Econ 133 – Exams and Grading

There are two midterm quizzes and a final exam, which consist of a quiz (Quiz3) and an essay/problem part. Credit is also given for answering questions about certain readings. For the quizzes:

**Bring (1) small scantron card** (green/white, 50 questions each side). **(2) picture ID. (3) pencils (No.2).**

I provide exam copies—no need for a blue book.

**Exam Rules:**

- All exams are closed book.
- You may use a simple pocket calculator, but NOT a programmable/graphing calculator. In problem questions, I usually give points for knowing what to do, not for numerical accuracy; and reasonably rounded answers are accepted for full credit. Some numerical problems are probably done more quickly without a calculator.
- Phones and other wireless or networked devices are prohibited and must be turned off and out of reach.
  - You cannot use your cell phone as watch or calculator.
- Use a No.2 pencil for the scantron. I recommend a pen for the problem questions (not erasable, not red).

**Academic Integrity:** See http://www.econ.ucsb.edu/undergraduate/cheating.html for general information. Cheating disadvantages honest students. To discourage cheating:

1. Exams may come in multiple versions, without further announcement. Make sure you put the exam number on your scantron.
2. Phones and other network-capable devices must be off (not just silent) and out of reach. Any use of a network-capable device is considered cheating.
3. No one may leave the room during a test. (Take a bathroom break before the test.)
4. Every student must bring a picture ID and have it on display during the test.
5. At the start, put your name and signature on your exam copy and scantron. I may walk up to randomly selected students to compare signatures on the exam and on their ID.

If you believe I could do more to maintain the integrity of tests, I would appreciate a hint; or use the Econ department link to report cheating anonymously.

**Course Requirements and Grading:**

- The overall grade distribution is the weighted sum of quiz scores, points from readings, and the final.
- **Quizzes and the final are mandatory.** There are no make-ups. Missing **without** valid excuse means zero points. Missing a quiz **with** a valid excuse means that the weight of the quiz is moved to the final.
- Quizzes are multiple choice and will be short (40-50min). They are not cumulative—each tests material not previously tested. Each quiz counts for 20% of the grade. Questions will be mostly from a list provided by the textbook publisher, but may include questions about issues only discussed in class. Quiz #3 is administered as Part A of the final.
• The final exam consists of a quiz (Part A) and a several problem and/or essay questions (Part B). Part B is cumulative, scored separately from the quiz part, and counts for 40% of the grade. The problem question(s) will test your ability to apply what you have learned in class and in the required textbook chapters to solve problems. The essay question(s) will test your knowledge of the required readings and your ability to explain and discuss class-related economic issues.

• Optional credit: Credit is given for answering questions about readings marked by a star [*] in the course outline. A submission form with questions is available on GauchoSpace. Responses should be on the form and submitted at the start of the assigned class. (Hardcopy only. If you will miss class, submit early, under my office door if needed.) Late submissions are not accepted for any reason. Each adequate response earns one point; that is, grading is effectively pass-fail—you get the point or not. There are 10 starred readings with 2 questions each for a maximum of 20 points from responses to readings.

• Points for responses to readings reduce the weight on the final. Each point counts as full credit for 1% of the grade, and the weight on the final is reduced by 1 percentage point. Missing or zero credit answers are not counted, so readings cannot reduce the overall score. The gain is small if you score close to 100% on the final, but it provides protection against scoring low (For example, suppose you score 95% on quiz 1, 70% on quiz 2, and 80% on the final. Without readings, the overall score is 95%*0.20+70%*0.20+80%*0.60=81%. If you have 15 points from readings, the final weight would be reduced to 0.45 and your score would be 70%*0.20+95%*0.20+80%*0.45+100%*0.15=84.)

• Exceptional accommodations for students who must leave campus for internships or out-of-town jobs before finals week: You must notify me before the drop deadline for the class. If I accept the excuse, which is not guaranteed, you may take Part B (problem part) of the final early, most likely at the end of May. Part A (quiz 3) is not offered early. Instead, all 10 starred readings become required (which means zeros reduce the overall score) and the responses count for 20% of the grade, replacing Quiz #3.

• Distribution: Normally my grades are about 35% in the A range and about 75% for A+B together, which is in line with grading practices for elective classes in the Econ department. However, I have taught macro long enough to recognize if a class has an exceptional number of outstanding students and would be prepared to more high grades. The distribution in Spring 2015 was 44% A, 33% B, 20% C, 3% D.