phone (at 888-333-4988) or email at www.einstruction.com. They know much more about it than me.

C.3 Recommended:

- GOTTHEIL -- STUDY GUIDE FOR PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS (5TH edition)
- **The Wall Street Journal:** printed or electronic. Great source of news about economics.
- **Also recommended: getting one or two learning partners.** It makes it a lot more fun to study economics! Another advantage of partnership is that if you are absent, a partner can update you on what you missed. However, class consultations with fellow students are forbidden during quizzes and exams.

C.4 Recommended resources on the Web:

http://gottheil.swcollege.com/gottheil5e/micro/gottheil5e_micro.html. Gottheil's powerpoints are especially helpful and closely related to our course. The following websites are more for fun: <http://www.freakonomics.com/blog/> and <http://www.marginalrevolution.com/>.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Making the Invisible Visible: Finding Patterns
- Major tools of micro-economic analysis, what they can reveal, and how you can use economics to make better decisions
- Thinking sensibly about how people behave in the real world
- Seeing the ubiquity of markets
- Determine how changes in supply and/or demand change market price and quantity
- Understand the efficiency advantages of a market system and the role of prices in achieving efficiency
- Figure out some of the ways that government policies may affect markets
- Get a better understanding of foreign exchange markets

Assessment and Grading

Three exams worth 90 points each:	270 points
Twelve Aplia Problems and 1 assignment 10 points each:	130 points
Participation be used to propel you to the next grade	based on attendance and clicker points; can
GRAND TOTAL:	400 points

NOTES:

- No early or make-up exams will be given. However, a fourth optional exam will be given in the last week of classes. There is no final in this class.
- Most questions are multiple choice.
- There will be no possibility to earn extra credit.

CALENDAR ECON 102 F2009
With Professor Grossbard
September

Sept 1 Tu Introduction to the course

3 Th Chapter 1 in Gottheil

Week 2

8 Tu Lecture on Ch. 2: Production Possibilities
Aplia 1 (Introductory Graded Problem Set) is
due before class

10 Th Lecture on Ch. 3: Demand & Supply

Week 3

Mo

15 Tu Professor takes FURLOUGH.
Aplias 2 (Some Tools of Economic Analysis II about
Production Possibilities) and **3** (Supply and Demand II)
are due by 4 PM

17 Th In class: More about Chapters 2 and 3

Week 4

22 Tu In class: Chapter 4 about elasticity

24 Th **EXAM 1** about Chapters 1-4

Week 5

29 Tu In class: Chapter 6 about price ceilings

October

1 Th In class: More about price ceilings and price floors
Aplia 4 ([Effects of Price Controls on Equilibrium
Quantities II](#)) is due before class

Week 6

6 Tu In class: Chapter 8 on costs

8 Th FURLOUGH/ no class / Students should work
on **Aplia 5** (Costs of Production II) due at 4 PM.
Also pre experiment **aplia** is due at 10 PM but you
should do it before 2 PM

9 Fri replacement **aplia** due

Week 7

13 Tu In class: more about costs of production
Post experiment **APLIA** is due by 2 PM

15 Th In class: Chapter 9 on profit maximization

Week 8

20 Tu Review session. Aplia 6 (Maximizing Profit II) due before class

22 Th EXAM 2 on Chapters 6, 8, and 9

Week 9

27 Tu In class: Chapter 10 on market structures

29 Th In class: Chapter 11 on price and output: the case of monopoly.

November

Week 10

3 Tu In class: more about Chapter 11; the case of competition

Aplia 7 (Perfect Competition II) is due before class

5 Th Aplia preparing for taxes and welfare experiment due at 2 PM

Taxes and welfare Experiment starts at 2:15 PM

Week 11

10 Tu FURLOUGH for professor.

Analyzing taxes and welfare aplia due at 4PM

Students work on Assignment related to competition and monopoly

11 We 'Veterans Day' campus closed

12 Th Assignment is due

In class: Chapter 14 on externalities

Week 12

17 Tu in class: more on externalities and public choice

Aplia 8 (Externalities II) is due before class

19 Th Review session

Week 13

24 Tu EXAM 3 on Chapters 10,11, and 14

26 Th Thanksgiving day

Fr Thanksgiving Holiday

December

Week 14

1 Tu In class: labor economics (based on Chapter 15)

3 Th Aplia 9 (Preparing for the labor market experiment) is due before class

Week 15

8 Tu Labor market experiment; review session

10 Th **Optional EXAM 4** about chapters 3, 8, 11, 15 and 17

Grading criteria:

90	A
87	A-
84	B+
81	B
78	B-
74	C+
70	C
66	C-
60	D+
55	D
50	D-
0	F

Cheating: SDSU has an office in charge of handling cheating cases. I hate dealing with that office. Please do your part so we can avoid them.

Impact of the Budget Crisis: As you know the State of California has financial troubles. Faculty has been asked to take furloughs and to accept corresponding paycuts. I will be taking most of my furloughs on days I don't teach. However, I will also be absent on September 15, October 8, and November 10. I am doing my best to minimize the detrimental impact of these furloughs on students.



Student Registration and Payment Instructions

Course Name: Principles of Microeconomics, Fall 2009, Grossbard

Start Date: 08/31/2009

Instructor: Shoshana Grossbard

Course Key: PWGF-92MB-CL6P

You can begin working on your homework as soon as you register!

- In this course, you will use a textbook and Aplia's website.
 - In most cases, you can save money if you buy Aplia and your textbook together. See payment options below.
 - You will have access to a digital version of your textbook using Aplia.
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Registration

If you have never used Aplia before...

1. Connect to <http://www.aplia.com>.
2. Click the New Student link and enter your Course Key: **PWGF-92MB-CL6P**. Continue following the instructions to complete your registration.

If you have used Aplia before...

1. Connect to <http://www.aplia.com>.
2. Sign in with your usual e-mail address and password and enter your Course Key when prompted: **PWGF-92MB-CL6P**. If you are not prompted for a new Course Key, click the Enter Course Key button to enroll in a new Aplia course. Enter your Course Key when you are prompted.

** You will have different payment options after you register for your course. If you choose to pay later, you can use Aplia without paying until 11:59 PM on 09/20/2009.*

Payment

Option 1: Digital Textbook with Aplia Access

- **From Aplia:** Purchase access to your course from Aplia's website for \$80.00 USD.
- **From Bookstore:** Purchase an Aplia Access Card from your campus bookstore.

Option 2: Physical Textbook with Aplia Access (also includes digital textbook)

- **From Aplia:** Purchase access to your course for \$80.00 USD and a physical book for \$30.00 USD from Aplia's website.
- **From Bookstore:** Purchase an Aplia Access Card and a physical book together as a bundle from your campus bookstore.

** If you purchased an Aplia Access Card from a bookstore, enter the Access Card's payment code on Aplia's website as payment for your Aplia course.*

** You will have access to your digital textbook up until the end of this course.*