

Syllabus for Spring 2005

**Economics 98 (1 unit, P/NP); TuTh 12-1 PM, 87 Dwinelle
Adjunct with Economics 1, Professor Olney**

Sponsors: Faculty- Professor Christina Romer; Department of Economics; Unit – Student Learning Center
Instructor: Matt Salazar
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Overview:

Economics 98 is an adjunct course intended to be taken in conjunction with the Economics 1 course. Economics 98 is not a replacement for lecture and your discussion section. In contrast to your GSI led section, we will spend a considerable amount of time talking about study strategies, reading strategies, graphing techniques, and test-taking tips.

Economics incorporates graphs, equations, and written essays as answers to questions. We will address these methods in Economics 98. We will also focus on the Economics 1 course content, mainly through concrete examples, which you will work through individually and in groups. You are expected to present your work in front of the class.

Your grade in this course is P/NP for one academic unit. Please refer to the grading policy. Attendance is mandatory; if you know that you will miss more than three classes then DO NOT ENROLL for credit. You will not pass (NP) the course if you miss more than 3 classes.

The best means of study in economics is working on practice problems. The worksheets and weekly quizzes are for your benefit. I am not looking for a perfect answer, but just evidence that you are trying and that you want to learn how to apply the concepts. I want to see effort, and I will reward improvement. If you already know all the solutions then the adjunct is not the course for you. We will be spending a considerable amount of time on solutions to basic concepts and problem solving.

I hope we accomplish the following learning objectives: (1) Utilize study strategies for future coursework; (2) Apply economic intuition to real world situations; (3) Change your current perspective on economics; (4) Understand the role economics plays in daily decision making. The final paper will assess these learning objectives.

Grading Policy (P/NP):

You must obtain at least 70% of the possible points to pass this course and attempt all of the components. I will reward improvement. Details for each of the grading criteria are attached. Please arrive promptly to the adjunct since each day will be packed with activities.

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Participation	30%
Weekly Quizzes	15%
Worksheets	15%
Attendance	20%
Final Paper	20%

Participation and Worksheets:

You should be prepared and involved in every adjunct meeting. You will be expected to participate in class discussions and answer group worksheets. That means you should expect to work in groups to solve problems or analyze current events at least once a week. You will present your solutions or analysis to the entire adjunct. You should also expect to be called on frequently to answer questions and/or share solutions and techniques that you find helpful in your studies.

Quizzes:

You will be quizzed formally and informally at least once a week. The quiz generally consists of a few questions which should take 15 minutes, and you will be expected to present your answers to the entire adjunct. I am not looking for perfect answers, but I want to see effort and techniques that you are learning. You are allowed to call on other students for assistance in your presentations. I encourage collaborative learning.

Attendance:

You will not pass (NP) the course if you miss more than 3 classes.

Final Paper:

The final project consists of creating review material for your fellow classmates in preparation for the final. Part of this includes quick review sheets, sample questions with an answer key. Specifics of the project will be given out at least 2 weeks prior to the project's due date.

Personal:

My name is Matt Salazar and I am a 4th year undergraduate economics major. I will be graduating this spring and will be starting work for a consulting firm in the fall. I am currently in the process of writing a senior thesis in the field of behavioral economics. At times when I'm not being a total econ nerd, I love watching college football, watching and playing basketball and aspire to being invited to play on the WSOP tour. Since I am a senior it is fairly obvious that I've taken numerous economics courses here at Cal. If its been offered at Cal before I have either taken it or know someone who has. I try to make myself available to be a resource to you not just for Economics 1. Please feel free to come speak with me about the either the business or econ major, jobs for econ majors, upper div econ classes, or life. As a last note I am very aware of my corny sense of humor and I apologize in advance.

Adjunct Outline

Week 1	Tuesday, 1/18 Thursday, 1/20	Paperwork Paperwork, Math Review
Week 2	Tuesday, 1/25 Thursday, 1/27	Production Possibilities Frontier Quiz 1: Math Review Supply and Demand
Week 3	Tuesday, 2/1 Thursday, 2/3	Elasticity Quiz 2: Supply and Demand/PPF Welfare Analysis
Week 4	Tuesday, 2/8 Thursday, 2/10	Perfect Competition in the Short Run Quiz 3: Welfare Analysis/ Elasticity Short/Long Run Perfect Competition
Week 5	Tuesday, 2/15 Thursday, 2/17	Demand for Land and Labor Quiz 4: Short/Long Run Perfect Competition Capital and Investment Decisions
Week 6	Tuesday, 2/22 Thursday, 2/24	MOCK MIDTERM 1 Midterm 1 Review
Week 7	Tuesday, 3/1 Thursday, 3/3	Recover from Midterm, Visit Office Hours General Equilibrium
Week 8	Tuesday, 3/8 Thursday, 3/10	Monopoly Quiz 5: General Equilibrium Quiz Monopoly
Week 9	Tuesday, 3/15 Thursday, 3/17	Taxation Quiz 6: Monopoly Taxation, Macro Overview
	Tuesday, 3/22 Thursday, 3/24	SPRING BREAK SPRING BREAK
Week 10	Tuesday, 3/29 Thursday, 3/31	Unemployment, Inflation, and GDP GDP, Keynesian Cross Diagram
Week 11	Tuesday, 4/5 Thursday, 4/7	Fiscal Policy Quiz 7: Unemployment, Inflation and GDP Monetary Policy
Week 12	Tuesday, 4/12 Thursday, 4/14	Investment MOCK EXAM 2 Midterm 2 Review