

DE ANZA COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
SUMMER 2024
ECON 2: PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS

CRN 12718 / SECTION 51Z / ASYNCHRONOUS

(We meet asynchronously online over Zoom usually three times each week for a total of four hours. Lectures are recorded at times TBA, and students are encouraged to join me for the recordings.)

SYLLABUS
(Wednesday, June 12, 2024)

<https://www.deanza.edu/schedule/class-details.html?crn=12718&y=2024&q=M>

Instructor: Mark Brady / De Anza College and San Jose State University

Email: bradymark@fhda.edu. Please remember to write “**De Anza summer 2024 Econ 2**” or “**De Anza summer 2024 Micro**” in the subject line.

Office hours: You may make an appointment for a synchronous online Zoom meeting at a mutually convenient time.

Required text: Tyler Cowen and Alex Tabarrok, *Modern Principles: Microeconomics*. The sixth edition (2024) is the most recent and costs more to buy or rent, but the buy-back price is higher. If you're short of money, buy the fifth edition (2021), fourth edition (2018), third edition (2015) or even the second edition (2013), but avoid the first edition (2010), which is significantly different. Or you may prefer to rent the e-text. (Please note that I customarily refer to the chapter numbers, and I'll be sure to mention where they differ between editions.)

Search for “Cowen Tabarrok modern principles microeconomics” on www.abebooks.com, www.amazon.com, and www.hpb.com, and save yourself serious money. (You should get yourself the book as soon as possible, but if it doesn't arrive by July 1, that's okay.) Make sure that you are buying the **Micro** and not the Macro text. I've had students buy the wrong book. Of course, you would never do that!

If you want to meet **the authors of our textbook** and watch **hundreds of videos on any and all topics**, visit the authors' website *Marginal Revolution University* at <https://mru.org>. It's free.

<https://mru.org/principles-economics-microeconomics>

<https://mru.org/courses/principles-economics-microeconomics/introduction-microeconomics>

I encourage you to check out this website whether or not you already have a copy of the book and/or plan to visit the website on a regular basis.

Other readings: I also assign occasional supplementary readings and (short) videos (on the web).

You can earn a grade A in my class by watching each lecture and reading the book, working hard, and earning good scores in the frequent quizzes and three exams. Each week you should read the appropriate chapters to reinforce the previous lecture and to prepare for the next lecture. In economists' jargon, the book and the lectures are complements, not substitutes.

Grading: There are three components to your grade: **three exams** (85%), your **fifteen best quizzes** (15%), and **extra credit** (7%).

The three **exams** consist entirely of multiple-choice and multiple-answer questions. The first exam is scheduled for the weekend of **July 13-14**, and is worth 25%. The second exam is scheduled for the weekend of **July 27-28**, and is worth 30%. Both exams emphasize what we have studied in the two weeks immediately prior to each exam. The final exam, which is scheduled for **Friday, August 9**, is comprehensive but with some emphasis on what we have studied since the second exam, and is worth 30%.

There are at least twenty-five objective **quizzes** worth a total of fifteen points. Each quiz is worth one point, allowing students to drop or miss at least ten quizzes. Quiz scores are calculated pro rata so that 10/10 on a quiz is worth one point, and 5/10 is worth half-a-point point. **There are no make-ups for any quizzes.**

Many quizzes are based on my lectures. Others are based on chapters from Cowen and Tabarrok, *Modern Principles: Microeconomics*, and test your knowledge of key concepts. And one quiz is based on a video that you watch on YouTube.

Attendance: Students who skip recorded lectures will likely consign themselves to doing poorly on their exams. I therefore strongly encourage students to watch every recorded lecture. And if you attend the recording of a lecture, you have the opportunity to ask me questions or seek a further explanation, and you can listen to, and participate in, the discussion.

Grading policy: This is how I convert number grades to letter grades:

95-100 A+	90-94 A	85-89 A-	80-84 B+	75-79 B	70-74 B-
65-69 C+	60-64 C	55-59 D+	50-54 D	40-49 D-	0-39 F

If every student does first-rate work, I'd be delighted to award everyone an A.

I am happy to help you. If you experience any difficulty in this course, please do not hesitate to come to me for help. I am available not only after each Zoom meeting but also by email, and I am always happy to clarify difficult concepts, resolve any lingering confusion, or otherwise assist you in making this course enjoyable and rewarding.

Guide to Online Summer 2024: <https://www.deanza.edu/quarter-guide/>

Guide to Student Services: <https://www.deanza.edu/services/>

Student Success Center: <https://www.deanza.edu/studentssuccess>

Academic integrity: https://www.deanza.edu/policies/academic_integrity.html

Important dates and deadlines:	N.B. All deadlines are enforced.
Monday, July 1	First day of summer session
Wednesday, July 3	Last day to drop with a refund
Wednesday, July 3	Last day to drop without a “W”
Thursday, July 4	Independence Day holiday—no classes; offices closed
Monday, July 8	Last day to add the course
Tuesday, July 9	Census date
Monday, July 31	Last day to drop the course
Friday, August 9	Final exam
TBA	Last Day to file for summer degree or certificate

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act: "In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, De Anza College is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities to students with documented disabilities (e.g. mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical issues). I invite you to meet with a Disabilities Support Services (DSS) counselor or Learning Disability (LD) Specialist to discuss any accommodations or specific learning needs you may have. If you have a disability-related need for reasonable accommodations or services in this course, you will need to provide me with a Test Accommodation Verification (TAV) form from the DSS office. Students are expected to give 5 (five) days-notice of the need for accommodations. Students with disabilities may obtain this form by contacting their DSS counselor or LD Specialist at (408) 864-8753."—Laureen Balducci, Dean of Disability Support Programs and Services.

Course Schedule: This is subject to change with fair notice

Week	Dates	Topics, Readings, Exams, Deadlines
1	Monday, July 1 Tuesday, July 2 Wednesday, July 3 Thursday, July 4	First day of summer session A brief history of economics, economists, and key economic concepts Production possibilities frontiers and opportunity cost Specialization and trade Supply and demand Independence Day holiday—no classes; offices closed
2	Tuesday, July 9 Wednesday, July 10 Thursday, July 11 Weekend of July 13-14	Supply and demand (cont'd) Elasticity and its applications Taxes and subsidies First short exam (25%)
3	Tuesday, July 16 Wednesday, July 17 Thursday, July 18	Price ceilings and price floors The price system: signals, speculation, and prediction Economic calculation, central planning, and the role of markets and prices in coordinating exchange Externalities
4	Tuesday, July 23 Wednesday, July 24 Thursday, July 25 Weekend of July 27-28	Production and costs Profit maximization Competition (price takers) and the competitive process Monopoly (price searchers) and price discrimination Second short exam (30%)
5	Tuesday, July 30 Wednesday, July 31 Thursday, August 1	Further topics in industrial organization Labor markets Labor markets (cont'd)
6	Tuesday, August 6 Wednesday, August 7 Thursday, August 8 Friday, August 9	Public goods and the tragedy of the [unmanaged] commons International trade Political economy and public choice Economics, ethics, and public policy Wrap-up Final exam (30%)