UC San Diego

Econ 100B, Intermediate Microeconomics – Syllabus

Course Information (everything is on Zoom, and all Zoom links are on Canvas)
- Lectures: Mon & Wed, 11am-1:50pm
- Weekly discussion: Friday, 12-1:50pm
- Instructor: Dr. Oana Tocoian
  - otocoian@ucsd.edu
  - Office hours: Tuesday & Friday 4-5pm, or by appointment.
  - Office hours will be "open door": while I will give priority to questions about the class material, we can also discuss any other topics, such as the news or how you are holding up.
- Graduate TAs:
  - Songyu He, soh038@ucsd.edu
  - Harris Bunker, hbunker@ucsd.edu
  - TA office hours: Thursday 3-5pm
- Study Group leader:
  - Madi Kha, mkha@ucsd.edu
  - SG schedule: Thursday 11am-12:20pm, https://ucsdcommons.adobeconnect.com/econ100b_a00_sg/

- Course description:
  - This is the second class in the Intermediate Microeconomics sequence, so you need to have taken Econ 100A. We will introduce the theory of the firm and markets when there is price taking behavior. Topics include the theory of production, modeling costs, commodity supply in competitive markets, competitive market equilibrium, and general equilibrium analysis.

Webpage and Required Materials
- Class webpage: Canvas: https://canvas.ucsd.edu/courses/16088
  - All relevant info will be posted here and all other resources will be linked through here.
- Textbook: Perloff, *Digital Inclusive Microeconomics*: Theory & Applications W/calculus, 9780134899572
  - The online portal is Redshelf (linked on Canvas). You are enrolled by default and will have to opt out if you do not wish to pay for it.
- Additional resources include:
  - Mark Machina's *Math Handout*
  - Intermediate Microeconomics Video Handbook (IMVH)
    - IMVH is a set of video lectures recorded by Professors at UCSD. I will assign some of these for you to watch each week
  - Piazza (optional but encouraged)
    - This term we will be using Piazza for class discussion. I encourage you to post questions here about both logistics and content. The TAs and I will monitor the page and endorse or correct answers, as needed. Signup link: https://piazza.com/ucsd/summer2020/econ100b

Grade Composition
- Homework   18% $= \min\left(18, \sum_{i=1}^{4} PS_i\right)$ where $PS_i \in [0,6], \forall i \in \{1,2,3,4\}$
- Reflections   16% $= \min\left(16, \sum_{j=1}^{5} R_i\right)$ where $R_j \in [0,4], \forall j \in \{1,2,3,4,5\}$
- Practice test   6%
- Midterm   25%
- Final (cumulative) 35%

Exam schedule:
- Practice test – Wednesday of week 2, July 8th, time TBD (tentatively, 11am)
- Midterm – Monday of week 4, July 20th, time TBD (tentatively, 11am)
- Final – Saturday of week 5, Aug 1st, time TBD (tentatively, 11:30am-1:30pm)

Exam policies
- Exams will be administered through proctored Zoom meetings. They are closed book, although I will allow a handwritten "cheat sheet"
- There are no make-up exams, outside of the scheduled time slots. If you have to miss an exam due to an unavoidable circumstance such as illness, I will administer an individual oral exam instead.

Homework
Problem solving is essential in order to understand and absorb the material. There will be 4 problem sets, usually due by the beginning of class on Monday (11am) – except for PS 3, which will be due on Saturday so that we can post the answer ahead of Monday's midterm. They will be graded on completion/ reasonable effort, and each is worth 6%. The problem set score maxes out at 18%, so for example if you miss the deadline for one of them, you can still get the full score by completing the other 3.

Reflections
There will be a short graded assignment each week that will be due by 11am on Saturday morning.
The assignment is meant to promote better reflection and learning of the materials and you will be expected to submit answers to between 2 and 4 questions, often open-ended, such as: "can you think of more examples of [X]?" or "how do you think [Y] fits into the discussion from Monday's class?", etc. The format will be as a Canvas quiz.
There will be 5 reflections, each worth 4 points, but the combined score will be limited to a maximum of 16. They will typically be graded generously – we are just looking for thoughtful responses that show you paid attention to lecture and are engaging with the material in a meaningful way. If any questions are to be graded strictly (a single "correct" answer), there will be clear instructions saying so.

Each week, I will also collect your submissions and post (a subset of) them, anonymized, on a discussion board. This way they can serve as a basis for further discussion, or simply as a way for you to share insights with one another.

Attendance
I strongly recommend attending all lectures and discussion sessions live if you can. Although I will post the recordings as soon as they are available - which can be up to 3-4 hours later - students have reported that it is much harder to maintain attention when viewing a recording than when attending live. (Think about how much less fun it is to watch even a recorded sporting event, even when you don't know the outcome. Now imagine if you could also *participate* when joining live!)

Future opportunities*:*
- *100BH*: If you earn an A/A- grade in my class this quarter, I recommend that you take the one-unit honors class 100BH in Fall 2020. Honors classes are capped at 20 students and you will get to know the faculty member well (important for getting informed letters of recommendation). These classes typically have you give a short presentation and write a short paper. Presenting and writing in the major are two valuable skills that are challenging for us to offer in large classes.

Accommodation for disabilities
If you have a disability, please register with the Office for Students with Disability and send your documentation to Gaby Perdomo (gray@ucsd.edu) ASAP. More information: https://osd.ucsd.edu/resources/covid-19.html

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to do their own work, as outlined in the UCSD policy on Academic Integrity. Cheating will not be tolerated, and any student who engages in suspicious conduct will be subjected to the disciplinary process. Students found guilty of academic dishonesty will earn a failing grade for the course. In addition, the Council of Deans of Student Affairs will impose a disciplinary penalty.

Schedule of topics

Roughly speaking, we will cover sections D and E in the video handbook (IMVH), and chapters 6 through 10 in the textbook (Perloff)

 Tentative schedule (check Canvas for up-to-date version)

 Part I: Technology and Cost
 Lectures 1-3:
 - Production and technology (Perloff ch 6; IMVH section D1)
 - Costs and cost functions (Perloff ch 7; IMVH section D2)

 "Practice" midterm: Wednesday July 8th (~30-40 mins)

 Part II: Profit Maximization and Competitive Markets
 Lectures 4-6
 - Profit Maximization and firm supply under perfect competition (Perloff ch 8; IMVH videos D3 a-j)
 - Factor markets (IMVH D3.k)
 - Competitive Market Equilibrium (Perloff ch 8, cont'd; IMVH videos E1 a-d)

 Midterm: Monday July 20th (~60-80 mins)

 Part III: Applications of Partial Equilibrium; General Equilibrium
 Lectures 7-8: competitive market applications (Perloff ch 9, IMVH videos E1, e-j)
 Lectures 9-10: general equilibrium (Perloff ch 10; IMVH videos E2 a-m)

 Final: Saturday Aug 1st (~ 100-120 mins)