More Information about Econ 135:

Exams and Grading

Grades are based on two multiple-choice quizzes and a two-part final exam. The final has a multiple-choice part (a.k.a. Quiz #3) and problem questions.

- Quizzes and the final are mandatory. There are no make-ups. Missing an exam without valid excuse means zero points. Missing with a valid excuse means that the weight of the quiz is moved to the problem part of the final.
- Quiz #1 and Quiz #2 each count for 25% of the course grade. The Final counts for 50%. The Final divides into about 40% quiz (20% of the grade) and about 60% problem questions (30% of the grade).
- Letter grades are based on the overall, combined distribution. Grade cutoffs are set so that about 30-35% of scores are in the range A+ to A- and about 70-75% in the range A+ to B-. However, I have taught this course often enough to know how well classes normally perform. Therefore, if the distribution is better than expected, I don’t hesitate to give better grades (especially more As when deserved); on the downside, I tend to assume tests were more difficult than I had planned and apply the curve.

Exam Instructions

**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.

- All exams are closed book. Bring a No.2 pencil for the scantron. I recommend a blue or black pen for problem questions (not red).
- Phones and other wireless or networked devices are prohibited, must be turned off and be out of reach. You cannot use your cell phone as watch or calculator.
- Scratch paper is NOT permitted. Use the back of the exam as scratch pad if needed.
- 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 earn full credit.
- Special rules for the final two minutes, until all exams are collected: No more questions are taken. Everyone stays seated. (Ending in early is okay but not within the last two minutes). When the “drop pencils” instruction is given, stop writing. Do not get up or talk until all exams have been collected.
- A bonus point is usually given if you follow all exam instructions promptly, exam and scantron have all required information and your form scans properly without special processing or re-grading.

Academic Integrity

See https://econ.ucsb.edu/undergraduate/cheating 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
number/letter code of your exam on your scantron.

(2) Put your name on your scantron before the test. Put your name and signature on your exam copy as
soon as the test starts. Having a scantron/exam copy without name is considered cheating.

(3) Phones and other network-capable devices must be off and out of reach. Using or having access to a
network-capable device is considered cheating.

(4) Calculators are permitted only if they cannot store text information. (That is: No graphing calculators.
Single-number memory function is okay.)

(5) No student may leave the room during a test. (Take a bathroom break before the test.)

(6) Every student must bring a picture ID and have it on display during the test. I may walk up to
randomly selected students to compare signatures on the exam and on their ID.

(7) There may be assigned seating if the room is small (TBA).
If you believe I could do more to maintain the integrity of tests, I would appreciate a hint.

Exam FAQs

• Is the final cumulative? For the quizzes part: no. For the problem questions: yes.

• Where do I stand? Point scores will be posted on GauchoSpace. Quizzes are discussed in the next class,
and scantrons returned. Answers not posted anywhere, due to copyright restrictions. If you missed the
quiz discussion or want to review

Exam FAQs

When an exam approaches, I usually provide an old exam. However, your main study material should be
your class notes, readings, and practice problems. Use old exams cautiously—keep in mind:

• Many questions look easy once you have seen the answers. Best do old exam problems without looking
at the answers. To encourage this, answers are not provided until a few days before a test.

• Course content changes: Don’t “study” the old exams. Study your notes from this course. The timing
and sequencing of the material varies from year to year, mostly because I like to address current issues
and respond to student questions. If an old exam asks about a topic we did not discussed, there is a good
course. The timing

• My write-in comments in old exams (if any) are not meant to be complete answers but hints how to
proceed. In the exam, I expect to see intermediate steps for numerical problems and full-sentence
answers for essay problems, or at least bullet points. The more explanations and/or intermediate steps I
see, the more credit I can give, especially partial credit on answers that are not quite right.