

Department of Economics
University of California, Berkeley

Fall 2024

ECONOMICS 2

INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMICS

Instructor: Professor Emmanuel Saez,
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Office hours: Wednesdays 1pm-3pm, Evans Hall 623

COURSE INFORMATION AND PROCEDURES

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Economics 2 provides a general introduction to economics. It covers both *microeconomics*, the study of consumer and firm behavior, markets, and market failures; and *macroeconomics*, the study of economic growth, unemployment, and inflation. Students learn both economic theory and some of the empirical evidence behind the theory. Special emphasis is placed on the application of economic tools to contemporary economic problems and policies.

Economics 2 satisfies all of the same requirements as Economics 1, and either can serve as a prerequisite for any upper-level course that requires introductory economics. Economics 2 differs from Economics 1 in that it has three hours of lecture and one hour of discussion section per week, instead of two hours of lecture and two hours of section. Some of the extra lecture time is used to reinforce concepts with additional examples and explanation, and some is used to cover additional topics and go into more depth. Economics 2 is recommended for students planning to major in economics, and for anyone who would like a more comprehensive introductory course.

COURSE WEBSITE

Slides and assignments will be posted on the ECON 2 external website:

<https://eml.berkeley.edu/~saez/econ2/econ2.html>

Lecture recordings posted on B-course website:

<https://bcourses.berkeley.edu/courses/1538268>

READINGS

The course is primarily based on two **optional** textbooks.

- 1) *Principles of Economics*, 8th edition, by Robert H. Frank, Ben S. Bernanke, Kate Antonovics, and Ori Heffetz. It is available on Amazon (currently \$70 in paperback, \$40 to rent digital). Earlier editions can also work well. This is a classical econ textbook that follows the standard approach to teach economics.
- 2) *CORE – The economy 2.0*. Available for free in digital format at <https://core-econ.org/the-economy/>. The CORE textbook takes a more historical and data driven approach to economics, sometimes called political economy.

I will also post links on slides to a few economics research articles that will be discussed in the lectures.

Midterms and exams will be based exclusively on material covered in lectures and sections (but textbooks and readings help you understand the material in more depth).

LECTURE AND SECTIONS

There are two 80 minutes lectures per week. Participating in lecture is the best way to learn the material. Lectures will be recorded and posted to the bCourses website. Slides for lecture will be available shortly before class. Only Monday sections meet on Thanksgiving week (to catch up from the Labor day Monday holiday).

Attendance and participation in class through iClicker is mandatory. 8% of the grade based on attendance and participating in iClicker questions (.5 point per lecture so need to attend/participate in at least 16 out of 24 lectures to get full credit of 8%). Excuses for missed classes are only given for long-term justified absences of 3 weeks or more. Enrolling late does not count as a justified absence.

Attendance and in-class questions through [iClicker cloud](#) which is made freely available to Berkeley students. Students are invited automatically with B-course integration.

No phones, earphones, or laptops for in-person lectures except for answering iClicker questions. You may use a tablet, provided it is flat on the desk and only open to Econ 2 materials. GSIs sit at the back of the class to help enforce this policy so that you can concentrate fully on the lecture.

There is one 50 minute discussion section per week. Discussion sections are led by graduate student instructors and are devoted primarily to highlighting important topics from lecture, reviewing difficult material, working through problems, and answering questions. Discussion sections will meet in person. They will not be recorded.

ASSIGNMENTS

A. Problem sets (20% of grade):

There are four graded problem sets. You may work with other students on the problem sets, but your answers must be in your own words. You also must list the other students with whom you worked on your answers. The problem sets will be submitted through Gradescope and are generally due by 11:59 pm on the day listed.

Problem sets will be distributed 2 weeks in advance and due on gradescope on Mondays September 23, October 14, November 4, and November 25 by 11:59 pm. Each problem set is worth 5 points. LATE problem sets will lose 1 point per day of delay.

B. Midterms (42% of grade):

There are two midterm exams, which will take place in person at class time:

Midterm 1, Wednesday, October 9, 5:10–6:30 p.m.

Midterm 2, Wednesday, November 13, 5:10–6:30 p.m.

Being able to take the midterms at those times is a requirement for taking the course. The first midterm will cover material up to and including the preceding lecture. The second midterm will focus on the material covered since the first midterm. There are no

make-up midterms; students who miss a midterm with an excuse meeting University standards will have their other exams weighted proportionately more.

C. Final Exam (30% of grade): Friday, December 20, 3pm–5pm (2 hours only)

There is no make-up final; students must be able to take the final exam at the scheduled time in order to take the course.

If in person (current plan), midterms and final are closed books and closed notes (no access to any electronic device).

We take academic integrity very seriously. We expect you to abide by the Berkeley honor code and follow all stated exam policies. Academic dishonesty will be punished according to the severe University rules.

DSP students requiring accommodations: We will reserve a single room for all DSP students with the same start time for midterms and final exam. If this accommodation cannot work with you, you have to contact DSP services who will proctor your exam.

GRADING

All course assignments will be graded by the GSIs collectively. The course grade will be calculated as follows: (1) attendance and participation in class through i-clicker is worth 8% (.5 point per lecture so need to attend/participate in at least 16 out of 24 lectures to get full credit), (1) the problem sets are worth 20% total (5% per problem set), (2) the two midterm examinations are each worth 21%, and (3) the two-hour final examination is worth 30%.

We and the GSIs take grading very seriously and work hard to ensure fairness and accuracy. Because the problem sets are worth only a small fraction of the overall grade, regrade requests for problem sets will be considered only in extraordinary circumstances. For the midterm exams, if you believe a question has been graded incorrectly, you should submit your concern in writing to your GSI within one week of getting it back. They will forward your concern to the GSI who graded that particular question. University policy is that final grades cannot be changed once they are submitted, except to correct clerical mistakes.

The course may be taken Pass/Not Pass, if you are otherwise free to do so. Pass/Not Pass students are expected to do the same work as graded students and will receive scores on all assignments. If their final course grade is a C– or better, they will be awarded a Pass.

COURSE ASSISTANT

The course assistant is Teresita Cruz Vital. She is in charge of approving excused absences from midterm and final exams, and for arranging accommodation for students with letters from the Disabled Students' Program. You may email her about these and other administrative matters at tcruzvital@berkeley.edu

OFFICE HOURS AND TUTORING SUPPORT

Econ 2 offers a variety of office hours and tutoring support to help you understand the material, assignments, and connect with classmates so that you can learn with them.

Professor Saez office hours: Wednesday 1-3pm, Evans 623, no appointment needed, just drop by.

GSI office hours:

Teresita Cruz Vital (tcruzvital@berkeley.edu): Tuesday 11-1pm, Evans 630

Emily Martell (emily_martell@berkeley.edu): Thursday 3-5pm, Evans 636

Aryan Shafat (aryan_shafat@berkeley.edu): Th 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM, Evans 542

Laurel McGrane (laurelmcgrane@berkeley.edu): Mon 10-11am, Evans 542, Tues 12-1pm, Evans 542

Somara Sabharwal (somara@berkeley.edu): Thursday 12-2pm, Evans 542

Sheah Deilami (sdeilami@berkeley.edu): Wednesday 12-2pm, Evans 542

Graduate student tutoring:

Zimei Xia (zimeixia@berkeley.edu):

Monday 2:15PM - 5:00PM, by zoom (check link on B-course)

Tuesday 9:30AM - 11:00AM (Evans 542) and 3:30PM - 6:00PM (Evans 640)

Wednesday 12:45PM - 5:00PM, by zoom (check link on B-course)

Logan Carswell Casey (logan_casey@berkeley.edu):

Tuesday 9-11am, by zoom (check link on B-course)

Tuesday 4-5:30pm, by zoom (check link on B-course)

Wednesday 2-5pm, Evans 636

Thursday 9-11am, by zoom (check link on B-course)

Thursday 4-5:30pm, by zoom (check link on B-course)

Friday 1-2pm, by zoom (check link on B-course)

Student Learning Center tutoring: <https://slc.berkeley.edu/economics> Tutoring support from fellow undergraduate students. Helps connect classmates for joint learning. SLC also organizes review materials and sessions before exams.

Drop-in Tutoring: Work on problem-sets, deepen your understanding of lecture content, and clarify questions as you collaborate with a peer tutor and your classmates. Drop-in Tutoring will be held on Mondays through Fridays from 1-5PM. SLC schedule and joining instructions are available [here](#).