

California State University, Sacramento  
Department of Economics  
Fall 2005

**ECON 1B: INTRODUCTION TO MICROECONOMIC ANALYSIS**

**Instructor:** Rossitza B. Wooster  
**Office:** Tahoe Hall 3011  
**Phone:** 278-7078  
**E-mail:** wooster@csus.edu  
**Web site:** <http://www.csus.edu/indiv/w/woosterr>

**Office Hours\***  
M: 11:30 am – 12:30 pm  
T: 9:30 am – 11:30 am  
\*By Appointment

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**Syllabus**

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**Registration Information**

- Section: 02 (#41573)
- Section: 03 (#41574)
- Lectures: MWF 10:00 – 10:50 am (CLV 123)
- Lectures: MWF 1:00 – 1:50 pm (cable / online)

- *Prerequisite:* Saclink Account
- Area D1A: Foundations in Social & Behavioral Sciences

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**Learning Objectives**

The objective of this course is to provide you with an intuitive and formal understanding of how economists analyze decisions by individual agents – primarily consumers and firms. The main underlying focus of the course is understanding how markets work; i.e. how do individual decisions by consumers and firms lead to efficient allocation of goods and factors of production. Resources (including our time) are scarce which means all consumers and firms face tradeoffs. Throughout the semester you will learn how prices and the market serve to signal relative scarcity and thus coordinate individual transactions so that resources are allocated efficiently. This course will also introduce you to the practical issues such as the economic aspects of globalization, the role of government in the economy, and where appropriate, we will consider the impact of economic policy on various socio-economic and ethnic groups in society.

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**Textbook**

“Principles of Microeconomics”, by N. Gregory Mankiw, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition.  
WebTutor Advantage: Online Study Aid

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**WebCT**

I will be using WebCT (a course content management system) to administer quizzes, communicate with you, and most importantly, provide you with access to WebTutor, an online study aid accompanying your textbook (for more information, see the WebTutor section on page 2). To access WebCT you must have a Saclink account (i.e. a Saclink User ID and Password). If you DO NOT have a Saclink account, you can set one up at:  
<https://www.saclink.csus.edu/saclink>.

To log into WebCT simply go to: <https://online.csus.edu> and click on the “Login my WebCT” button. Your Saclink User ID and Password will be your WebCT User ID and Password.

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**WebTutor.**

It is essential that you purchase the required text for this course: “Principles of Microeconomics” by Mankiw, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Shrink-wrapped with the textbook is a cardboard **WebTutor** folio (colors are blue/black/white and folio looks like the image to the left). WebTutor is an online study aid that works within WebCT and supports the textbook. WebTutor contains chapter-by-chapter study material, practice quizzes, interactive flashcards, and other web-based content designed to help you succeed in this class.

Printed inside the folio is your WebTutor Access Code which is necessary for a one-time login into WebTutor for WebCT (something you will probably do the first time you access WebCT). Once you have successfully logged into WebTutor for WebCT you will not have to login again with this Access Code. For the rest of the semester, logging into WebCT will only require your Saclink User ID and Password. A short flash demonstration on how to use your Access Code is available at: [http://webtutor.thomsonlearning.com/docs/CT\\_Access.htm](http://webtutor.thomsonlearning.com/docs/CT_Access.htm).

If you find you are having problems with logging into either WebCT or WebTutor, or if you are taking video- and web-based course for the first time, please come to the following Orientation Session:

- ***Orientation Session: August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005 (Tuesday) – Mariposa Hall, Room 1011 from 5:30 – 6:30 pm.***

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**Exams**

Graded components in this class include:

- Completion of all practice online quizzes (one for each chapter we cover) will comprise 10% of your course grade. Practice quizzes do not have a limit on time or number of attempts.
- Two Midterm exams (each worth 30% of your course grade) will together comprise 60% of your course grade.
- Final exam worth 30% of your course grade. The final exam is not comprehensive – it will test all material covered since the second midterm exam.

***Note: All quizzes will be administered online. All exams will be administered on campus. Please bring a scantron (Form No. 882-E) to the midterm and final exams.***

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**Writing Requirements**

Exams will include a combination of Multiple Choice, True/False, and Short Answer questions. Short Answer questions will require that you write a short paragraph to explain your reasoning and/or elaborate on the issue at hand. This requirement is essential to the learning process in microeconomics as it reinforces the “reasoning” in economic reasoning.

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**Grading**

Grades will be assigned according to the following point scale:

- A = 90 or higher
  - B = 80 – 89
  - C = 65 – 79
  - D = 55 – 64
  - F = 54 and below
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**Policies**

- Turn off your cellular phone, beeper, pager, or any other communication device/PDA that may disturb, disrupt, or in any way impede the learning process during class meetings and exams. For students registered in Section 3: Remember that this is a course in which lectures are taped during class sessions and broadcast live on cable.
  - Exams cannot be rescheduled or made up, so do not take the course if you cannot take the exams during their scheduled times. The only exceptions to this rule are: (i) documented medical emergencies; and (ii) absence due to active military, police, and/or jury duty (documented with letter from appropriate official).
  - Improving your grade through “extra work” is not an option in this class! In addition, an Incomplete (letter grade “I”) or a Withdrawal (letter grade “W”) is not to be viewed as a substitute for an “F”.
  - Students with documented learning disabilities or special needs, please contact me at least a week in advance of scheduled exams if arrangements through the Testing Center are required.
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## Tentative Schedule

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<b>Week One</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Lecture Topic:</i> Ten Principles of Economics.</li><li>• <i>Reading Assignment:</i> Chapter 1</li><li>• <b>Practice Quiz for Chapter 1</b> available online.</li></ul>
<b>Week Two</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Lecture Topic:</i> Thinking Like an Economist.</li><li>• <i>Reading Assignment:</i> Chapter 2</li><li>• <b>Practice Quiz for Chapter 2</b> available online.</li> <li>• <b>No Class Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005 – Happy Labor Day!</b></li></ul>
<b>Week Three</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Lecture Topic:</i> Interdependence and the Gains from Trade</li><li>• <i>Reading Assignment:</i> Chapter 3</li><li>• <b>Practice Quiz for Chapter 3</b> available online.</li></ul>
<b>Week Four</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Lecture Topic:</i> The Market Forces of Supply and Demand</li><li>• <i>Reading Assignment:</i> Chapter 4</li><li>• <b>Practice Quiz for Chapter 4</b> available online.</li></ul>
<b>Week Five</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Lecture Topic:</i> Elasticity and its Application</li><li>• <i>Reading Assignment:</i> Chapter 5</li><li>• <b>Practice Quiz for Chapter 5</b> available online.</li> <li>• <b>Midterm Exam No. 1 – Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005</b>     Section 2: Midterm 1 will be administered in BNC 1029, 10:00-10:50 am     Section 3: Midterm 1 will be administered in MND 3011, 6:00-6:50 pm</li></ul>
<b>Week Six</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Lecture Topic:</i> Supply, Demand, and Government Policies</li><li>• <i>Reading Assignment:</i> Chapter 6</li><li>• <b>Practice Quiz for Chapter 6</b> available online.</li></ul>
<b>Week Seven</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Lecture Topic:</i> Consumers, Producers and the Efficiency of Markets</li><li>• <i>Reading Assignment:</i> Chapter 7</li><li>• <b>Practice Quiz for Chapter 7</b> available online.</li></ul>
<b>Week Eight</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Lecture Topic:</i> The Cost of Taxation (Application)</li><li>• <i>Reading Assignment:</i> Chapter 8</li><li>• <b>Practice Quiz for Chapter 8</b> available online.</li></ul>
<b>Week Nine</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Lecture Topic:</i> International Trade (Application)</li><li>• <i>Reading Assignment:</i> Chapter 9</li><li>• <b>Practice Quiz for Chapter 9</b> available online.</li></ul>
<b>Week Ten</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Lecture Topic:</i> The Costs of Production</li><li>• <i>Reading Assignment:</i> Chapter 13</li><li>• <b>Practice Quiz for Chapter 13</b> available online.</li> <li>• <b>Midterm Exam No. 2 – Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2005</b>     Section 2: Midterm 2 will be administered in BNC 1029, 10:00-10:50 am     Section 3: Midterm 2 will be administered in MND 3011, 6:00-6:50 pm</li></ul>

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## Tentative Schedule (continued)

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<b>Week Eleven</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Lecture Topic:</i> Firms in Competitive Markets</li><li>• <i>Reading Assignment:</i> Chapter 14</li><li>• <b>Practice Quiz for Chapter 14</b> available online.</li></ul>
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<b>Week Twelve</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Lecture Topic:</i> Monopoly</li><li>• <i>Reading Assignment:</i> Chapter 15</li><li>• <b>Practice Quiz for Chapter 15</b> available online.</li></ul>
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<b>Week Thirteen</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Lecture Topic:</i> Oligopoly</li><li>• <i>Reading Assignment:</i> Chapter 16</li><li>• <b>Practice Quiz for Chapter 16</b> available online.</li> <li>• <b>No Class on Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005 - Happy Thanksgiving!</b></li></ul>
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<b>Week Fourteen</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Lecture Topic:</i> Monopolistic Competition.</li><li>• <i>Reading Assignment:</i> Chapter 17</li><li>• <b>Practice Quiz for Chapter 17</b> available online.</li></ul>
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<b>Week Fifteen</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Lecture Topic:</i> Monopolistic Competition.</li><li>• <i>Reading Assignment:</i> Chapter 17</li></ul>
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<b>Finals Week</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Final Exam – Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2005</b> <i>Section 2: Location for the final to be announced in November</i> <i>Section 3: Location for the final to be announced in November.</i></li></ul>

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